



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 23rd May 2021

Dear Friends

I am writing this on 'day off eve' - the day before my weekly ring-fenced 36 hours off. It's been a demanding week and I am ready for day-off deep-breathing.

My routine on day-off-eve-evening, once my last meeting finishes, is to put an automatic response on my emails, saying I won't be checking them until Saturday, and then to shut down my computer and disable emails on all my devices.

And then my day off?....well, it is whatever I choose it to be. Tomorrow will involve a beautiful greyhound, some art, being outdoors, work on the latest quilt, family, food, reading *Absolutely Delicious* (a book about dying well) - not in any particular order.

I am 'religious' about my day off. Apart from for life-and-death circumstances I won't break into it. It is fundamental to my ability to live out this wonderful, exhausting, joyful, painful vocation.

Religious about my own day off, I also have zeal for yours, for this week hasn't only been demanding for me, but for many of you, too. Many of you have been juggling work, home life, caring for another, and your church

roles this week. Squeezing it all in hasn't been easy. You need to take a deep-breath, too, to have a day which is whatever you choose it to be. And, I know - if you are caring for someone at home, a day off isn't always possible. I pray for you.

But for those who can - with a bit of careful diary gripping - do! And if you can't get a whole day off because you are caring, could you manage oases of deep-breathing? - a coffee with a friend, a longer bath, binge watching of your favourite TV? This day/ hour/ afternoon off will be fundamental to you living out your wonderful, exhausting, joyful, painful vocation.

And it is how God made us, how he made the world: six days of activity - paid, domestic, voluntary, worship - and a day of rest; a day when, according to one of my favourite children's books about the creation, God put his feet up on a planet and just enjoyed the view.

If you haven't got a planet within reach, a sofa will do just as well. And so may God bless you. Happy deep-breathing.

Mary x

NOTICES & NEWS

Saturday morning prayers

From Saturday (22nd), our time of prayer together will be in St Helen's from 9.30am for up to an hour. Everyone is welcome to this hour of Bible reading, prayer and fellowship.

Let's Celebrate Pentecost!

TODAY - Sunday 23rd May
In Church and at Home -
Why not wear your brightest clothes, shoes, hats, **masks!**

Worship this week

◆ Sunday 23rd -10.30am
Holy Communion at St Helen's, Ashby, and live-streamed
◆ Sunday 23rd -4.00pm
-4.00pm Holy Communion at Breedon
◆ Wednesday 26th -10.00am
Holy Communion at St Helen's Ashby and live-streamed
*To book for Sunday services email sthelensashby@gmail.com
Booking for Wednesday services is no longer required.*

Isley Walton: an invitation to a special service

On Sunday 6th June at 6.00pm, the congregation of All Saints Isley Walton are hosting a special choral evensong, featuring the St Helen's choir, to give thanks for the repair of their church tower and to rededicate it to God.

We have permission from the owner of the Manor House for members of the congregation to sit on his lawn during the service. Please bring your own chair!

I do hope that you would like to come along! - it should be a lovely evening. (Oh - and please pray for sunshine!)

Thank you - and welcome

At our APCM we thanked our 'outgoing' wardens, Valerie Backman and Val Bowron, and our outgoing treasurer, John Backman, for their faithful service amongst us, and we welcomed our new wardens Shan Dyer and Judith Lewish, and Andy Smith who is going to lead a small finance team for us. Please pray for each of these people at this time of transition and handover, that God would bless them in their going out and their coming in, this time forth and for evermore.

Revd Mary

Foodbank

Hi everyone
With the Governments roadway, and the opening again of St Helen's daily, we are able to reinstate the collection box for the Foodbank (at the back of church).
Donated foods will, as before, be passed to Foodbank.

The foods needed at present are:

Tea
Snacks - pot noodles/cuppa soup etc
Toilet rolls
Chocolate snacks - penguins/clubs
Squash
Long life sponge puddings

I know we are all carefully moving out of our lockdown situation, and hope, as a church community we can again help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you
Adrienne x

Could you be a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) befriender?

CAP in Ashby are looking for befrienders. Being a befriender means:

◆ accompanying a trained CAP debt coach on home visits

◆ offering warm support to those being coached through telephone calls, sending birthday cards, giving invitations to coffee and cake or to church - this support should continue after the three coaching sessions have ended

◆ praying for those being coached at the home visits - if the client agrees - and on an ongoing basis

To be accepted as a befriender you need to:

- be able to describe yourself as a Christian
- be available during the day in the working week
- be willing to go into other people's homes - always in the company of the debt coach
- have a heart for caring for others
- undergo training from CAP, and safeguarding training from the diocese
- have an enhanced DBS check
- talk to me, so that I can provide you with a reference

For more information, please

email michaeleveritt@capuk.org

Revd Mary

Isolation Creation: An exhibition

The Events and Activities Team (EAT) are looking forward to hosting an exhibition called 'Isolation Creation'; an exhibition of the things people sewed, carved, photographed, painted, wrote, wove, moulded, papier-maché, knitted and crocheted (other crafts are also welcome!) during lock-down. The hope is that this exhibition will be a way of celebrating the flourishing of creativity in the darkest and most difficult months of recent memory. Watch this space - and our website and social media pages - for information about how you can apply to submit items for display.

Parish Administration

After five years of very loyal and dedicated service, Jill Chapman is stepping down from her role as St Helen's parish administrator. Jill has been a wonderful colleague to me - imaginative, supportive and good-humoured, and I will miss working with her. Our friendship, of course, will continue!

The PCC would like to appoint an administrator to take over from Jill. The role description is circulated with this email. The role is for 10.5 hours a week, paid at the Living Wage. The majority of these contracted hours are for St Helen's, with an hour a fortnight for (and paid for) by Breedon parish church. The parishes of Coleorton, Isley Walton and Staunton Harold would like to operate on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis, where they approach the administrator to work additional hours for them as needed. This would always be at the agreement of the administrator.

Please do pass on this opportunity to anyone you know who might be interested, and please do consider whether this is a role you might like to apply for yourself. Do feel free to contact me if you'd like to explore the role further. I'd love to hear from you! Applications, in the form of a letter, should be sent

to revmarygregory@aol.co.uk In the letter, please explain why you are applying for the role, and outline relevant skills and experience you might bring to it. Please contact me by **Thursday 3rd June** if you'd like to be considered for this role.

Revd Mary

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

PRAYER

Our treasurer and vergers vacancies

Please pray for the right person to be identified for each of these roles.

The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

- ◆ Peggy Adams
- ◆ Suzanne Edwards
- ...& others known to you

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:

- ◆ Marjorie Susan Treharne
- ◆ Arthur Henry Drabble
- ◆ Elsie May Wheatley
- ◆ Sydney Charles Walker

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