

St Helen's Magazine

April 2021

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up
green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love Whom we had
slain,
Thinking that He'd never wake to life again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up
green.

Up He sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Up from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up
green.

When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
By Your touch You call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up
green.

St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Parish Directory

(The dialling code for these numbers is 01530 except where stated)

ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST	AYFC Office	560940
BELL RINGERS	Michael Davidson	DAVIDSON29029@aol.com
BUILDINGS' TEAM		sthelensbuildings@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDENS	Val Bowron	467571
	Valerie Backman	01283 761385
HERITAGE CENTRE LETTINGS	Elaine Shaw	07392 409745
		sthelenslettings@gmail.com
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Andrew Chapman	07792 461782
ELECTORAL ROLL	Eileen Coombs	417883
FLOWER ROTA	Margaret Lawrence	416370
HERITAGE	Sharn Stinson	07435 564236
		sthelensheritage@gmail.com
LANTERNS children's group	Clare Crawford & Lynne Munro	564772 & 563389
MAGAZINE ADVERTISING	Sue Evans	461808
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Jill Chapman	07725 519453
		jill.chapman12@btopenworld.com
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION	Margaret Worrall	413665
MINISTERS - Rector	Mary Gregory	564372
		revmarygregory@aol.co.uk
- Curate	Stewart Betts	563762
		07919 890094
		stewart@flagstaff.org.uk
MOTHERS' UNION	Margaret Worrall	413665
PCC SECRETARY	John Dennis	416124
PCC TREASURER	John Backman	01283 761385
PLANNED GIVING	John Backman	01283 761385
READERS	Sue Brown	417313
	Carol Eyley	412334
	Judith Lewis	564204
	Andy Smith	563352
SAFEGUARDING	Elizabeth Smith	07941 935887
SERVERS	Eileen Barradel	838029
SOUND SYSTEM	Simon Starkey	415718
STREET PASTORS CONTACT	Chris Lewis	07828 463368

St Helen's Church contact details:

- Parish office: ♦ sthelensashby@gmail.com
- ♦ 07725 519453
- ♦ Community Heritage Building, 4 Church Yard, South St, LE65 1AA
- ♦ Facebook pages: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
- St Helen's Heritage Ashby de la Zouch
- ♦ Twitter: @sthelensashby
- ♦ Website: sthelensashby.net
- ♦ Flagstaff Team: www.flagstaff.org.uk

Editor Writes ...

I was pondering recently that the current fashion for carefully coiffured eyebrows has coincided beautifully with the requirement we wear face-masks in public. How fortuitous that bold lipsticks weren't the on-trend make-up must-have as we headed into the pandemic.



It's good to ponder such silver linings in the pandemic cloud. And, love them or loathe them, facemasks are surely the item which will come to represent this lockdown time in our collective memory. Either we will look back on 2020 and 2021 as that brief time when we all wore masks, or we'll realise it was the time when our on-going mask-habit first began. Archbishop Justin Welby is reflecting on a strange year on page 16.

An eleventh century church in Dorset, which is currently undergoing a project to replace its damaged gargoyles, will be including a stone carving of a mask-wearing NHS worker on its new roof. The architect of Christchurch Priory was inspired by a photograph of a doctor in an intensive care unit wearing PPE, and everyone agreed this was an appropriate reflection of the time we've been living through, and a fitting permanent tribute to the health service's efforts during the pandemic.

Perhaps wearing masks in church will become as normal to us as wearing a hat in church was to my grandma and her generation. Carefully colour-coordinated to match our gloves or scarf maybe? Other (more important?) preparations for church reopening are under way, and include a volunteering opportunity - see page 7.

Of course, much of our church since the lockdowns began has been unmasked because it's been on-line - when we have met together for services or to Zoom our meetings we have had the pleasure of those faces we've seen being complete! In his cartoon on page 9 Dave Walker makes a plea for on-line church to not stop entirely as we head back to our buildings.

Read about what the gradual lifting of restrictions means to AYFC on page 22, and this month's MU article (p18) looks at what our 'new normal' might be. And so, as we gradually emerge, blinking, into the post-Covid daylight, how lovely it will be to see everyone in 'real life' again, with or without masks. Maybe the next make-up must-have will be a cream with special efficacy on the crow's feet we've all developed from smiling so fervently with our eyes!

Jill Chapman



Revd Mary Writes ...

Dear Friends

I know that you might find this strange, but one of the most fulfilling things I do as a minister is conduct funerals.

It's partly the privilege of being invited to accompany a family through the most difficult time of their lives, to be the trusted friend who (usually) sits beside them as they weep, holds their hand, saying nothing. It's partly being entrusted with the story of the person who has died, being given those infinitely precious details about how the person has lived, those small markers of uniqueness, and being asked to represent them at the funeral as a tiny icon which points to the great hinterland of riches beyond. And it's partly the great colleagues I work with in preparing and delivering a funeral service; colleagues, in our funeral directors, that I hope I can call my friends, hoping that they think of me this way, too. (They do tremendous work, often unseen. Pray for them.)

