

St Helen's Magazine

May 2021



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

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- ♦ Website: sthelensashby.net
- ♦ Flagstaff Team: www.flagstaff.org.uk

Editor Writes ...

I know we learn one new something every day, but recently I learnt two new things in the same 24 hours! I know! The first was that May is known as Mary's month. The second is that worms can taste the soil.



Have you heard of May being Mary's month? Is it one of those facts that everyone knows except me? Perhaps it is part of the routine of many High-Church Anglicans too? Well, just in case it has passed anyone else by - apparently in the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar May is the month dedicated to Mary, mother of Jesus. From what I can gather the idea is to make time daily to pray to her in church and at home. I read (on the internet, so it must be true!) that the roots of the tradition date back to pre-Christian times, to the ancient Greeks who dedicated the month of May to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity, while the Romans claimed May for Flora, the goddess of bloom or blossoms. The Christian custom of honouring Mary all through May arose at the end of the 13th century, as a way for the Church to Christianize secular feasts. In the 16th century books were written which fostered this devotion. But the tradition didn't really get going in the entire Roman Catholic world until the 19th century. That seems like quite a time lapse to me, but this is the trouble with trying to find out the truth of any matter via a Google search. If you'd like some interesting and properly researched history rather than my slapdash ramble, Anne Heaton has written a fascinating slice of our church's past on page 14, whilst Wendy Freer's regular piece of town history is on page 26 - although maybe an earthquake should be described as astonishing rather than regular.

One of our church's activities every May is our support for Christian Aid week. On pages 9 and 25 you can read about how you might join in this year. There are mentions of other charities' fundraising efforts on pages 11 and 16, and a family raising much more than just money on page 12.

The other thing we're doing this May is planning ahead. Over the page you'll find out from Mary why we needed Judy Hunt to seek out her knitting pattern for us (pages 5-8). But the prize for planning furthest ahead must go to the MU - read about it, as well as about their May activities, on page 30.

If I had planned ahead better I would have had space to tell you about the worm, but I seem to have run out of room.

Jill Chapman .



Revd Mary Writes ...

Dear Friends

As society starts to open up again, we're starting to take small steps on our own roadmap to recovery. We're worshipping in our church building as well as online, we're exploring ways of opening up the church more regularly as a place of peace and of sanctuary, our Community Heritage Centre garden is nearing completion - and is looking wonderful - and we're thinking about how to start up some heritage activities. Won't it be good to welcome our community back in person again! - whilst working really hard to keep everyone safe with gold-standard Covid-19 safeguards in place.

There'll be lots of opportunities to support our heritage activities as a volunteer - both working at home, if you're not able to volunteer in person just yet - and at church and in the Centre. Watch our pew sheet, Facebook pages and website for more details!

In this letter, I'd like to flag up two 'home-working' opportunities.

The first is that we'd like to put together some home activity kits to be given out at the Foodbank, and at other community venues. The kits will be paper carrier bags into which we'll put plant pots, seeds and bags of soil so that children can do some planting and growing at home. This is a way of saying to our younger generation that the shoots of new life are coming; that we're looking forward to a new beginning. If you would be willing to set up a home production line to get these bags ready, please email sthelensheritage@gmail.com

The second is in preparation for Remembrance Sunday in November! (Yes - I know it's only May!) To mark this important Sunday, and also the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion, we are hoping to construct a 'waterfall' of knitted and crocheted poppies all the way down our tower (attached to a net and then draped down the tower by someone braver than I am!). Could you become one of our army of knitters/ crocheters, perhaps using the pattern included in this magazine? If you could help - and we'll need hundreds of poppies - please make a start now and we'll be in touch about collection points later.

I hope you feel, as I do, that these are great opportunities to bless the people of our town, to show them that St Helen's community is vibrant, and here to serve everyone in the name of Jesus Christ. I hope, too, that getting involved in some volunteering will be good for our well-being as we try to rebuild our lives after such a tough year.

Here's to green shoots and red poppies!

With love
Mary

Poppy Pattern 1

Knitted Version

You Will Need

1 poppy kit from ArtYarn (to order see below) **OR**

1 50-gram ball of

Lang Yarns

GOLF Mercerised Cotton in Red (163.0060).

A Black button (2/2.75 mm across) **OR** a curtain ring and Black yarn (Lang Yarns GOLF in Black (163.0004).

Brooch pin.

Tools

3 mm (No. 11) knitting needles.

Darning needle.

Size: approx. 10 cm (4 ins) in diameter.

ABBREVIATIONS

cm – centimetres; **K** – knit;

sl – slip; **st(s)** – stitch(es).



TENSION

Approx. 24 sts to 10 cm measured over pattern.

Important Note

When writing to us with your queries, you

must enclose a stamped, addressed envelope if you would like a reply.

To Make

Note: You can make five poppies from one ball of yarn. Each poppy consists of a flower corsage with four petals, knitted in one long piece in garter st, with short rows. The inner edge remains straight, while the outer edge is elongated and shaped.

With 3 mm needles cast on 9 sts.

1st row – K9, cast on 3 sts – 12 sts.

2nd row – K9, turn, leaving

remaining 3sts unworked on needle.

3rd row – Sl1, K8.

4th row – K6, turn, leaving 6 sts remaining unworked on the needle.

5th row – Sl1, K5.

6th row – Knit across all 12 sts.

7th row – K12.

Repeat 2nd – 7th rows 4 times more.

Next row – Cast off 3, K6, turn.

Next row – Sl1, K5.

Next row – Cast off 3, K6.

This completes the first petal. Continue to knit 3 more petals in the same way, beginning the next petal (starting from the inner edge of the petal) K6, cast on 3, to give you 9 sts, turn, K9, turn and work from 1st row as before.

TO COMPLETE

Join together the cast-on and cast-off edges to form a ring. With needle and thread, sew a row of running stitch around the central hole and gather the centre tightly to close.

