



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 14th March, 2021

Dear Friends

Mothering Sunday is often a day of very mixed emotions for us.

We celebrate our Mums, if they are with us, in the medium of lukewarm cups of tea (just ask my Mum), breakfast in bed that causes chaos in the kitchen, bunches of flowers, cards and presents. How good, how important, it is to say thank you for all the ways in which they care for us.

We celebrate, too, others who have been like mothers to us; those who have cared for us, shown us love, listened to us. We are raised, we are nurtured, we are supported, by a whole network of women and men – Mothering Sunday is an opportunity to give thanks for them all.

Usually, in our churches, we mark our thanksgiving by presenting all our adults with flowers. This year, gathering online, we can't do that. So, let me make a request of you: whether or not you will be thanking your own Mum this week, could you also thank someone else who has cared for you, looked after you? – could you leave them flowers on their doorstep – whether or not they are a Mum, whether or not they are a woman – and say thank you for what

they mean to you? What a difference that might make to someone's day!

Although Mothering Sunday is a day of celebration, it is often a day of sorrow for many, too. Some grieve because they miss their Mums who have died or who live far away; others grieve a broken or difficult relationship with their Mum or their children; others grieve children who have died or who have never been born. Let's be gentle with each other and recognise that for some amongst us today is a day for hiding and hibernation rather than for joy and jollifications.

For all of us, this particular Mothering Sunday is poignant, because it marks an anniversary, of sorts, for us. Mothering Sunday 2020 was the first Sunday we were locked out of our church buildings, the first Sunday we had online worship. Few of us, I think, imagined that we would be worshipping online one year on – but here we are.

Because this is an anniversary for us, it feels important to mark it with a special service which we are hosting this evening at 6.30pm.

The service will be shaped around three short excerpts from the psalms; psalms of lament, thanksgiving and looking ahead.

Through silence, music, readings and reflections we will look back over this most difficult, most painful year, and look ahead to the coming months.

I hope you will join me.

God bless you – and thank you for all the ways in which you nurture me.

Revd Mary

NOTICES

Men's Prayer Breakfast – this

Saturday, 9.00am

Geoff Richman writes -

This is to invite you to the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday 13th March 2021 at 9:00am by ZOOM. We will welcome our guest speaker Vernon Bayliss who will be talking on 'Adventurous: Ashby Youth For Christ outdoors and active.' I am looking forward to the end of lockdown and I am sure Vernon will provide an excellent appetiser.

The warm welcome is extended to Partners/Friends/Children and I hope you will gain an insight of the FUN that abounds in "ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST"

The link to access this Zoom meeting is shown here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82055187820?pwd=YmtZVFkyYlNINWlPS1R3ZHZ0ZlFWZz09>

ID: 820 5518 7820

Password: 1840

Zoom Prayer Gathering

Please do join Revd Stewart as he leads our Zoom Prayer Gathering this Saturday at 9.30am. The Gathering,

which lasts for about 45 minutes, includes a Bible reading and a time of prayer, where people pray aloud or in silence as they feel led.

The Zoom link for this meeting is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85468020709?pwd=cDdUVE5lczhOUWhNRXFmQ0N1QWNVQT09>

ID: 854 6802 0708

Password: 984971

Bearing Witness: A Service to mark the first anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic

Please do join us for this special service which takes place **this Sunday 14th March at 6.30pm** on the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page.

The service will offer us a time of quiet reflection as we lament, give thanks, and look ahead.

The order of service is circulated with this pew sheet.

You will want to have candles available to light for those that you will be remembering during the service; those who have died during the pandemic, and those who have suffered in many other ways.

You will be welcome in this safe, peaceful space.

Revd Mary

Team Talk on Tuesday

Our Lent course on 'What is the Church and what is it for?' continues this Tuesday at 7.30pm. This session will be led by Revd Stewart Betts and by Revd Paul Harris. The sessions so far have been excellent! Please do join us, via this Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89299369651?pwd=TVZuSHREL3BRbFMwclljbW01YzllQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 9936 9651

Passcode: 524281

Messy Church for Palm Sunday

Please join us for a Messy Church on Zoom on Palm Sunday, 28th March, at 3.30pm.

Join via this Zoom link –

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84297849921?pwd=SU5kVm0zWE1iOWIZeHNI MmUveFYwUT09>

Meeting ID: 842 9784 9921

Passcode: 486789

St Helen's APCM: save the date

Notice is given that the St Helen's APCM will be held on Tuesday 27th April at 7.30pm. In light of the ongoing pandemic, it is likely that this meeting will be held on Zoom, with telephone buddies for those who cannot log on personally. Further details to follow.

NEWS

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.

Church Action for Tax Justice (CATJ)

believes that our current tax system puts an unequal and unfair burden of tax on the least wealthy groups in our society and particularly and unjustly on the poorest. We see this not just in schemes of tax avoidance by individuals and companies but in the operation of something as common as Council Tax where an average Ashby resident can pay more than millionaire, Philip Green, on his £10 million house.

The impact of the Covid-19 challenge on our normal methods of managing our economy is offering us a chance to reshape our society in ways that redress that inequality. In its '**Fair Tax Now**' campaign CATJ is inviting us to contribute to that vision.

- Do visit [Fair Tax Now - Church Action for Tax Justice \(catj.org.uk\)](https://catj.org.uk) and listen to Jo's, Stan's and Andy's story and reflect on what they are telling us
- Do write to Mr Andrew Bridgen, our MP, in the way the campaign suggests, to let him know of your concern and desire to see change in tax measures
- Do look at CATJ's materials for scriptural reflection and pray for renewed vision in our country that actively seeks the welfare of all people.

Compassionate Leave

Please note that Jill is on compassionate leave. Please send any enquiries to Mary, or Stewart, or one of our wardens.

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:

- ◆ Joan Morton
- ◆ Phyllis Anne Eileen Whetton
- ◆ Frank Harold Moseley
- ◆ Joan Harding

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