As a Christian minister, there is another particular gift of funeral ministry and that is the opportunity to set the unique, always deeply moving story of the person who has died in the context of God's story; to pray and reflect and ponder 'How has what I've been told about this person connect with the God I love and am called to proclaim?' This feels to me like a task of profound importance: that in a world where God is often disregarded as an irrelevance and at a time when mourners can understandably feel that God is far off, I frame their experience, their story, with the story of God.

Often this frame is fractured or incomplete, so that some of the person's story leaks out beyond it. This is by design. We cannot neatly package grief, we cannot confine it to a simple algorithm, we cannot skip too soon to a happily ever after when the pain is so unremitting and the questions so insistent. Sometimes all we have is an echo of an echo of hope.

Why am I writing of funerals at a time when Spring is springing, the sun has got its hat on, and the pandemic (for now? - dear Lord, please let it be for ever!) is on the wane? Well, because of all the stories of God, of all the consolations of our faith, it is the Easter story which speaks most directly into our times of bereavement; this Easter story that we are recounting afresh in these early days of April. The story - Jesus' story, the story of those who believe in him - is that after the awful finality of death, that terrible moment of tearing (just as the curtain of the temple is torn in two); that after that moment when all seems lost and our all is dead and buried, *then* life begins again, with the calling of a name in a garden, with the breaking of bread at a kitchen table, in the upper room of our fear and

isolation. Then, there, life breaks in and life begins again and we are raised with him.

Taking funerals *is* one of the greatest privileges of my ministry, but I have taken so many recently, and of people not only dear to others, but dear to me, too: a good friend from church, a colleague's father, a lovely friend's mother. How painful this privilege has been. And yet I have, I will, cling on to my hope and look for resurrection in those same quiet ways, with the calling of a name in a garden, with the breaking of bread at a kitchen table.

This poem is called 'Resurrection', by the Czech poet Vladimir Holan -

Is it true that after this life of ours we shall
one day be awakened
by a terrifying clamour of trumpets?
Forgive me, God, but I console myself
that the beginning and resurrection of all us
dead
will simply be announced by the crowing of
the cock.

After that we'll remain lying down a while....
the first to get up
will be Mother...We'll hear her
quietly laying the fire,
quietly putting the kettle on the stove
and cosily taking the teapot out of the
cupboard,
We'll be home once more.



I am praying that this Easter you would hear at least an echo of an echo of hope: that Jesus burst through death to life, and like a marsupial leaping with her joey in her pouch from place to place, so in his leaping, his bursting, out of death, Jesus carries his children with him, too.

God bless you

With love
Mary

The Revd Margaret Jacques

Reverend Margaret has now been granted her licence (her Permission to Officiate) and will be joining us at St Helen's, together with her husband Allan, once we are back in our church buildings.

The £1 Challenge!

Over a period of five days in March, my housemates and I took on the challenge to feed ourselves on £1 a day. Prompted by the startling figure that around 690 million people around the world are currently living below the breadline, we wanted to gain a better understanding of the reality of living on a low budget and also to raise awareness of the huge inequality of food poverty within the UK.

We had all been fortunate enough to have been indulging over the weeks preceding the challenge, and I think it's true for many of us that food has been a comfort and a focal point of each day throughout the pandemic. It's safe to say that we learnt a lot through the week. For me the biggest challenges were 1- not being able to choose organic or more 'ethical options'- we had to buy eggs from caged hens which also came in plastic packaging 2- having to constantly monitor our portions for fear of running out of food later in the week, something I imagine would become very draining after a while 3- not being able to afford much fresh fruit and veg meaning our meals turned out quite beige.



A lot of the household lead very active lifestyles and struggled to get enough energy from their food to sustain them throughout the week and it really hit home how food poverty could so easily spiral into missed opportunities, low energy and motivation etc. I'd definitely recommend taking on the challenge to anyone as it was so insightful.

Our other intention was to raise a bit of money to support a local foodbank to help combat the issue in our area. We chose Charnwood food poverty group, as they are based in Loughborough and we have a few connections through friends who work for them, setting initial target of £200 which we weren't sure we would reach. All of the money we would normally spend on a food shop we donated too. Well... a week later and the total is now at £1070(!!) thanks to the wonderful generosity of our friends and family, including lots of donations from St Helen's. We would like to say a massive

thank you to everyone who has donated and encouraged us - it goes without saying that the money will make a huge difference to local families in such challenging times.

