



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

## Notices for 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Friends

Today (Thursday) the Church of England's Anti-Racism Taskforce has published its report called 'From Lament to Action'. This morning, the Revd Arun Arora, one of the chairs of the Taskforce (and a friend of mine from theological college) tweeted, 'We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.' This call to action now is put into sharp relief when we realise that today is also the 28th anniversary of the racially motivated murder of Stephen Lawrence. In that time, how much has changed in society, in the church? How much has stayed the same?

This has also been the week when former police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of the second-degree murder of George Floyd, on whose neck he had knelt for nine minutes, 29 seconds whilst, for as long as he could, George Floyd cried out 'I can't breathe'. His awful, repeated, words were themselves an echo of the cry of Eric Garner, another man who died in police custody in similar circumstances, and have been taken up by the Black Lives Matter movement as a way of describing the suffocation of being a member of a minority culture all too often marginalised and oppressed.

And this was the week when BBC's *Panorama* asked the question 'Is the Church of England racist?' and concluded that it is.

What can be our response, an authentic Christian response, to so much pain?

I think, perhaps, it begins with education and acknowledgement, with watching *Panorama*, however uncomfortable we might find it, by reading at least the summary of 'From Lament to Action' and by taking the opportunity to engage in unconscious bias training, offered online by the Diocese of Leicester. (Liz Smith has the details of this.)

I also think we need to return to the Bible, to God's word, where, at creation, humanity - a beautiful, vibrant, diverse humanity - is made in God's image and where, in Jesus Christ, all are 'one'.

But having reflected, learnt, acknowledged, the authors of 'From Lament to Action' would urge us to act to address any organisational bias or even overt racism. In a world where so many people are waiting to take a deep breath, how can we refuse this call?

God bless  
Revd Mary

## NOTICES & NEWS

### Saturday morning prayers: 9.30am on Zoom

Please join us online for our informal time of Bible reading and prayer on Saturday morning at 9.30am.

You can join via this Zoom link -

Ask Jill at the parish office

[sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)

### Worship this week

◆ Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

Holy Communion at St Helen's, Ashby, and live-streamed to the Flagstaff Family of Churches

Facebook page

◆ Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am

Holy Communion at Worthington

◆ Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm

Holy Communion at Breedon Priory

◆ Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am

Holy Communion at St Helen's, Ashby, and live-streamed to the Flagstaff Family of Churches

Facebook page

*To attend any of these services in person please email*

[sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com) to help us plan safe socially-distanced seating.

### Worship next week

◆ Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am

All-Age Worship live-streamed to the Flagstaff Family of Churches

Facebook page

◆ Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 4.00pm

Holy Communion live-streamed to the Flagstaff Family of Churches

Facebook page

◆ Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.00am

Holy Communion BCP at St Helen's Ashby, and live-streamed to the Flagstaff Family of Churches

Facebook page

### Funeral of Jenny Jordan

Please pray for Trevor Jordan, and for all of Jenny's family, as her funeral takes place at St Helen's this coming Monday (26<sup>th</sup>) at 2.00pm. Due to the restriction of thirty attendees, the family regrets that attendance is limited to those they have been able to invite. Jenny was, for many years, an active and much-loved member of our church family at St Helen's.

### Churchwarden and PCC Elections

At our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) on 18<sup>th</sup> May our two churchwardens are not standing for re-election. Is God calling you to this role? Or to be a member of the PCC (Parochial Church Council)?

If you would like to know more about what these roles entail, please speak to Reverend Mary, or to our other current PCC members, who are:

John Backman

Valerie Backman

Revd Stewart Betts

Julian Boardman-Weston

Valerie Bowron

Sue Brown

Eileen Coombs

Alison Cross

John Dennis

Shan Dyer

Caroline Essex

David Harris

Judith Lewis

Elizabeth Smith

Steph Whiten

Please send nominations to Revd

Mary at [revmarygregory@aol.co.uk](mailto:revmarygregory@aol.co.uk)

giving the name of the person nominated, the role for which they are standing, and the names of the people proposing and seconding them.

### Electoral Roll 2021

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

## 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>

## Everyday Spirituality

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

## Living in Love and Faith:

### CHANGE OF DATES

The sessions are:

**12<sup>th</sup> May:** Women priests and bishops  
- how the Bible was used in the debates, and how decisions were made

**2<sup>nd</sup> June:** Bible passages on homosexuality (1) *Old Testament*

**26<sup>th</sup> June:** Bible passages on homosexuality (2) *New Testament*

**Saturday Session:** Responses to Living in Love and Faith

## PRAYER

### The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound.

### The bereaved

Pray especially for the family and friends of Jenny Jordan, and anyone else known to you who is recently bereaved.

Pray 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:**

- ◆ Kenneth Henry Sharpe
- ◆ James Calladine
- ◆ Olive Irene Bird
- ◆ Winifred Allcock
- ◆ Mary Elizabeth Evans

## Contact Details

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