For the centre of the poppy either use a black button OR make a Dorset button using a curtain ring and black cotton. With a darning needle and using buttonhole stitch, sew a row of stitches around the edge of the ring, so that the ring is completely covered. Then stitch across the centre of the ring, first a long loop dividing the ring in two, followed by a crosswise loop at right angles and two more loops crossing diagonally to give you a spoke-shaped framework. Weave the centre of the button by passing needle and yarn over and under the spokes until the centre of the button is filled. Sew button in the centre and fix brooch pin to the back.



Crochet Version

You Will Need

Materials as given for knitted poppy.

Tools

3 mm (No. 11) crochet hook.
Darning needle.

Size: approx. 8 cm (3 ins) in diameter.

ABBREVIATIONS

cm – centimetres; **ch** – chain;
dc – double crochet; **ss** – slip stitch.; **st(s)** – stitch(es).

TENSION

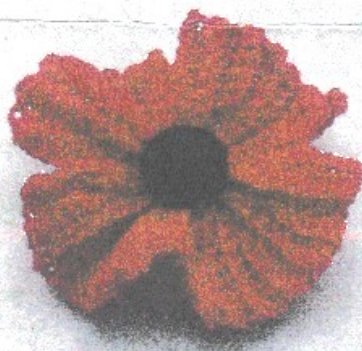
Approx. 24 sts to 10 cm measured over pattern.

Important Note

When writing to us with your queries, you must enclose a stamped, addressed envelope if you would like a reply.

To Make

Note: You can make five poppies from one ball of yarn. Working into the back of the sts gives an attractive ridged



texture to the petals of this poppy corsage. The flower is crocheted in double crochet in one long piece, which is joined together to make a ring, then gathered at the centre

PETAL 1

With a 3 mm hook, work 6 ch and 1 turning ch.

1st row – Miss the first ch and work 6 dc (always working into the back loop of the st) then make 3 extra ch and 1 turning ch.

2nd row – Miss the first ch, work 6 dc, turn (before you reach the last 3 sts).

3rd row – Work 1 ss into the first st and then a dc into each of the next 5 sts (taking you to outer edge), followed by 1 turning ch.

4th row – Miss the first ch, work 5 dc, 1 dc into turning ch, 1 dc into 3 dc left unworked on 2nd row.

5th row – Miss the first ch, work 9 dc and 1 turning ch. Repeat the 2nd - 5th rows twice more and then the 2nd - 4th rows again.

On the next row, miss the first ch, work 6 dc, turn. Work 1 ss, 5 dc and 1 turning ch to complete the first petal.

PETAL 2

Miss the first ch and work 6 dc, make 3 ch and 1 turning ch. Complete in the same way as the first petal, repeating from 2nd row.

Continue until all 4 petals have been completed.

TO COMPLETE

Join with ss to make a ring. With needle and thread catch the edge sts around the inner edge and gather tightly to close the centre. Sew a black button in the centre of the poppy. Fix on a brooch pin.



Chris Lewis

Counsellor / Psychotherapist

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Thanks

The What's On Notice board



Quiztian Aid for Christian Aid

◆ Free · Online event ◆

Raising funds to fight the
climate crisis.

Hosted by special guests Tobi
and Prisca Bakare, Rhidian
Brook, Kris Marshall, Kate
Bottley and Rowan Williams.

**SATURDAY,
8th MAY 2021
at 19:00**

[https://www.facebook.com/
events/454537262217879/](https://www.facebook.com/events/454537262217879/)

Invite your church family and
friend

Calling All Volunteers!

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Do you enjoy helping people? Would you like to make a
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For 35 years Enrych has been supporting adults living with disabilities to enjoy leisure and
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Whatever your hobby or interest we would love to hear from you!

For more info contact

☎ 01530 234 545 ✉ laura.barratt@enrych.org.uk 🌐 www.enrych.org.uk

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St Helen's APCM:

This year's
Annual Parochial
Church Meeting
will be held

*on Tuesday 18th May

*at 7.30pm

*in church & on-line



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Hunger Free Future

'When one person goes hungry, our whole society is weaker.'

Across the UK, more people than ever are facing extreme poverty, unable to afford the basics and to put food on the table. But did you know that as well as supporting our local food banks with donations of food and toiletries you can also make a donation of money?

The Trussell Trust is committed to its continued support of food banks to provide emergency help for as long as it's needed, but also feels it needs to do more to call for change, helping to ensure no one needs to use a food bank in the first place.

And so they are asking their supporters if they are able to afford to give a one-off small gift, a regular donation, or to run, bake, mountaineer, or exercise dressed like a dinosaur, as they join #TeamTrussell to put the fun into fundraising.

Find out more at <https://www.trusselltrust.org/hunger-free-future/>



Hair (fund) raising!

On Saturday 1st May Rebecca and Emily Fretwell both had their hair cut and donated it to charity. This is why they did it:



I got my hair cut after growing it for about two years. I had 12 inches cut off for The Little Princess Trust because I believe all children should be able to have hair, whether it is a wig or not. I did it with my sister and we have a target of £100 to raise. It costs £550 to make each wig.

Rebecca Fretwell



I decided to cut my hair as I wanted to donate it to children who have lost their hair due to illnesses such as cancer. Between us, my sister and I have donated 21 inches of hair!

Emily Fretwell



The great news is the girls hit their £100 target within 12 hours of their hair cut, and were soon past £200! Their Just Giving page link is <https://www.justgiving.com/Michelle-Fretwell>

To find out more about the charity The Little Princess Trust you can go to their website <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/>

Welcome Back to fair2all

Like other non-essential retail fair2all re-opened on Monday 12th April. Thank you to those of you who have popped in to welcome us back and we look forward to seeing many more of you over the coming weeks as we adjust to another new normal.

Not so many changes this time but a new unit with shelves of Lanka Kade figures has been added near the till and the choice of comfy Bamboo socks has increased to over 120 different designs.

