



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 14th February, 2021

Dear Friends

This Sunday, the Sunday before Lent, is also Valentine's Day. Don't panic! - there is still time to hand-craft a card for your beloved; to bake alphabet-biscuits to spell our your love in shortbread; to book a parachute jump so that you can land in their garden, your arms filled with roses.* (*Garage-forecourt flowers are also available.)

Whatever your plans for your very own greatest-love-story-ever-told, I hope that you will also give some thought, this Valentine's Day, to other relationships where you share a great, sustaining love.

Those of us who are taking part in our *Living in Love and Faith* course have been thinking about this together; that great love is not always romantic love; that sustaining, life-long, joy-bringing love can also be experienced in friendships and in families. Friendships, especially, don't have their very own grand-gesture day so why not use Sunday as the moment to tell your friends how much you love them, how much you appreciate them, how their love is sustaining to you. This year, more than ever before, they might just need to hear it.

And I know there is a danger that what I am about to write will sound terribly clichéd, but however you mark

Valentine's Day this year, remember too the greatest love of God, who loves you with an everlasting love; a love that will not let you go. We talk about that love so readily, so easily, that we don't always pause to weigh it, to think about what it means for us. So pause now; weigh it: that the wholly-holy Creator who scans infinity makes *you* the apple of his eye; that the Father who has birthed countless souls goes all out to bring *you* home; that his boundless grace underwrites all your short-comings and the name he spells out for you in celestial biscuits is Delight.

Happy Valentine's day!

With love

Mary

NOTICES

Thank you from Adrienne

Adrienne, Alison & Kate wish to thank you all for your prayers, love & support for us & Alan during his illness. Also for joining us in church & virtually for the celebration of his life. Please continue to hold us in your prayers as we begin to start a new chapter in our lives without him.

A rhythm of prayer for Lent

We begin our observance of Lent this coming Wednesday with our services of Holy Communion at 10.00am and 7.30pm (see next notice)

Thereafter, our weekly pattern for Lent will be:

◆ Sunday, 10.30am Holy Communion - with All-Age Worship on the first Sunday of the month, with a 4.00pm Holy Communion

◆ Tuesday, 7.30pm 'Team Talk' - a Lent Course on 'The Church: Who are we, and what are we *for*?'

◆ Wednesday, 10.00am Holy Communion

◆ Saturday, 9.30am Praying Together on Zoom

In addition, there is still time to order for yourself the book 'At Home in Lent: An exploration of Lent through 46 objects' by Gordon Giles, which offers a reflection for every day of Lent.

Ash Wednesday - 17th February

On Ash Wednesday, we will have two services of Holy Communion:

◆ at **10.00am** a traditional service for Ash Wednesday (Common Worship), with Revd Mary presiding and Carol Eyley preaching

◆ at **7.30pm** a reflective service for Ash Wednesday, using beautiful liturgy from the Iona Community, led by Revd Mary. At the heart of this service, in place of the sermon, there will be a led meditation. To help you engage in this, please have ready two cereal bowls - one filled with water, the other with soil from your garden - and a towel.

Please do join us for these special services as we begin our Lenten journey.

Revd Mary

Lent reading: At Home In Lent

If you ordered our recommended Lent book, 'At Home in Lent: An exploration of Lent through 46 objects' by Gordon Giles, these are now ready for collection from the plastic box next to the front door at the Rectory. The books cost £7 each. When you collect your book, please could you put this money in an envelope through Mary's letterbox? Many thanks.
Revd Mary

Covid-19: an anniversary service - Sunday 14th March, 6.30pm

Mothering Sunday last year was the first Sunday of the first lock-down; the first Sunday service we held online. Since then, so much has happened for us as a nation, as a global community, as the Flagstaff Family of Churches. We have experienced a tremendous amount of loss - and we have seen glimpses of grace, too; have traced God's blessings to us like light in the darkness.

We have realised that it will be important to mark this anniversary with a special service this Mothering Sunday at 6.30pm, online. More details to follow later. For now, please put this date and time in your diaries.