Lots of love and God bless,
Emily Darlington

The **What's On** Notice board



Donations received in Alan Sedgman's memory have now been sent to the Fishermen's Mission. The total amount collected was £830

Everyday Spirituality

The Diocese are offering 'Everyday Spirituality' taster sessions to help people develop spiritual habits for everyday life. These are on Tuesday 20th April 7-9pm and Saturday 24th April 9.30-11.30am. To book email: liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org

Electoral Roll 2021

If you would like to join our Electoral Roll at St Helen's, please email Eileen Coombs at eileencoombs@aol.com

The Diocesan Registrar has confirmed that online worship counts as habitual worship and so, if you have only worshipped with us online during the pandemic, you are still eligible – and most welcome – to join the roll.

Working parties in church

We need two working parties in St Helen's to get church ready to reopen for worship. Please let Mary know if you can help with:

- **Heavy-lifting:**
Tuesday 6th April,
10.00am
- **Cleaning:**
Thursday 8th April,
10.00am

St Helen's APCM: change of date

Notice is given that the St Helen's APCM will now be held on Tuesday 18th May at 7.30pm.

Please send any articles, jokes, book reviews, photos etc to jill.chapman12@btopenworld.com

Chris Lewis

Counsellor / Psychotherapist

Chris's Therapeutic Counselling

chriscounselling@mail.com

07828 463368

www.chrispersoncentred.co.uk

30 Moira Road

Ashby de la Zouch LE65 2GA

Also in Nottingham & Loughborough

villair

Independent Travel Consultants

Specialist in

- Personalised itineraries •
- Over 20,000 computerised low cost airfares •
 - We search and book low cost airlines •
 - Accommodation or tours only if required •
- Very competitive annual and family insurance •
- Well travelled staff have visited Europe, Mediterranean •
 - USA, Canada, Caribbean, Bermuda •
 - Dubai, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand •
 - Far East, Fiji, Hawaii, Mexico, Mauritius, etc. •

Pop in and see us at

1 Bath Street Corner, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2FH

Tel 01530 413055 e mail: enquiries@villair.com

BUILDING REPAIRS

No job too small

Telephone Keith:

01530 412404

07747194021

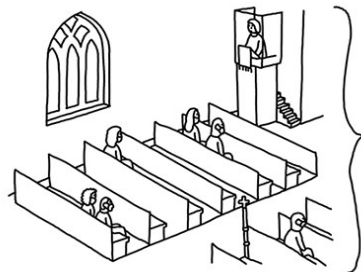
BLUE
LITTLE BIRDIE
DESIGN - COPY - PRINT

76b
Market
Street

01530

411510

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?



THIS IS
THE CHURCH



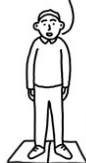
THIS IS THE
CHURCH AS WELL



THIS IS
ALSO THE
CHURCH

THE CHURCH
IS THE PEOPLE,
NOT THE
BUILDING

WORDS HAVE
MORE THAN
ONE MEANING



FOR ME, THIS IS
CHURCH. PLEASE
CONTINUE TO
INCLUDE ME



SPACE FOR
YOUR ANSWER,
INFORMED BY
YOUR RATHER
GREATER
THEOLOGICAL
EDUCATION

Looking
for the
right
advice?



Property Law

Business Law

Wills & Probate

Family Law

Litigation

Choose Crane and Walton for
everything legal...

We provide quality services in a friendly yet professional way on a range of legal matters, including:

- Property Law and Conveyancing
- Family Law
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Litigation
- Wills and Probate
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Court of Protection Applications
- Business Law
- Trusts



CRANE AND WALTON LLP

SOLICITORS

Lexcel
Accredited Solicitors
and Conveyancers

Ashby Office
30 South Street Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire LE65 1BT
Tel: 01530 414111
Fax: 01530 417022

Coalville Office
21-25 London Road Coalville
Leicestershire LE67 3JB
Tel: 01530 834466
Fax: 01530 810886

Leicester Office
113-117 London Road
Leicester LE2 0RG
Tel: 0116 2551901
Fax: 0116 2555864

Melbourne Office
William's Yard
Derby Road, Melbourne
Derbyshire DE73 8JR
Tel: 01332 863810

www.craneandwalton.com

Green Grass

Landscaping and garden maintenance

ALL YEAR-ROUND SERVICE

30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

Hard & Soft Landscaping
Grass Cutting: mower & ride-on
Strimming & Lawn Edging
Overgrown Site Clearance
Waste Removal & Disposal
Excavation & Rotovation
Patios, Paving & Drives
Turfing & Seeding
Hedge & Shrub Cutting
Pruning
Planting & Plant Removal
Ponds & Water Features
Leaf & Snow Clearance
Stump Grinding
Weeding
Fence Painting
Pressure Washing

Plus more, and we are pleased to discuss your requirements

**FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTATION, PLEASE CALL
CRAIG & SHARON**

Mobile: 07970627509

Office: 01530 830032

Let US build your dream garden or maintain it

Let It Come

Let the rain come and wash away
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and
fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us
wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that
we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender or skin colour.
Let the warmth and brightness
of the sun melt our selfishness.
So that we can share the joys and
feel the sorrows of our neighbours.
And let the light of the sun
be so strong that we will see all
people as our neighbours.
Let the earth, nourished by rain,
bring forth flowers
to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts
to reach upward to heaven.

by Harold Kushner

Holiday Plans Changed

For this month's article, I hope you won't mind if we leave Ashby and look at something from Leicestershire's past that has a sort of connection with things happening today. Many of us have had to cancel or change holiday plans since the pandemic started. Something I came across when carrying out a bit of research for someone from the US reminded me that holiday plans have had to be cancelled before.