Rugs with a high re-cycled content is a range that fair2all is increasing; one rug includes recycled leather – off cuts from furniture making which would otherwise probably end up in landfill, another has a high proportion of upcycled plastic from drinks bottles. I was surprised how soft it was! Some are suitable for outside use on patios and decking.



As I need to make space for Nomads' Spring / Summer clothing range, from 20th April fair2all has been running a special promotion on clothing: In addition to most garments being reduced, if you spend £35 or more on clothes (excludes socks) you will receive a voucher giving you £10 off your next clothes purchase when you leave your email address.

Thank you for your support of fair2all and we look forward to welcoming you again. Opening Hours will be 10 – 4 daily except Sundays and Bank Holidays at 17 Bath Street. Also online – www.fair2all.net phone 01530 415468.

Mandy McIntosh

Giving

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

St Helen's Churchyard

What is a churchyard?

I guess many of us have had more contact with the churchyard than the church while the latter has been closed. Prior to March 2020, I wonder how much notice we have really taken of what there is in the churchyard? What even IS a churchyard? It isn't a place of burial, other than for the interment of ashes; St Helen's churchyard was closed to most burials in 1855, around the time that the town cemetery was opened.

Essentially, a churchyard (note I'm not calling it a graveyard) is the land surrounding the church, but it has an interesting history, and was much more important to our ancestors. Many churchyards have standing stones and crosses which may pre-date the church and had meaning for earlier peoples. The churchyard was sacred, providing an outer ring of holiness beyond the church, and people could claim

sanctuary beyond the entrance gateway. Many ceremonies took place here: marriages in the church entrance (the porch, where there was one), preaching, processions on high days and holy-days, even markets, dances, games, and weapons training! The Rector had grazing rights in the churchyard, and sheep, not mowers, kept the grass short.

There was an attempt in the late 13th century to stop the use of churchyards for markets and fairs, but they continued: complaints were being made about the noise and stench of the animals at the market in a churchyard in York disrupting services in the nearby Minster. Butchers would hang their meats inside the church porch, while cloth, fruit and vegetables, animals, tools and trinkets were sold in the churchyard. Church Fairs were big events, taking place in both the church building and the churchyard. Eventually, markets and fairs moved away from the church and, although we still have occasional markets and fairs today, they are not usually while a service is taking place!

When the current St Helen's church was built in 1474, the churchyard was already hundreds of years old. Thousands of burials had taken place there;



Figure 1 The ground to the east is much higher than the rest of the churchyard, suggesting that there were a lot of medieval burials.

we have records from 1538, when church registers began to be kept, but evidence of the number of unknown burials can be found by looking beyond St Helen's vestry at the height of the ground beyond the east end: the land is 2 metres higher than the base of the church. Few people wanted to be buried on the north side of the church – the Devil's side – but at St Helen's there is very little space on the south side; we are unusual in having most of our space on the east end. The area to the west, beyond the tower, was added in 1812, when the churchyard was so full that there were concerns about sanitation and the uncovering of previously buried remains when a new grave was dug.

The shape of our churchyard has not changed in hundreds of years. The earliest map we have is 1735, and the shape is not dissimilar to the highly accurate topographical map produced by Mercian Archaeological Services in a community archaeology project carried out in 2016. It is roughly rectangular, although there is a hint that the earliest Anglo-Saxon churchyard was more rounded; follow the curved pathway by the west door towards Lower Church Street and you may be walking on a very early boundary. Today, the boundaries are walls: an assortment of stones, many of them reused, on the south side and a 19th century redbrick wall to the north, which is grade 2 listed. Also listed is the 18th century stone gateway onto Lower Church Street, with skull and crossbones on the top of the piers, denoting a burial site.

Next month: what about burials?

Anne Heaton

(My thanks to Julie Starkey for some of the research for these articles).



Figure 2 18th century gateway

Building for Growth in France

Statistics! The Covid pandemic has reminded us all that statistics represent people: statistics are not just numbers. Behind the numbers are people who are anxious, ill, or grieving over a lost loved one. We grieve – and rightly so – over those whose lives and livelihoods have been deeply affected by the pandemic. We grieve over the appalling loss of life in India and the lack of basic necessities to care for the sick.

How, I wonder, should we present the statistics of those who are dying without knowing how much God loves them? Without knowing that Jesus died for them? Without Resurrection hope? And how can we help?

As Mary reminded us in a recent sermon, all who are believers are called to be ‘heralds’ – proclaimers of the good news to those who haven’t heard it.

There are a number of ways in which this can be done.

One way is by planting new churches in areas where there has historically been no evangelical Christian witness. In secular France, where believers make up only about one percent of the population, approximately 4,000 churches need to be planted if the goal of one church for every 10,000 people is to be reached. Imagine, each church an outreach hub; each church member a ‘herald’ on their street, in their workplaces, among their friends and neighbours....

Another way to look at that challenge is to consider the leadership of those churches. Who will take the vision forward? Who will lead, teach, train and encourage church members in their calling? Answer: men and women of vision whom God has called into pioneering leadership.

