



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 11th July 2021

Dear Friends

Well, the long awaited announcement has finally been made. July 19th, it seems, will almost certainly be 'Freedom Day', when most, if not all Covid-19 restrictions in England and Wales are lifted and something approaching 'normality' returns.

I wonder how you're feeling.

Some of you might feel real relief, even joy, that you are able to pick up some of those things that you have had to set down for so long. As your sisters and brothers, we rejoice with you. ('Rejoice with those who rejoice', Paul writes.)

Some of you might be feeling very anxious, even angry. Perhaps you are clinically extremely vulnerable and freedom for some means a return to isolation for you. Or perhaps, because of other circumstances unrelated to Covid, 19th July won't bring a change to your circumstances and all this talk of freedom only emphasises your isolation. As your brothers and sisters, we weep with you. ('Weep with those who weep', Paul writes.)

And some of you might be feeling perplexed: the infection rate is rising - is now really the time? As your sisters and brothers, we wonder with you.

In March 2020, in the final in-building

sermons I preached, I suggested to you our three-fold 'Coronavirus Charter'; that we would 'be honest about how we feel, frame our feelings with faith and protect the most vulnerable.'

In approaching 'Freedom Day' (or 'Isolation Day') we need to hold those same values before us.

As restrictions ease, what will 'protecting the most vulnerable' mean as we gather in our buildings for worship? -

- certainly it must mean a continuation of some live-streaming of services - just because some of us can come back, it doesn't mean we all can;
- perhaps it might mean keeping some bookable parts of our buildings where people can continue sit at a 2m distance from others, and to wear masks if that makes them feel safer;
- perhaps it might mean that we work to maximise the ventilation around our buildings once again;
- perhaps it might mean that we all decide to wear masks as we move about church, so that the most vulnerable

feel safe, only removing them when we are in our seats;

- perhaps it might mean 'waiter service' for some at coffee after worship, so that those who feel vulnerable don't have to queue with others to collect their drinks;
- perhaps it might mean that 'jaunty waving' is how we share the Peace for a bit longer.

And so, you see, 'normal' might be, for us, not 'old normal' but 'new normal' as we seek to move together into the future carrying the most vulnerable beside us and within us, at our heart.

Our PCCs will ponder our new normal over the coming few days, considering guidance from the Church of England, when it becomes available - not least on whether and how everyone will be able to receive the wine at Holy Communion - and carrying out fresh risk assessments. We'll keep you posted.

In the meantime, like many of you I really am looking forward to the day when I can sing in church, when I can make physical contact with my Flagstaff Family members again. But I don't want my song to repel others, and when I embrace, I want no-one held outside the circle of love. My friends, we need God's wisdom and God's grace now, as much as ever before. Let us love one another.

God bless

Revd Mary

NOTICES & NEWS

Forthcoming services

Sunday 11th July:

◆ 10.30am Holy Communion at St Helen's, and live-streamed to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page

◆ 12.30pm Baptism at St Helen's

◆ 4.00pm Holy Communion at Coleorton

Wednesday 14th

◆ 10.00am Holy Communion at St Helen's.

Sunday 18th July:

◆ 10.30am **Word & Worship** at St Helen's, and live-streamed to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page

To attend any of the Sunday services in the buildings, please email sthelensashby@gmail.com (Wednesdays no longer require booking)

Services of the Word

Before the pandemic, one of the ways in which we worshiped together was through services of the word - or 'Word and Worship' as they are sometimes known. These services gave us space to feed on the word of God, and to explore it in creative ways. The ministry team is delighted to announce that we are going to reintroduce these to our service pattern on the third Sunday of the month at St Helen's (and live-streamed to Facebook). The first will be next Sunday, on 18th July. Please pray for our Readers as they resume this valuable ministry.

Flagstaff Collective

The 'Flagstaff Collective' is a worship band drawn from people across our churches. As musicians, and instrumentalists, they form a worship band for special services, including some of our team services on fifth Sundays. They next hope to play at our team service on 30th August, and are looking to welcome new members. So if you love to sing, or play a musical instrument (strings, brass and wind especially welcome) then please contact our co-ordinator, Pete Hyland, at petehyland@mail.com

Virtual Holiday Club

◆ Monday 9 - Friday 13 August
Virtual Holiday Club is an online resource featuring dramatized bible stories, crafts, songs, games and competitions. Streamed
[LIVE on YouTube](#)

Giving

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

Growing Faith

As we consider the important structural changes in the Diocese we might want to pause and consider the heart of the matter – growing faith. I draw your attention to an opportunity for people to do just that.

◆ Journey on Faith Course
Starting October

This course continues to be fruitful in growing faith and generating vocations

Details can be found on the website and I can provide additional information with blessings

Liz Rawlings

Discipleship and Vocations Enabler

Mobile: 0794 7533739

Forthcoming heritage events for your diary

◆ **Zoom Lecture – 'History, heritage and faith: Richard III the gift that keeps on giving'**

21st July, 7.30pm

by the Very Revd David Monteith
The Very Revd Dr David Monteith is Dean of Leicester. He led the project and oversaw the reinternment of King Richard III in Leicester Cathedral in 2015. David has been Dean since 2013, previously having served as Canon Chancellor with responsibility for learning and public theology. Prior to serving in Leicester he was Team Rector and Area Dean in Wimbledon and Associate Vicar of St Martin in the Fields London. There he led the English speaking congregations, was chaplain to the Homeless, and helped to develop the £37million to renew and redevelop St Martins. He now chairs the College of Deans for the Church of England. He grew up in Northern Ireland during the Troubles followed by studies in Durham and Nottingham.

To book please email

sthelensheritage@gmail.com

◆ **Children's glass fusing workshop**

14th August, 10am

Watch this space for details on how to book.

◆ **Music, Makaton and Edward Mammot**

18th August, 11am-1.00pm

A children's workshop promoting accessibility in church through an introduction to Makaton, and learning about Edward Mammot, one time organist at St Helen's. A fun, informative session for children and their carers.

Watch this space for details on how to book.

Official Garden Opening

How exciting to have fulfilled our Heritage Centre Garden Project! Our beautiful garden will be officially opened by Ashby's mayor on 15th July.

We'd like to serve our guests cake - if you are able to volunteer to bake, please get in touch with Revd Mary. (Because of social distancing attendance is by invitation only.)

Contact Details

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- ◆ St Helen's website:
<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>
- ◆ Facebook:
-The Flagstaff Family of Churches
-St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
- ◆ Twitter: @sthelensashby

PRAYER

Diocesan employees

Please continue to pray for Diocesan employees who continue to live with uncertainty about the longevity of their employment. This is extremely stressful for them.

The bereaved

- ◆ Pray 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:

- ◆ Jean Drury
- ◆ Ian Roger Clews
- ◆ George William Wright
- ◆ Harry Heward Williscoft

The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

- ◆ Peggy Adams
- ◆ Jill Chapman, recovering from surgery
- ◆ David Wileman
- ...& others known to you