Looking into the history of Bufton Lodge in Newtown Unthank, near Desford, I discovered that in 1940, this impressive "Gentleman's Residence" was taken over by an organisation called "The Leicester Poor Boys and Girls Summer Camp and Institute". This organisation had been sending groups of children on holiday to the seaside at Mablethorpe since 1898. At the Bank Holiday in early August that year, the first group of boys went camping in tents on the sandhills at Mablethorpe, accompanied by Samuel Ellicock, who became the first chairman of the charity. Volunteers came from Leicester, and the camp was opened by Lady Rolleston. In 1900, girls were also sent and were accommodated in a purpose-built wooden building while the boys continued to sleep in tents. In 1908, the boys moved into an accommodation block next to the girls. During the First World War, the holiday camp was taken over by the military and the children holidayed in Manor House, Little Stretton.

Mablethorpe holidays resumed after the war and in 1920 a remarkable silent movie was shot which shows children lining up to get on the train in Leicester along with footage of the holiday home and the children's activities. It can be seen online in the special collections of the University of



grown-ups all the Joy of Living

'Dere Mum'—

A letter from Bufton Lodge

Dere Mum,
Er we are at
Bufton Lodge. The
kind peeples who send
pore Leicester
children to the see
have sent us ere
becors we cannot go
to the see becors off
the war.

The organisers of the Leicester Poor Boys' and Girls' Summer Holiday Camp scheme have this year sent children to Bufton Lodge since war conditions do not permit a seaside holiday.

Leicester: <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p15407coll2/id/20/>

When hostilities again broke out in 1939, it was not possible to send children on holiday to the east coast, which was in the danger zone, and the Mablethorpe Camp was converted into a First Aid Post. In the summer of 1940, children were sent instead to Bufton Lodge which could accommodate up to 36 children at a time. 20 groups of 36 children were sent that year.

The Summer Camp organisation described the Lodge in its annual report that year: "It's doors were ever flung wide open, its dining hall with its long tables laden with food aplenty, and prepared with loving care and thought. There were dormitories with dainty beds where tired limbs that had indeed run wild could find sweet repose, bright glades and lawns with swings strung between giant trees, a playroom for darker days with toys innumerable, and also the little chapel with its quiet dignity, where the children were wont to give thanks and sing for very happiness."

The Leicester Illustrated Chronicle of 7th September 1940 carried photographs of the children playing at Bufton Lodge and what purported to be a letter written by one of the children to his or her mother.

Unfortunately, summer holidays at Bufton Lodge could not continue after 1940 as the house was taken over as a home for evacuees. After the war, Bufton Lodge became a hotel and eventually returned to being a private house. It was resold in 2017.



The Leicester Poor Boys and Girls Summer Holiday Camp and Institute did, however continue its work. It had opened in 1896 as Leicester Boys' Club and in 1908, Shaftesbury Hall was built in Leicester to house its classes and games. A month after the Second World War ended, holidays at Mablethorpe resumed for the children of Leicester, and in 1951 this was extended to include children from the county of Leicestershire. In the 1990s the charity was renamed Leicester Children's Holiday Centre (Mablethorpe), although I imagine the original name had been changed before that. The last children's holiday at Mablethorpe took place in 2017, and in August 2018 the first party of Leicester children were taken by the renamed Leicester Children's Holidays charity on an exciting adventure holiday at Hilltop, Sheringham. The work of the organisation continues today although no holidays took place in 2020 due to the pandemic – which brings us full circle in this story!

Wendy Freer

Our Worship



We worship together on-line via Facebook on the Flagstaff Family of Churches' page.

You can catch up with all our services later, on the St Helen's Church website (www.sthelensashby.net), simply by clicking on the relevant date on the Online Services and Readings page, under the Church Life tab.

All the services we have had since the initial lockdown began in March 2020 are still available! Orders of service for the acts of worship, and a hymn sheet for each Sunday service, are available on the same website page.

Service Pattern

Wednesdays

10am Holy Communion (Live)

Sundays

10.30am Holy Communion (Live)

Saturdays

A simple time of prayer & Bible reading on Zoom at 9.30am for 45 mins.

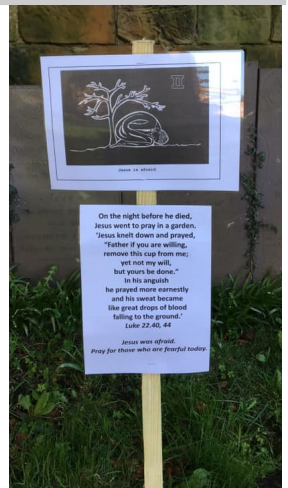


The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86050040052?pwd=TDUrVEdBbHFTVTh3MWxMQUw1VEZOUT09>

Holy Week & Easter Activities

... with children. **Holy Week Scavenger Hunt** – get out and about with the younger members of your family (or the young at heart) and do a Holy Week Scavenger Hunt to help you retell the events of Holy Week. If you do it, WhatsApp Revd Mary your photos, and she'll add them to our Facebook Page.

... for all ages **Stations of the Cross** in the churchyard. These will remain in place until Sunday 11th April.



Easter Scavenger Hunt

sunhatsandwellieboots.com

Search for 5 big green leaves.

People used leaves to welcome Jesus.
(Matthew 21:1)



Find a puddle & splash in it.

Jesus washes his friends' feet.
(John 13:3-17)



Find some sticks & build a mini bug shelter.

Jesus turns the tables.
(Matthew 21:2-22)



Look for a feather or a bird's nest.

Can you hear any birds?
The crowing cockerel.
(Matthew 26:69-75)



Find something that has a strong smell.

The gift of expensive perfume.
(Matthew 26:6-13)



Find 2 twigs & use them to make a cross on the ground.

The saddest day.
(John 19:25-27)



Look for a branch that has lots of buds.

The story of the Fig Tree.
(Matthew 24:32-35)



Find some stones & pile them up.

Is this the end?
(John 19:40-42)



Search for something shiny or reflective.

30 shiny silver coins.
(Matthew 26:14-16)



Search for the brightest flower.

The best day, Alleluia!
(John 20:1-18)



Discover the events of Holy Week on a walk together

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Ecumenical Easter Letter

Archbishop Justin Welby's Easter letter to partners and heads of churches around the world.

"Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."

(Luke 20:38)

This past year has, undoubtedly, been one of the strangest we have ever known. The Covid-19 pandemic transformed the way we live around the world. It has been a year of much loss, grief and suffering for many all over the globe, made worse by our inability to comfort one another in the usual ways. We have been confronted with our mortality and our fragility as human beings, but also with our interdependence and interconnectedness.

In His life and death on the Cross, Jesus enters into the pain, uncertainty and confusion that are a part of human life. He lives amongst the sick, the broken and the suffering. He ministers to the outcast and the marginalised. There is no space between us and the God who comes to live among us. God has been close to us in our suffering this year, He has heard our cries, and He has felt our pain. We have not suffered alone.

In Christ's passion and death, He experiences the depths of humanity. As the Father raises Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit a new day dawns for the world. Death is conquered and overcome, and the one who was dead but is now alive transforms despair into hope and hatred into love. By His resurrection, He calls us all to eternal life with Him. He reveals the truth: that death lies to us. It does not have the final word.

Across the world we look towards the promise of the vaccine, and rebuilding society after the tumult of the last year. We take our places as salt and light in the world, remembering that, as Christians, we are called to keep our eyes fixed not on 'normal' life, but on the eternal life Jesus promises us in His Kingdom. That is our ultimate hope and our salvation. May we find comfort and hope in the God who died for us, and may we proclaim His name in the confidence that He is risen indeed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Welby".

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

Praying for Justice

Pray for those who are hungry.
Pray harder for those who will not feed them.

Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.
Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.

Pray for those who are homeless.
Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.

Pray for the sick and lonely.
Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

Pray for those who cry out for dignity.
Pray harder for those who will not listen.

Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.
Pray harder for those who exploit them.

Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.
Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.
Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly.

~ written by Rebecca Sutton, Program Coordinator of Global Women's Exchange.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Last month marked one year since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. Mothers' Union CEO Bev Jullien writes on the MU website:



'The National Day of Reflection on March 23, is part of coming to terms, as a nation, with the way our life has been turned upside down due to COVID-19 – and to start to reflect on how we can learn from this to truly “build back better” and address some of the deep divides in our society, which the pandemic has made so starkly visible.

The pandemic has in many ways shown communities at their best – supporting one another with a quiet helping hand, and unprecedented numbers volunteering, for example, to collect prescriptions, do shopping for others or helping with the roll-out of the vaccine programme.

.... Worldwide, MU members helped with practical support, spreading messages about the need for social distancing, teaching hand hygiene and countering fake news.... To keep in touch, even those wary and inexperienced in using technology embraced Zoom and Facetime with aplomb, helping to support one another and stay connected around the world.

Now, we are at a crossroads, and have the opportunity to reflect – to acknowledge the grief of those who have lost loved ones through COVID or other causes, and to walk alongside them – as well as to recognize those who have suffered most, financially or spiritually, and to reflect on how we, called by our faith and together with others, can work to address inequality, and truly “build back better” for all.