That’s where Bible colleges come in. The Bible Institute of Nogent-sur-Marne, about 30 minutes from the centre of Paris, is one such. Founded in



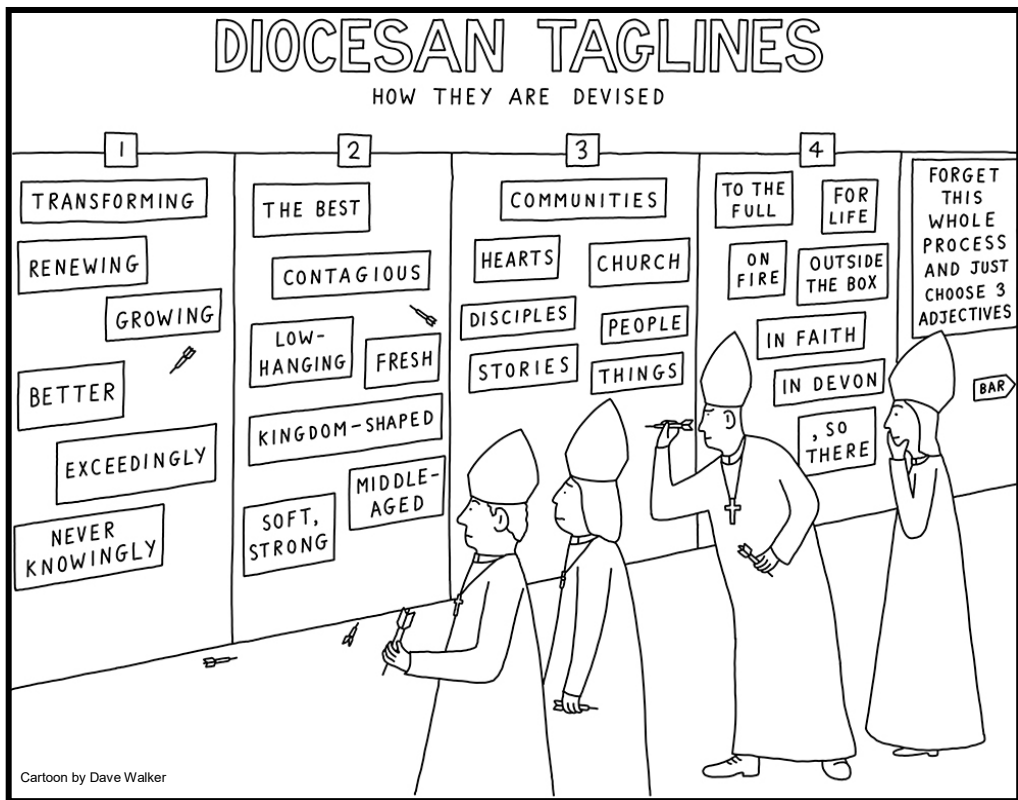
1921, it is the oldest inter-denominational evangelical college in France, with the wonderful mission statement: 'The whole Christ in the whole Bible for the whole world'.

For the past three years the college has been seeking to raise funds to expand its premises to make room for more residential students. Work started – in spite of the pandemic – last September to add a fourth building to its premises, a residential block, five storeys high, with eighteen single rooms and six small apartments. The work is nearly finished and now the rooms need to be furnished before they can be occupied.

This is where we might be able to help. The new rooms need furnishing. If you think God is calling you to help out, would you consider sponsoring a bed, desk or chair? If the answer is yes, you can donate online at this address: <https://www.francemission.org/donate>. Or if you prefer, send a cheque to France Mission, PO Box 743, Exeter EX1 9RN, making clear that your gift is for the Nogent Building Project.

As one old friend said to me at the height of the lockdown, "With so little opportunity to spend money, there's much more to give away."

Sue Brown



Umpteen Uses for a Mask in Church

1. Keeping your face warm on cold mornings
2. Staying at home and paying a person with the same colour eyes to take your place
3. Hiding your blushes
4. Smuggling in and eating sweets
5. Similar, but with a miniature of whisky
6. Pretending to be a ninja
7. Experimenting with the right breathing method to not steam up your glasses
8. Mouthing complaints without anyone knowing
9. Experimenting with the right breathing method to steam up your glasses
10. Giving the muscles around your eyes a workout when you try to let others know you're smiling
11. Singing without being spotted
12. Sticking your tongue out
13. Wearing the colour of lipstick you really always wanted to wear without being judged
14. Not bothering to shave
15. Trying to blow it out like a balloon
16. Wearing it on your chin instead of your nose, like it's some surreal beard
17. Hiding a yawn
18. Hiding lots of yawns
19. Doing inventive macramé / cat's cradle with the strings to keep it on your ears
20. Using it as a catapult once you can take it off in the churchyard
21. Donating it as a hammock for the church bats/mice after the service
22. Loving our neighbour by not risking spreading the virus.



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Lambeth Awards 2021

The annual Lambeth Awards are given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Church and wider society, not just in the UK but from the whole Anglican Communion. This might be for ecumenism, for services to the Church of England, for contributions to the Anglican Communion, for prayer and the religious life, for reconciliation and interfaith co-operation, for evangelism and witness, for education, for community service or for worship.

The Archbishop of Canterbury announced the recipients of the 2021 awards at the beginning of April. They were given to over 30 individuals, who included scientists, musicians, academics, activists, peacemakers, doctors and clergy.

Amongst the headline recipients this year were:

- The late Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, from the Diocese of Swaziland - the first woman to be an Anglican bishop in Africa, who died from Covid this January.
- The Revd Prof Gina Radford, the UK's former deputy chief medical officer (who is now a vicar in Devon) - for providing medical advice for churches and the Church of England's senior leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Esmé Page – for Community Service, answering the call to provide holidays of hope to residents and firefighters who experienced the trauma and loss of the terrible fire in Grenfell Tower.
- Guvna B (Isaac Borquaye) the MOBO award-winning rapper and author - for "being an outstanding, faithful and vibrant witness to Jesus Christ using his gifts and the medium of recording, performance and video to proclaim the good news"
- The Revd Richard Coles - for evangelism and witness, described as "outstanding witness as an admired and popular Christian presence in the public arena."



The full list of recipients and citations are available to read at <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/>

Archbishop Justin Welby said: "This year's Lambeth Awards recipients, not all of whom are Christians, embody this spirit of service - not just during the pandemic but, for many of them, through decades of faithful work. I commend them and their efforts, and look forward to the time when we meet to celebrate their contributions to society."

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.