Church of England by 'phone

For the Church of England's 24 hour free telephone line (for music, prayers, and worship services) ring **0800 804 8044**

Giving

A reminder you can make donations to the work of St Helen's via our website -

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/Group/s/327469/Giving.aspx>

The Church as the 'Family of Christ'

As you may have seen, during Lent we will be asking ourselves "What is church? What is it *for*?" and exploring a different image of the church each Sunday (and then on Tuesday evening).

At our All-Age-Worship on Sunday 7th March, we'll be looking at the church as "The Family of Christ – a supportive community".

Andy Smith is leading the service and he'd like to hear from you about your stories about being one of the "Flagstaff Family", what has happened, and what it has meant, and continues to mean to you.

Inevitably, your thoughts will turn to the last 11-12 months, and being part of the church family through the pandemic, and Andy is keen to hear your stories from this period, but he's also keen to hear your stories from a wider period of time too.

He'd like to hear from you in your words, so could you please send him your stories, or thoughts either:

◆ By email

to mailformsmith@changesmith.solutions

◆ Or by actually writing a note (!!) and dropping it through the letter-box at 43 Tamworth Road.

He's sure that there are many, many wonderful stories to tell, so if at all possible, please let him know who the thought or story is from, as he may want to learn a bit more!

February's parish magazine can be found on the What's On page of the St Helen's Church website

https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/339405/Parish_Magazine.aspx

Services Provided by Age UK

Bishop Martyn met recently with the Chief Executive of Age UK and promised to pass on details of their services:

◆ 7 day per week helpline aimed at supporting people struggling with COVID related issues. The phone number is 0116 299 2239 and is operational from 9am – 5pm Mondays – Fridays and 10am – 4pm on weekends;

◆ an emergency response service whereby essentials are provided free of charge;

◆ transport to assist in getting people to hospital and doctor's appointments;

◆ four sessions of domestic support within the home, free of charge, to assist those people who may be at risk of going into hospital due to underlying health conditions, and those being discharged from hospital.

This could include personal care, meal preparation, cleaning of the house, and shopping trips;

◆ a Befriending Service which takes the form of regular telephone calls to check people are okay, whether they need any practical support and basically to have a chat and be a friend. Julia Day, the coordinator for the service, is contactable on 0116 223 7364. They are desperate for more volunteers to help with this service;

◆ for those who are very frail, and perhaps have mental health issues, there is the opportunity of attending one of Age UK's day centres. Further details on this service can be obtained by calling 0116 222 0558.

PRAYER

The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound.

The bereaved

Pray especially for the families and friends of anyone known to you who is recently bereaved, and for all families for whom the funerals of their loved ones have taken place during the pandemic.

In love, we remember those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, praying for their families & friends:

- ◆ Eliza Ann Ashley
- ◆ Celia Dorothy Marshall
- ◆ Charles Ernest Goodall Harrison
- ◆ Nellie Victoria Ethel Carter
- ◆ Peter James Norbury
- ◆ John Leslie Fitzer
- ◆ Albert Edward Smith
- ◆ Nellie Brooks
- ◆ Charlotte Ironmonger
- ◆ Douglas Hamilton Harley
- ◆ Bateman Evans
- ◆ Kate Manton

◆ St Helen's Prayer Chain:

Judith Lewis on 01530 564204
or email jchjcl@gmail.com

◆ Notice Sheet Prayer requests:

Jill Chapman on 07725 519453
or sthelensashby@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be part of the 'Prayer Chain' and receive e-mails letting you know the names of those for whom prayers have been requested, email Judith Lewis on jchjcl@gmail.com and she will add you to her list of recipients.

Contact Details

- ◆ Revd Canon Mary Gregory:
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01530 564372
- ◆ Revd Rob Marsh:
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- ◆ Parish Office: Jill Chapman
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- ◆ Lettings:
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- ◆ St Helen's website:
<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>
- ◆ Flagstaff Team website:
www.flagstaff.org.uk
- ◆ Facebook:
-The Flagstaff Family of Churches
-St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
- ◆ Twitter: @sthelensashby