COVID has shown that, as a nation, we are deeply divided into haves and have nots, and the latter have suffered deeply, too many reduced to queuing round the block to access foodbanks. Some groups have been disproportionately affected, the elderly, the poor and BAME communities, and gender-based violence has escalated

As members of Mothers' Union, let us prayerfully reflect on what we can continue to do, or start to do differently, to create a 'new normal' –

Hands

Hands, hands do play a part in the Easter story, no this is not a Palm Sunday pun, although maybe now I mention it...However my attention was grabbed by a tale of two Hymns one from the 1980s and one from probably around the 1860s.

I would suggest that Graham Kendrick certainly rejuvenated the 'Modern hymn' genre, his popularity is deserved, and he recently waived the copyright on his music for churches to use through the pandemic. Kendrick's music tends to be theologically insightful and thought provoking and it is the song / hymn 'Servant King' that has the simple yet profound observation: 'Hands that flung stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered.'

Christ, present at creation, allowed himself to die on the cross for us all. The Easter message of sacrifice played out between two triumphant Sundays in the church calendar.

The second hymn to catch my attention was 'Take my life and let it be' by Frances Ridley Havergal, who was born in Worcestershire, and died aged only 42. She is remembered for her poetry and hymn writing. Take my life, was: 'a personal response of consecration after she had led several people to faith.' (source 'Hymns and Hymn Stories').



The second verse says; 'take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.'

I must say although I make use of my hands throughout the day I have somewhat taken them for granted. I knew some hand facts such as horses are measured in hands, and more reflective ideas, such as it is not a gun that kills, it is the hand that holds and pulls the trigger. Perhaps this is why Kendrick's observation strikes a vivid chord for me, hands have great potential to create, to measure, to touch and hold, yet as Christ's hand yielded to the rough wooden cross, other hands held him and gripped the hammer.

So the words of Havergal's hymn strike an equally potent note, take my hands...

As Christ submitted to the cross at Easter, we too are asked to submit to God's will. Giving God our hands to use for his purposes is a great and worthy start.

Happy Easter
Stewart

Ashby Youth For Christ Registered Charity No: 1058434



Rock Solid

At the beginning of March, AYFC were helping the young people of Rock Solid to deal with anxieties as they prepared to return to schools and colleges. It is often not the disease they fear but the implications of the changes in response to the disease. Will I have been left behind academically? How will I cope with wearing a mask all day and following such strict procedures? Will my friends have changed? How will they be coping? How hard will it be getting on with them with all of these extra challenges?

Via a video they were encouraged to consider Jesus whose focus on his Father brought him peace (and sleep) during a life threatening storm.



Please pray for Rock Solid that, as we journey through a stormy world with weakness and wobbly understanding, we might centre our lives - our eyes, ears and hearts - on Our Father in Heaven who remains rock solid, mighty to save, compassionate and always present.

Vernon

All change...

8th March saw the return of children and young people to school. I'm a parent of 3 children, all at different schools and colleges, and while I am excited for my children to be getting back to a routine, I am also feeling grief for the time that we will now not be spending together daily; sharing a joke over lunch, or bringing me a cup of tea whilst I work in my home office, and going for a walk straight after I finish work. It's all change for us.

I've been speaking to my mentors about going back to school, and they too feel like it just won't be the same. With masks, distanced desks, changed formats to their days and now regular tests to take - how will they ever get back to 'normal'? It's All change.

The bible tells us in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". This sentence comes from Paul when he is talking of his ability to be content, no matter the circumstances.

We have a God who knows all, sees all and is with us in these changing times. Please continue to pray for our young people, that they will feel peace in their hearts and their schools, for teachers, as they continue to do an amazing job of encouraging and coaxing the best out of our young people, even when struggling with their own families, work-loads and uncertainty, and for the Ashby Youth For Christ team, as we get to grips with changing rules, risk assessments and determine the best way to return to face to face youth work, safely.

Thank you for praying for us and God bless you,

Katie

Innit Together

9th March saw the first of the new Tuesday evening online meeting for local for young people in school years 7 - 13. It is a collaboration with Swadlincote Youth For Christ and is aimed at supporting young people who have been deprived of the support they previously enjoyed through our now Covid-bound projects.

Local young people had told us how much they missed meeting up with their peers. Being in contact through digital media and sharing online school lessons just hasn't allowed them the same sort of enjoyable interaction. Paradoxically, Innit Together is a Zoom meeting aimed at serving young people who are 'zoomed-out' - who are weary of taking part in long days of Zoom meetings and similar as part of school learning.

The first 40 minute meeting was a mix of establishing some ground rules, playing some silly games, sharing some thoughts and praying. We are very thankful for how it went.