Service Pattern

- Holy Communion - Wednesdays
10am
Within the St Helen's church building & on-line
- Holy Communion - Second, third and fourth Sundays of the month
10.30am
Within the St Helen's church building & on-line
- Holy Communion within some of our Flagstaff Family of Churches buildings - Sunday afternoons
4.00pm
1st Sunday:
Isley Walton
2nd Sunday:
Coleorton
3rd Sunday:
Staunton Harold
4th Sunday:
Breedon

Due to the government's Covid-19 precautionary restrictions numbers within our church buildings are limited. It is necessary to book places for any of the Sunday services in advance. Please email sthelensashby@gmail.com

- All-Age Service -First Sunday of the month
10.30am (on-line only)
- Prayer gathering, on Zoom - Saturdays
9.30am



Please email the church administrator at sthelensashby@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link

From the Albums ...

In April we marked Holy Week and celebrated Easter on line.

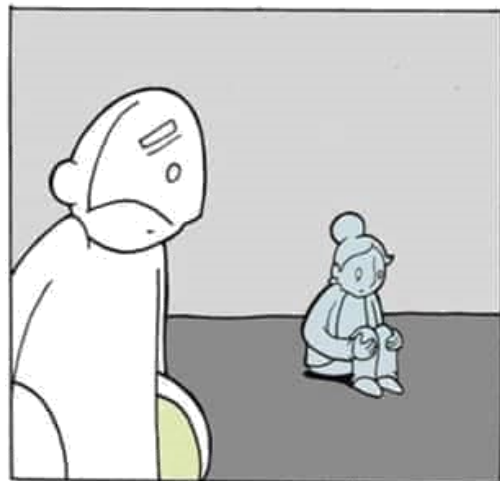


Caroline Essex
read stories for
children on-line
throughout
Holy Week

On 16th we were in church for the first time post Lockdown 3, to hold a special service to mark the death of His Late Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT.

April 18th saw us back in church for Holy Communion, as we recommenced having Sunday and Wednesday services in church *and* on-line. Good weather meant that the last hymn could be sung outside on both Sundays, so the congregation got to sing too!







When I wrote the last article for our magazine, which was entitled 'Hands' I didn't suppose that it would be one of a series. As I began to crank up the cogs for this month's magazine I was reminded of the governments slogan; 'Hands, Face, Space'. Therefore it was almost inevitable that I began to reflect upon 'Face'.

Our word for face can have two very different applications, the first is our physical features on the front of our heads, our face. Our faces are one of the things that make us recognisable or distinguishable. One particular peculiarity of face masks is how it makes recognition a little harder, another is to see what is happening behind the mask. At church on a recent Sunday I commented to someone that I just realised that it may be hard for them to know that I was actually smiling at them!!!

Our faces are also subject to change, not just the inevitable effects of ageing, but our facial expressions can change. As a youngster I was often told when pulling a face that if the wind changed my face would be stuck like that!! But we can pull faces, we can also try to change our faces to match something that we want to portray, we call this 'putting on a brave face.' So perhaps our Covid compliant face masks are not the only ones that we can have a inclination to hide behind.

One of my favourite Psalms is 139, part of which reads; 'I knit you together in your mothers womb' the psalmist tellingly states this to us on God's behalf. God knows us, there's no secrets from God, no 'brave face' will fool God as it may fool others. An amazing truth is that God says it is alright to be not alright, I will still love you, still be here for you, NOTHING can change that.

Another way of defining the word face is by understanding something that is before us, or against us, as something we need to face. Leicester City will face Chelsea in the F.A cup final. As individuals and a church we face many challenges, who's going to do the work? How can we afford this? How do we effectively witness and share our faith in the community around us? These are all legitimate questions. There is also a legitimate factor we often forget; almighty God. When we face things, whether as individuals or as God's family we face them with God. Therefore we need to seek the face of

God, to recognise what he wants us to do.

This reminds me of the hymn 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus' which says look full in his wonderful face and the things of earth shall, grow strangely dim, in the light of his wonder and grace.

So whatever your face, whatever you face, whatever we face, we do not face it alone, we can and should look to the face of Jesus.

God bless you all.

Stewart

I Am the Vine

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

How might it feel to be part of the vine?
Not just to see the vineyard from afar
Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,
But to be grafted in, to feel the stir
Of inward sap that rises from our root,
Himself deep planted in the ground of Love,
To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,
As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give
A little to the swelling of the grape,
In gradual perfection, round and full,
To bear within oneself the joy and hope
Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and whole.
What might it mean to bide and to abide
In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?

Malcolm Guite

If you enjoy Malcolm's poems, frequently featured in our magazine, he's set up a link that allows you to buy him a coffee (or a beer if you prefer!)

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/malcolmguite>

Christian Aid Week 2021 - May 10th - 16th



Once again at St Helen's, we are supporting Christian Aid, and hope that people will be as generous as they have been in previous years.

This year there will be two ways of donating. Firstly, we have set up an e-envelope for people to donate online - <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/sthelensashby.net> After you have visited and donated, please email the link to your friends and families. This was very successful last year and as a church, we raised in excess of £750.

The other way of donating will be via envelopes delivered to doors and we already have a number of volunteers who are prepared to help with this in some areas of the town. If people wish to make a donation, they can put cash or a cheque in the envelope and return it to the address written by the collector on the envelope - their own address or that of St Helen's parish office. This removes the task of going round every house again to ask for the envelopes, something many of us find difficult and very time-consuming.

If you are prepared to help by delivering envelopes to houses in your neighbourhood please email me at shandashby@hotmail.co.uk.

Many thanks
Shân Dyer

A Prayer After a Difficult Day

Dear God,
Sometimes life is good and sometimes it's not.
Help us to know that you are with us in all of it.
Where we have done wrong today, forgive us;
when we have felt sad, comfort us;
where we have been afraid, strengthen us;
When we feel we've had enough
Give us strength to try again.
For we are on an amazing journey of faith,
and we know that you never leave us.
Bless this home tonight
And let your peace be known.
In Jesus name, we pray

Amen

Earthquake at Ashby de la Zouch

If you have read the information board near the Loudoun Monument on the corner of Bath Street and South Street, you will know that the Eleanor Cross which sits on top is not the original. The cross which was there when the monument was unveiled in 1879 is now in Ashby Museum, having been taken down in February 1957 for safety reasons. It had become unsafe because of an earth tremor which was felt, not just in Ashby, but across the Midlands on the afternoon of 11th February 1957.

