



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 2nd May 2021

Dear Friends

You don't need me to tell you how this pandemic has affected every part of our lives: our physical health, of course, but also our mental health, our social interactions, our leisure activities - and our finances. Just last night a friend text me to say she'd been made redundant from the small company for which she works because they have suffered catastrophic losses over the last year. Please: pray for her, and for others in her situation.

Charities have suffered in much the same way: overheads have remained high, whilst income has plummeted. Recovery, I pray, will come, but it will take a long time. And the church, of course, is no exception. From individual parishes like ours, to dioceses like Leicester, to the Church of England as a whole, income has fallen to the extent where challenging decisions have got to be made; decisions like how many paid clergy can be afforded and how they should be deployed.

In Leicester Diocese, this process of structural reorganisation is called 'Shaped by God Together'. At the heart of this review are three 'models for ministry' which offer three different ways of deploying our ministers, paid and unpaid, ordained and lay. Each of these three models are quite different from what we have now - even for a team like ours where our ministers work across several

churches. Paid ordained ministers, like Mary and Stewart, are far more likely to be what's called 'oversight ministers' - those who watch over a large number of churches, supporting and encouraging 'focal' ministers who take a lead on ministry at grass-roots level. These 'focal ministers' could be what we now call Readers or Pastoral Assistants and they could be unpaid or retired ordained ministers.

Whichever model is eventually chosen, this means huge change for us as a diocese and as a Family of Churches. And that's why it's so important that we get involved in talking about the potential models, and making our voices heard, *before* decisions are made in October. To help us do this, Tim, Stewart and I have set aside an evening open to all on **Tuesday 1st June** to enable us to consider each of the three ministry models together, and then to offer feedback to the diocese by 21st June, as requested. Please do make it a priority to come along so that we can learn together and listen to one another.

Change can feel very intimidating. It can make us feel anxious. But whatever model of ministry is introduced, let me assure you of this: the congregations of our Flagstaff Family of Churches will continue to worship together, to serve together, to make a positive impact where we live, to love one another, to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. And if we

have to do that in simpler, humbler, bolder ways we might find many blessings along the way, not least the possibility of a less complex, more focused, way of life together. We are facing challenging times, but I am looking forward to the adventure. Come along with me?

With love
Revd Mary

NOTICES & NEWS

Annual leave

Revd Mary is on annual leave from Friday 30th April - Friday 7th May. Please direct any queries to Revd Stewart on 07919 890094 or at stewb_1@hotmail.com

Saturday morning prayers

On Zoom each Saturday morning from 9.30am for about an hour: Bible reading, prayers and supporting one another. Do join us. For the Zoom link for this Saturday and next (1st and 8th May) contact Jill at sthelensashby@gmail.com

Sunday 9th: shout out for many hands (to make light work)

As we gradually reopen church, we need to clear out the Hastings Chapel which has become a temporary storage area. After the service on 9th May we need to carry our crib figures from the Hastings Chapel into the Heritage Centre garden sheds. At the end of the service, if you are able to lift and carry something relatively heavy, please take a figure and carry it into our back garden for us. It'll also give you a chance to see our beautiful garden which is very nearly finished!

Living in Love and Faith: the sequel

Dates for this 4 session course are:

12th May: The ordination of women: synodical processes and Biblical texts
2nd June: Old Testament texts that refer to homosexuality: how to read them

23rd June: New Testament texts that refer to homosexuality: how to read them

10th July: Living in Love and Faith: our responses

For the Zoom link (which will be the same for every session) contact Jill at sthelensashby@gmail.com

Pre-reading will be sent out in advance of each session. Please let Revd Mary know if you'd like to join in.

Worship this week and next week

Sunday 2nd: 10.30am All-Age worship; 4.00pm Holy Communion, both streamed live to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page

Wednesday 5th: 10.00am Holy Communion BCP at St Helen's Ashby and live-streamed.

Sunday 9th: 10.30am Holy Communion at St Helen's, Ashby, and live-streamed; 4.00pm Holy Communion at St Mary's, Coleorton
To book for Sunday services, please email sthelensashby@gmail.com

We are no longer taking bookings for Wednesdays, but will ask people to sign in on the day.