It was a joy to meet with young people we hadn't seen for a long time and feedback suggests they enjoyed our time together too. 'Aww wow I loved that thank you so much for inviting me ' messaged one of the young people who attended. And we look forward to when that can develop into a face to face group, running alongside our other youth clubs.

Please pray for us as we seek to facilitate and catalyse the development of fellowship: Young people encouraging each other and receiving strength from God as they respond to his invitation to follow him.

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday 13th March Vernon spoke at Ashby Men's Breakfast about Ashby Youth For Christ's outdoor work with local young people, about the hard won HSE / AALA licence to provide adventurous outdoor activities, about why and how AYFC are planning to do this, and how, even during anti C-19 restrictions, being able to enjoy outdoor fun has allowed AYFC to continue to serve local young people.

Open Team Time

Prayer is at the centre of our work, and we are excited to be able to relaunch Open Team Time, an hour a month when staff, volunteers and supporters can gather together to pray and share updates about what God is doing in the area.

Initially this will be relaunched on Zoom, on a Wednesday morning, starting on Wednesday 24th April at 11am. It will then continue during term time on the third Wednesday of each month. If you would like a link to join us please respond to this message.

We are also planning to spend June walking or running 100km as a team to raise awareness of AYFC, and to fundraise for AYFC. More information about this to follow, as we will be looking for people to join us.

MILL LANE MEWS DRY CLEANERS

On site alterations and repairs
Same day cleaning
duvets, curtains and other household items
suede and leather

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30-5.30
Wednesday 8.30-3.30 Saturday 8.30-2.30



For news and views in North West Leicestershire read your local newspaper

Ashby Times

on sale every Thursday at your local newsagent

Telephone:

01530 813101

email:

editor@ashbytimes.com
advertising@ashbytimes.com

Quotes for the Month

'Our compass has slipped; we've allowed ourselves to believe that things can't change.'
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, The Observer, February 28th

'Do we need a fish and chips tsar to encourage people to eat fish.'
Rt Rev Alan Smith, question time in the House of Lords, March 4th

'True religion is not about possessing the truth. No religion does that ... Idolatry is religion pretending that it has all the answers.' – John Shelby Spong
ProgressiveChristianity.org, March 2nd

'Catholic nun gives Myanmar own Tiananmen moment.'
Elise Ann Allen, cruxnow.com, March 3rd

'All baptised, believing and faithful people, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ. I condemn the language recently used by the Primate of Nigeria.'
Archbishop of Canterbury's statement, March 5th

'When I was hungry, you handcuffed me'
Kathryn Shihadah, Seeing Jesus in Palestinian children, Grace coloured glasses blog, Mar 12

'We have used scripture to make women submissive to men ... We have contributed to that pervasive culture that women and girls are lesser than men and boys and we have got a big part to play in redressing that.'
Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, BBC Radio 4's Sunday Programme, March 14th

'The church does not have, and cannot have, the power to bless unions of persons of the same sex ... The church recalls that God himself never ceases to bless each of his pilgrim children in this world, because for him 'we are more important to God than all of the sins that we can commit' ... But he does not and cannot bless sin.'
Vatican Decree, March 15th

'Dozens of scroll fragments from a biblical scroll dating back some 2,000 years were also unearthed.'

Rosella Tercatin, Oldest woven basket in the world found in Israel, Jerusalem Post, Mar 16th

'On a discussion about leading a Tenebrae service: "Isn't it basically Nine Lessons and Carols, but sad?"'

Stuff Ordinands Say, Twitter, March 16th

'Since launching in May 2018, the Church of England's Alexa skill has been asked more than 100,000 questions by Christians and people exploring the faith.'

A Year in Numbers, C of E Digital report, March 17th

'God-fearing Robert Aaron Long, 21, took responsibility for the shootings and told cops that the massage parlours were a "temptation that he wanted to eliminate."'

The Sun, March 17th

'79-year-old vicar glues herself to court furniture in climate change protest.'

<https://premierchristian.news>, March 19th

'Some social media posts shared hundreds of times claim that if more than 250,000 people respond to a question about religious belief on the 2021 census with the answer "FREEDOM", it will become a "recognised belief system" ... This is incorrect.'

Fullfact.org, March 19th

'I think one of the great sorrows of the pandemic is that we haven't been able to mark those rites of passage that we would normally have done ... and we know, particularly around funerals that has left a huge hole of grief'

The Rt Hon & Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, Press Association, March 19th

'Last year the church set up a 'taskforce' whose resulting report is due before the Archbishops' Council next week. (Happily, a copy found its way into my hands first) ... which warns fantastically of racism 'whispered in our pews', as though the Church of England was the KKK at prayer.'

Douglas Murray, The Spectator Magazine, March 20th

'Oh the irony, new marriage registration rules introduced because feminism. Training video uses term 'clergyman'.'

Revd Bryony Taylor, Twitter, March 22nd

'Searches for 'hope', 'hug' and 'prayer' were dramatically higher in 2020 than in most years.'

Daily Mail on-line, Google's top searches of lockdown revealed, March 23rd

'At Easter our kids are just as excited about chocolate as they are about resurrection.'

TV baker Martha Collison, Premier Christian Radio, March 24th

'I want to say a great big thank you because over the past year or so I have seen over and over again the teachings of Jesus Christ brought to life by people like yourselves'

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's message to Spring Harvest on-line, March 25th

'French monks locked down with 2.8 tonnes of cheese pray for buyers.'

www.theguardian.com/food, March 26th

'On-line Church is church. Not "it'll do" church. Not "2nd rate" church'

Disability and Jesus, Twitter, March 29th

'Love was driving the Holy Week train with bread and wine for refreshment - Calvary was it's main station but thankfully not its terminus.'

Rev Cindy Kent MBE, Twitter, March 29th

'I think we have to be open to hearing things we really dislike. There was someone the other day who was saying 'the Archbishop of Canterbury who believes in fairies at the bottom of the garden'. Well, obviously, I entirely disagree with his assessment of the Christian faith, or the person of Jesus Christ. But I'm very glad that he feels able to say that.'

Most Revd Justin Welby, interview in Italian newspaper la Repubblica, March 30th

St Helen's Church, Ashby de la Zouch is part of the **Flagstaff Family of Churches**

Team Rector:	Rev. Canon Mary Gregory	01530 564372
Team Vicar:	Rev. Tim Phillips	01530 412339
Curate:	Rev. Stewart Betts	01530 563762


& part of the **Ashby Churches**

Alliance Church	Rev. Mike Baraniak	07753 679147
Ashby Baptist Church	Rev. Graham Heath	01530 413721
Ashby Congregational	Rev. Catherine Booton	01530 563301
Ashby Methodist Church	Rev. Jacky Goaten	01530 412298
Our Lady of Lourdes	Father Peter Wade	01530 412237

 **petdeli** 
Free Local Delivery
Your local pet food specialist
5a Brook Street, Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire, LE65 1HA
Telephone : 01530 417484
See our latest offers on our
website, Facebook & Twitter pages!



   www.petdeliashby.com

A.E. Grice 
Funeral Service

Offering a sympathetic
24 hour service in your
time of need.

**4 Derby Road,
Ashby de la Zouch**

**01530
412229**

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SHOP



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

94 Market Street
Ashby de la Zouch

Serving the community since 1987
Quality nearly-new bargains for everyone
Gifts of donated goods always needed
Volunteer helpers welcome
Telephone **01530 417096**

Darklands

School of Motoring

Jane Armson, ADI

Friendly, professional tuition

Intensive courses

Full hour lessons

Pass Plus

Motorway Tuition

Telephone

01332 865293
(Staunton Harold)

07774 924913
(Mobile)

WENDY'S Courtyard Interiors

Made to measure curtains, valances, pelmets, swags and tails, tie-backs & cushions etc. Velvets, prints and plain fabrics by: ★ Sanderson ★ Harlequin ★ Crowson ★ Blendworth ★ Nouveau ★ Hardys ★ Richard Barry ★ Villa Nova and many more

Co-ordinate your home with our Soft Furnishing Service

TRACKS ★ POLES ★ ACCESSORIES

Call in and see our huge range of blinds (including Roman) together with our fantastic selection of wallpaper

Free home measuring selection service

**BULLENS COURTYARD,
MILL LANE MEWS,
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH
TEL. 01530 411078**

23953

Blossom Caring

DO YOU NEED HELP AT HOME?

Caring	Cooking
Cleaning	Hospital visits
Collections	Doctors appointments
Dog walking	Trips out

I offer a range of services and I am available as and when you need me

Contact April on 07857 562306 to discuss the assistance you need.

** I work according to COVID-19 guidelines with a limited number of clients *CRB-checked *15+ years experience *References available*

Sweet Feet

I offer a friendly professional service in the privacy and comfort of your own home. I am a fully qualified Foot Health Practitioner DipCFHP, MPSPract, and a member of the accredited register of foot health practitioners.

Treatments include:

- Routine foot care
- Nail trimming
- Corn removal and callous/hard skin reduction
- Fungal nails
- Reduction of thickened nails
- Verrucae
- Cracked heels
- Foot health advice and diabetic foot care
- Ingrown toenails

MOBILE FOOT CLINIC

Please call Wendy on 07938 750840 to arrange an appointment





JP SPRINGTHORPE & C^o

Funeral Directors

Castle Lodge
South Street
Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire
LE65 1BR

As the only privately owned, family run, Funeral Directors in
Ashby de la Zouch, we are able to offer an extremely personal,
yet professional service, and at a reasonable cost,
both in Leicestershire and Derbyshire

Under the personal supervision of John Springthorpe

Quotations given

Telephone: 01530 417310 anytime