The quake struck at 3.44 and the Loudoun Memorial was by no means the only casualty. It was said that chairs in the Coal Board offices at Coleorton Hall danced round the room, chimneys fell or slipped, tiles flew off roofs, masonry hit the roof of the hospital in Loughborough and fell through into the children's ward. A glass panel shattered onto empty seats in a cinema and the Loudoun Memorial cross crashed 70 feet to the pavement, narrowly missing passers-by and damaging the steps of the memorial.

There were multiple reports of damage in Leicester. Debris came crashing through the ceiling of a house in Dane Street when a chimney pot and part of the crick stack crumbled. The bricks and tiles hurtled to the street below and went crashing through the ceiling of the middle bedroom.

In Derby, more than 70 chimney pots fell to the ground or through the roofs of buildings. Mrs. Jean Stevenson was walking with her four month-old daughter, Susan, in her arms and holding the hand of her son Paul, in Markeaton Street. When she saw the falling chimney pots she shouted to Paul 'run, run.' but the masonry struck the boy on the head and cracked his skull. The baby was unharmed. Jean was struck by a piece of the chimney as she bent over her baby. A Derby Fire Brigade official said: "It has been our busiest day for several years. All available men and machines with reinforcements were hard at it." Children were sent home from several schools.



There were some very close escapes for 25 girls working at the factory of Royal Crown Derby Porcelain Co. In the burnishing shop, a large chimney pot fell towards them and shattered the glass, but the wire-reinforced roof held the masonry. Workmen strengthening a culvert running under Victoria Street, in the centre of Derby, came quickly up ladders to the street level. One, Mr. Derek Palmer, said: " There was such a terrible shaking we thought the culvert was giving way and had visions of being buried underneath a bus."

In Coalville and other mining villages, terrified people thought at first that there must have been a huge disaster underground. Others thought trains or buses had collided or that boiler houses had exploded. Miners in the pits reported how "a roll of thunder swept through the mine workings" and men feared that a major disaster was imminent. In fact, no damage occurred underground and no mine workers were injured.

The epicentre of the quake was thought to have been somewhere in the Charnwood Forest amongst the pre-Cambrian rocks which were said to be the oldest in Britain, and possibly in the world. Dr P. D. Ford, a lecturer at Nottingham University, assured the public that there was no cause for alarm. Having been shot out of his chair by the quake "with the speed of a pilot using his ejector seat", he said that the idea that a long dead volcano in Leicestershire was about to erupt was quite impossible!

The quake was said to have been the strongest felt in Britain since the 18th century and was felt as far away as Blackpool, Bristol and Sheffield. The Daily Herald in London reported that it had "brought terror to 11 counties."

Two nights later, aftershocks were felt by some. These lasted longer than the first quake but were less severe. It began at midnight and lasted only a few seconds. It shook buildings and rattled windows, but there was no rumbling sound as previously. The majority of people were in bed on this occasion, and did not know of anything untoward until told about it the next morning. In Ashby, this second earth tremor was reported at police headquarters as "just an entry In the diary."



Wendy Freer



The Archbishops' Statement in response to the Anti-Racism Taskforce Report - 22nd April



Racism is a sin. Of this, we have no doubt. Anything which diminishes the value and beauty of each individual person, made in the image of God, is sinful.

There is no place for it in the world, and we are determined to make sure there is no room for it in the Church.

But it is here. We have seen, time and time again, people being bullied, overlooked, undermined and excluded from the life of the Church, from the family of God. It breaks our hearts, and we are truly sorry.

We welcome [this report from the Anti-Racism Taskforce](#), which we commissioned last year to help us understand what progress we might have made towards tackling racism in the Church of England. Having scrutinised reports and recommendations from the last 35 years, the Taskforce have identified many things which must change; things which have been called for before and have not been done.

We hope we will be the generation to halt this cycle of inaction. We pray for the wisdom, courage and grace to be leaders who will bring real change.

We commit to work with colleagues to implement five of their recommendations immediately:

1. Work with General Synod to encourage them to co-opt ten ethnic minority candidates, of which five will be clergy and five lay people, to serve as members of the General Synod for the 2021- 2026 Quinquennium. As co-optees, they would serve with full participation and voting rights.
2. Invite ethnic minority clergy observers to attend House of Bishops as participant observers for three-year periods until such time as there are six bishops from ethnic minorities able to sit as members of the House. The process should mirror that used for election of women as participant observers in 2013.
3. Establish a Racial Justice Commission, which we have written to invite the Reverend Dr Joel Edwards to chair. Further details on its composition and work will be made available when finalised. This group will direct their attention to the working practices of the Church of England with regard to racial justice, and will hold the two of us to account for our leadership in this regard.
4. Work with Archbishops Council to create a Racial Justice Directorate within the National Church Institutions of the Church of England, for a five-year period, to implement the recommendations of the Taskforce

and the Commission.

5. Work with Archbishops Council to replace the Committee for Minority Ethnic Concerns (CMEAC) with a new standing committee of the Archbishops' Council to oversee the work of the Racial Justice Directorate.

We welcome the prayers, goodwill and cooperation of everyone willing to work with us to make this happen, by the Grace of God.

The Most Reverend & Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Reverend & Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York



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Mothers' UNION

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Thy Kingdom Come MU Service on Friday May 14th 2pm on Facebook and YouTube

What is Thy Kingdom Come?

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement. It is an open invitation to Christians around the world to pray, from the Feast of Ascension to Pentecost each year, that more people will come to know Jesus.

Starting in May 2016, Thy Kingdom Come has grown from a dream of a possibility into an established movement spanning the globe.