Ascension Day: 13th May

Please join us for our Ascension Day service of Communion at 7.30pm at St Helen's, and live-streamed. Please book a seat for this service by emailing sthelensashby@gmail.com
We look forward to Liz Smith preaching to us.

An opportunity to serve as treasurer for St Helen's

After a period of very faithful, hard-working service, John Backman is standing down as treasurer at the APCM on 18th May. We are therefore looking to recruit a successor to him. The person who volunteers to join us for this work will be part of a small, supportive on Standing Committee and on the PCC. Particular members of the PCC stand ready to support the treasurer as invited.

Here's a flavour of the core skills and tasks of a treasurer:

Skills and Characteristics

- Reasonable financial competence, and the ability to maintain a basic accounts book.
- Have an understanding of the parish, its needs and challenges.
- Have a basic understanding of how the parish fits into its wider Deanery, Diocesan and national church contexts.
- Willingness to attend PCC meetings, not only to deal with financial matters, but also in order to be aware of the PCC's plans.
- Be in harmony with the PCC, the parish priest and the wider church.
- Be able to explain financial issues clearly, both within the PCC and to the general church membership.
- Be able to maintain confidentiality, particularly with respect to matters that relate to individual church members; e.g. their personal giving.
- Meet the wider requirements of the Charity Commissioners for all trustees: i.e. not disqualified by bankruptcy or by convictions for financial wrong doing.

- Although PCC members can be 16 or over, the bank is likely to require someone who is 18 or over. Since the role carries significant responsibility the PCC may also feel that it is appropriate to have someone aged over 18.

Key Tasks for a Treasurer

- Carry out the financial decisions made by the PCC. The responsibility for both raising and spending money to meet the PCC's responsibilities lies with the PCC. The Treasurer implements their decisions.
- Draft an annual budget to assist the PCC to plan how it will fulfill its objectives for the coming year.
- Record all financial transactions carried out on behalf of the PCC and ensure they are properly authorised.
- Monitor the PCC's finances throughout the year, and alert the PCC if any difficulties are likely.
- Work with the PCC to meet all its financial obligations, especially Parish Share, clergy expenses and insuring the church buildings against fire, theft and public liability.
- Maintain, and set-up if needed, a book-keeping system.
- Prepare the annual financial statements for approval by the PCC and submission to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, ensuring that they comply with current Charity Commission requirements. Send a copy to the Diocese, and complete the national financial information return.

You'll understand how vital it is that we have someone to serve as treasurer so please do think and pray about whether that could be you, or someone you know. If you think of

someone else who might do this well, please approach them and encourage them to speak to John Backman, our existing treasurer (01283 761385), to Revd Stewart or to Revd Mary on her return.

Verger vacancy

You may have seen from our pew sheet that John Backman has had to step down as verger to concentrate on some pressing family issues. Please continue to pray for him and Valerie. Mary and the churchwardens are now seeking to appoint a new verger. The role description is circulated with this pew sheet.

We are hoping to appoint a new verger by the middle of June, and would like to invite expressions of interest for the role by the end of May. If you would like to be considered, please email Mary simply stating why you would like to be considered for the role and what you skills and qualities you might bring to it. Mary and the churchwardens will then have a conversation with all those who have expressed an interest and prayerfully consider who God is calling to this very special role. If you have any questions at all, please speak to Mary, or to Valerie or Val. Please join us, too, in praying for the right person to be identified for this role.

Giving

You can make donations to the work of St Helen's via our website - <https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

Christian Aid Week May 2021

To donate to this important cause go to our St Helen's e-envelope <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/sthelensashby.net>

PRAYER

The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound.

The bereaved

Pray especially for anyone 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:

- ◆ Mary Elizabeth Evans
- ◆ Lucy Baker
- ◆ Sylvia Mavis Grainger
- ◆ David George Jeffery
- ◆ Harold Pass
- ◆ John Winfield Drury
- ◆ Ada Elizabeth Evans
- ◆ Eleanor May Partridge
- ◆ Hugh Duncan Hanford

Contact Details

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- ◆ Facebook:
-The Flagstaff Family of Churches
-St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch