



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 21st February, 2021

Dear Friends

I was pretending to write this pew sheet letter when Mr C called round. I confessed to him that I was, in fact, watching James Corden's Carpool Karoke; those clips where he drives with a celebrity around LA singing their greatest hits. (When Adrienne called round even earlier, I was supposed to be writing Sunday's sermon but was, in fact, hoovering. It's been that sort of morning.)

Although I have clearly been engaged in classic displacement activity, James Corden's carpool Karoke has a lot to commend it. It is, above all, joyful - a celebration of one of the most precious, most simple things in life - song. As James Corden sings along to his guest's greatest hits, his face transfigures in childlike joy. It's infectious.

James Corden seeks out joy and in doing so is a joy-giver to so many including this weary-sermon-writing-avoiding-vicar. And he gets me wondering where I can seek out joy, even now, and give joy to others. Music is one way for me, too. I can't wait until I can belt out a hymn in church again (the musically sensitive amongst you might feel rather nervous at the very prospect) but until then I can belt out a hymn at home, increasing the volume on my

speaker until I imagine that I am singing with the communion of saints. I might even put a bit of movement to the music. Only Freya knows, and she has taken a vow of silence. Or I find joy on top of a hill - even a walk-from-the-door hill like the ridge towards Smisby - at the sight of lambs in a field, at the sound of spring birdsong.

The thing is, I need to put myself in the way of joy, especially just now. I need to seek it out. I need to play that music, go for that walk, pause the internal noise and listen for feathered love-songs.

Where might you seek out joy this week? How might you put yourself in the way of joy?

I've said it before, but it's probably worth saying again, that some joy is not champagne-cork-popping, party-popper-exploding joy. Some joy is more steady, more measured, more profound: that joy that comes from the slow emergence of spring flowers from their underground chambers; that joy that comes from remembering, with Julian of Norwich, that 'all shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well'; that joy birthed from the assurance that we are God's and he is ours.

And so, whilst this might seem a bold wish at the moment, I do, nonetheless, wish you a joyful, a joy-filled week.

Much love
Mary

NOTICES

Team Talk: Who are we as the Church? What are we for?

This year we are continuing our pattern of Team Talk for Lent - our opportunity to study together and to grow in fellowship as a Flagstaff Family of Churches.

This year, our course will follow our Sunday sermon series 'Who are we as the Church? What are we for?' Each week, our preachers will 'release' their sermon transcript after they have preached it, so that you can re-read it and consider it in time for Tuesday's session when through prayer, worship and discussion, we'll dig a bit deeper.

Each session will begin at 7.30pm and end by 9.00pm at the latest.

The sessions will be on Zoom. To get the link please

email lentcourse@flagstaff.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Revd Mary and Revd Tim

At Home in Lent: The story of Lent in 46 objects

Many of us are reading this book, by Gordon Giles, for Lent. If you haven't got the book you can still join in by going to our Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page, where we'll post an image of the day's object and a question for you to ponder.

Revd Mary

News from around the Flagstaff Family

Bredon.... restoration works on the tower continue slowly and steadily. This Monday, we are interviewing for a Heritage Officer. Please pray for Revd Mary and her colleagues for wisdom to appoint the right candidate.

Staunton Harold.... works to repair the roof that was stolen last year continue. Damage to the unique painted ceiling is being assessed.

Isley Walton....scaffolding has gone up around the church tower - the first step towards essential repairs identified in our Quinquennial inspection. Please pray that the contractors don't uncover any nasty surprises! - our budget is very tight.

St Helen's...church will be 'out of bounds' from Monday 8th to Wednesday 17th March as contractors remove some unstable asbestos. Please pray for their safety.

Coleorton....we have had our first online Messy Church and have another in the diary for Palm Sunday. Please pray for us as we learn more about the technology and plan for a relaunch of Messy Church in September when we hope to be able to meet face-to-face again.

World Day of Prayer 2021: 5th March

Due to the pandemic, there won't be an in-person World Day of Prayer in Ashby this year. However, you can still pick up a service booklet from the plastic box outside Mary's front door so that you can engage in the service at home, or join in with one of the online services. This year, the service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu.

Revd Mary

The Church as the ‘Family of Christ’ – Your story

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 your stories about being one of the “Flagstaff Family”, what has happened, and what it has meant, and continues to mean to you.

Send him your stories, or thoughts either:

◆ By email

to mailformrsmith@changesmith.solutions

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

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

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/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

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:

- ◆ Pam Toovey
- ◆ George Essex Marlow
- ◆ John Marshall Slater Mansfield
- ◆ John Curtis
- ◆ Pamela Cicely Hall
- ◆ Cyril George Woolgrove
- ◆ Elizabeth Barbara Owens
- ◆ Lucy Ellen Trigger
- ◆ Jessie Allan Langrish
- ◆ Shirley Patrick Plant
- ◆ Arthur Wheatley
- ◆ Christopher Henry Yeomans
- ◆ James Addin Tyldesley

◆ 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
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