Taking Part

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen and further their own relationship with Jesus
- Pray for 5 of their friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.



Context

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered together with Mary. They constantly devoted themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We are like the disciples gathering together in hope as without the Holy Spirit we are powerless.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at this time to pray for

the coming of the Holy Spirit. As the name suggests, 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Gradually more and more communities of worship have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Archbishop Justin Welby

Our Service

Mothers' Union is holding a Thy Kingdom Come service which will be available to watch on the MU Facebook page and YouTube channel at 2pm on Friday 14 May.

Design a Christmas Card Competition

I know it is a little early to think about Christmas, but if you are feeling creative and would like to help MU to raise funds for its projects worldwide, why not submit a design for a Christmas card for the 2021 catalogue. Full details are in the new MU member publication, 'Connected', Spring 2021 edition, page 39.

Beryl Stephens



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Rock Solid

Rock Solid met again on 16th April, for the first time since before Christmas. Each week they have followed a chunk of the Wheelie Good Lap Of Ashby they're developing for use later in the year. This is a route around Ashby following hard footpaths with a short section of mown grass intended to be small wheel friendly. The young people are invited to bring and use small wheels; scooters, wheelchairs, skateboards, push chairs...

Vernon writes:

The simple formula of going for a walk and allowing / catalysing conversation seems to be a productive one. The yp will take turns leading sections of the route and we pause regularly to reflect theologically on various subjects and matters arising.

One week we role played / reflected theologically on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Thankfully (narrowly) no one was seriously injured during the role play and we seemed to wrestle most with the question, what did the Good Samaritan gain by befriending the victim?

We will be continuing our circumnavigation and probably thinking some more about befriending - as the older members (most of them) prepare for the increased pastoral responsibility of being servants of the new intake of Rock Solid members we are expecting in the autumn, when we are looking forward to welcoming school year 7s.

The Good Samaritan could have identified himself as a victim - of a lifetime of prejudice and oppression - and seen the attack on his enemy as some sort of justice. Instead he chose to serve someone he stood to gain nothing from.

Please pray that we Rock Solid types, being no strangers to prejudice and oppression, will adopt a similar heart and know God's encouragement as we plan to become Spirit filled servants.

Please pray that these young people will increasingly accept Jesus' invitation to follow him and know the power of his Spirit as they do so. Please ask God to show his perfect Father's love to those who will not be able to be with us due to ill health and family arrangements.

Football

April 21st brought the first football session in over a year. Although the small numbers in attendance prevented the playing of a full five a-side game, they

did allow for a careful start to Covid secure football. It also made it easier to 'catch up' or 'reconnect' after such a long time apart. Some of the lads had kept in touch but for others this was their first contact with each other for a long time.

Vernon writes:

We played an unrecognisable version of Wembley during which many lads experienced the effects of not having played football for a long time. During play I was able to interrogate players about their covid year and heard lots to be grateful for and plenty to be concerned about.

The lads had been affected by C-19 in different ways. For some, the most significant effects had been on their education and the challenge this will be to their ongoing planning and pursuit of career aspirations. Some had paid many thousands of pounds for a university year they were only now beginning and were experiencing online rather than face to face, in person. Others were planning to take extra foundation years before taking degrees to make up for any shortfall in their interrupted A-level learning. Lots of waiting, uncertainty and indecision.

For others, their sense of alienation from the 'successful' mainstream seemed to have been heightened. One group of yp who are outlawed by their failure to 'succeed' and to remain in good relations with parents, education, the police and other powers continue to do their best to avoid conflict with these authorities. This avoidance sees them huddled in quiet corners with those who are like them and who accept them. The shame that goes with their failure to 'succeed' makes them vulnerable to offers of validation and escape. Accepting these offers allows only brief and insubstantial respite from the pain and shame, and is followed by a deepening of the same, which in turn increases their desperation and openness to promises of comfort. And so the cycle, or spiral increases its depth and hold.

Jesus comes to bring the good news of the Kingdom of God. He comes to the sinner. He calls us to join him. Please pray we will be faithful in standing alongside the alien and fatherless. Pray we will be bold and effective in sharing the Word; that these young people might receive and know his light and life.

As a post script: During play my eyes were drawn skywards by tingly screams. Above us a pair of peregrine falcons were engaged in spectacular bonding behaviour. I felt cheered by them in both senses of the word.

One of the lads I spoke to at length the following week repeated his gratitude for the session - how much he had missed the weekly get together and game over the previous year or so. He told me about how his current work had been relatively unaffected by C-19 and how he was glad that he had made a job change just before the Pandemic took hold - the industry in

which he had been working prior to C-19 had been profoundly affected by social restrictions. He also seemed to be trying to express the mystery that his enjoyment of football on Wednesdays was to him. He seemed to be recognising that his enjoyment wasn't only about the football.

I am grateful for this. Simone Weil wrote, 'The danger is not lest the soul doubt that there is any bread, but lest, by a lie, it should persuade itself that it is not hungry.' This young man seemed to be recognising not just his enjoyment of 'bread' but his hunger for 'bread'.

Please pray that these young men would be aware of their hunger and that they would be increasingly convicted that Jesus is the bread of life (Jn 6:35). Pray that I, as a beggar, would be an effective sharer of bread with my fellow beggars. (Cf. Luther).

Vernon

Innit Together

Thank you so much for your prayers for our new youth group.

We're working alongside Swadlincote and District Youth For Christ, and we see between 5-9 young people online weekly on a Tuesday at 7pm for this group. We have fun playing games such as 'Covid Face Twister', 'Guess What', 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' and much more. Plus we share a bible passage each week and reflect on what that means for us all.

This season we are exploring what it is to have Hope. We have read from Matthew 28:1-7 and shared with each other where we felt 'stuck'. Young people shared the following areas where they felt 'stuck':

College

School work falling behind

Friendships

Low Confidence.

Please pray for these situations, that God would bring hope and a solution in these areas.

We also looked at what we hoped for. For our group we all shared the following:

To feel less overwhelmed

Better relationship with parents

Less stress and more confidence

Happy and healthy world

Peace.

Lord, please bring Hope to our young people. Much has been taken away over the last 12 months, but your wish is to bring us Joy and Hope. Please bless the leaders of the group that they listen well and that the Holy Spirit gives us the right things to say. Amen

God bless you all,

The Innit Together Team (Becky, Katie, Vernon & Kate)

Sk8ers

Thank you Lord for the opportunity to re-open this amazing youth club venue for 2021.

On 19th April we were back IN (let me say it again.....IN) the Baptist Church from 6pm, welcoming our young people from Sk8ers to come inside, have a hot chocolate or soft drink, eat Greggs, play pool and share with us how they are feeling and coping at this time. Beforehand we prayed for our young people that they would feel comfortable returning, remember their masks and social distancing, and come willing to share what's been happening to them since we last met. And our prayers for our leaders were that we'd remember our social distancing (we just want to serve these beautiful young people, but we need to remember to be safe too!), and that we wouldn't overwhelm them with questions as it felt like forever since we'd met together.

The first few weeks will be a trial to ensure we can run safely, within national guidelines, indoors. Then we want to be able to invite our amazing volunteers back, if they feel safe to do so.

5 of our new regular Sk8ers young people joined us for our first session. It was such a pleasure to see their faces and we had a blessed time together.

We talked about chocolate eggs (and how we like to eat them) and explored what the young people knew of the Easter story - and it was really encouraging just how much they knew! We played games of pool, discussed how sometimes we don't feel like we fit in and ate a substantial amount of Greggs food.

At the next session we didn't just have Greggs, pool and hot drinks....no we added the Wii and it was pretty epic! Well Kate really got into the Just Dance, whilst a few of us sat, ate baguettes and discussed the highs and lows of school life!

One of the themes that seems to be re-appearing with our young people is 'disengagement', when asked how they felt about school, their responses were 'bored', 'don't know' or 'I didn't do anything today'. They don't seem to hate school, there is just a feeling of detachedness and apathy.

Please pray for our Sk8ers. We hear them tell us they don't feel like they 'fit in' anywhere and that a good day at school is one where they have not lost their temper. We know God has so much more than this for them, and He wants them to open up to Him. Encourage us as a team to keep on sharing who Jesus has been in our lives and to listen more than we speak. Lead us to do your will with these young people, give us words of knowledge for them, the right words to share with them, and your heart for them, that we may be signposts to you in the years to come. Amen.

Thank you for your ongoing support of us,

The Sk8ers team (Katie, Kate & Vernon)

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Quotes for the Month

'There's an old saying of Winston Churchill's: the British army always does the right thing but only after trying all the wrong ones. You could say the same about the Church of England.'
Most Revd Justin Welby, [anglican.ink](https://www.anglican.ink/), Mar 31st

'The primary challenge facing pastors, rabbis and imams is how to invite non-members into an authentic experience of God rather than persuade them to join ... a religious organization.'
Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, Religion News Service Facebook page, April 1st

'You being you is God's dream coming true...'
Mathew Paul Turner, Twitter, April 1st

'Whatever precisely was going on at Golgotha, that call for forgiveness has reverberated powerfully ever since.'
Nick Spencer, Senior Fellow at Theos, i News, April 2nd

'If love goes on loving, then, eventually, the sting of spite and the sneer of death is so rebuked and so emasculated, that it can do nothing else, but love in return.'
Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell, The Credo Column, The Times, April 3rd

'God has had a good lockdown. Attendance, like Jesus, is risen.'
The Economist, Lockdown has turned Christianity into a winner-take-all business, April 3rd

We are called to be present to pain - not to romanticise or fix it.
Revd Natalie Renee, www.middlechurch.org, April 3rd

'You learn when you work in a cathedral that you give the impression it's going well even when it's not.'
David Monteith, the Dean of Leicester, BBC Radio 4's The Reunion - Richard III, April 4th

'Blessed are the trolls. You, yes YOU, are also dearly loved. #trolls #forgiveness #Easter'
Rev Caroline Becket Twitter, April 4th

'Adult to group of children: 'What do you think Jesus was doing while he was in hell for three days?' Child, after long pause: 'I think he was looking everywhere for his friend Judas.'
Rt Revd John Inge, Twitter, April 4th

'That ... dawn ... when Jesus came out of his own tomb, did he step haltingly toward the light or did he run? Did he know who he was right away, or did that take a minute? Did he harbour resentments about his faltering friends or was he free? I'm asking because many of us are stepping into the first light of a post-pandemic dawn.'
Revd Nadia Bolz-Weber, Easter Sunday Prayers, TheCornersSubstack.com, April 4th

'God is a tough audience as far as audible response is concerned, but I love that I don't have to explain the references.'
Comedian Frank Skinner, Premier Christian News, April 7th

'Blessings to every worship leader who has included too much or too little in tribute to Prince Philip today. And especially to those that have managed both.'
Gerrardus, Twitter, April 11th

'The Duke would have been the first to harrumph strongly at over-spiritualisation of the world he found, let alone of himself.'
Most Revd Justin Welby, Thanksgiving for the life of Prince Philip, Canterbury Cathedral, Ap11th

'Pray for Derek Chauvin'
Jeff Hood, www.patheos.com/blogs, April 20th

'And if we're a flock - there's a corporate responsibility. Flocks stick together. There's safety in the numbers of a flock. That's why sheep act in sheepy ways.'
Archdruid Eileen, The Beaker Folk of Husborne Crawley blog, The Good Shepherd, April 22nd

'My view on the earth is that it's a young earth. My view is 4,000 BC'
Edwin Poots, candidate to be next DUP leader, quoted in Daily Mail, April 29th

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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
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LE65 1BR

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