



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

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

Dear Friends

I know we'll all have slightly different takes on this, but I've been heartened, when I've had to pop into shops since so-called 'freedom day', that most people are continuing to wear masks, continuing to make space for one another. I know that not everyone is able to wear a mask, but it's so good that those who can, still do. Why? - because with infection rates still rising, and with so many younger people still not double-vaccinated, it's good to think of keeping others safe. 'Think Granny.' 'Think grandchildren.'

Our continuing need to protect one another and to make our church buildings feel as safe as possible for those who are vulnerable has informed our decisions about how we should respond to the ending of legal restrictions. Informed, too, by the high and rising local infection rates, this is what we've decided to do.

At St Helen's:

- to continue with **socially-distanced seating**. In the main aisle, we will now seat people in alternate pews, but we have measured and this still means 1.9m between people. The side aisles remain unchanged with 2m between people.
- to continue to **wear masks**

This is our PCC's request of you: that unless you have an exemption you will continue to wear a mask whilst in church.

- to continue with our **current practices at Holy Communion**. The PCC doesn't feel that now is the time to reintroduce the common cup (the wine) at Communion, and so we will continue as we have been before, with the congregation receiving the bread only and with the priest and congregation continuing to follow stringent hand hygiene. We will continue to share **the Peace** only with a jaunty wave (or a socially-distanced salute, if you are so minded!)
- to allow **more singers in the choir**, but keeping the choir stalls where they are, in their current configuration and having singers spaced carefully along the choir stalls and in the chancel.
- to introduce **congregational singing with masks**. We know that singing is important, but it does present a raised risk of infection. Mitigations for this are the socially-distanced seating, and mask wearing. These

mitigations make us feel it will be safe to sing.

- to continue to **sing the final hymn outdoors**. We have enjoyed this slightly-bonkers addition to our life together - it is a good witness (when we're in tune!) and its an opportunity to sing without masks.
- we are not, yet, going to reintroduce **refreshments**. We feel we still need to grow in confidence and to establish what sort of volunteer-base we have to make that possible.
- we will continue to **take bookings for the side aisles only**. This ensures that those who want maximum space around them will have it.
- we will ask people to **sign in** when they come to church to support Test and Trace.

**NB Singing behind masks will begin this Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup>, with all other arrangements, including seating being introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Please do book for this Sunday.**

At Coleorton

- Coleorton are **continuing with all Covid-precautions**, although those who wish can **remove masks once seated**. They are going to **sing outside only**.

Discussions with other churches are pending.

For weddings and funerals, I will have to have bespoke conversations with every couple/ family and agree either a continuation of socially-distanced seating, or the wearing of masks. **Please pray**: these are not straightforward conversations for me or them.

We'll keep these changes under review, especially in the light of the infection rate. Once this starts to go down, we will consider whether we can take further steps.

I know that there will be different reactions to the decisions we have made, but I hope you know - and I say this with all sincerity - that we have taken them for love of you.

God bless

Rev'd Mary

## NOTICES & NEWS

### Richard III lecture

We had a wonderful, rich lecture from the Dean of Leicester, David Monteith, on Wednesday evening. We were so privileged to hear his insights on history, heritage and faith. A huge thank you to Julie Starkey who worked so hard on publicity and registering people for the event!

### Prayers for Mark

Please remember Mark, who spoke so movingly at David Watson's funeral, who has his parole hearing on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 2.00pm.

### **Tools with a Mission (TWAM)**

Please look forward to an article in August's magazine about an opportunity to donate your old tools or machines (eg. sewing machines), broken or otherwise to TWAM, who will re-condition them and send them to Africa. Drop off at Pam Watson's, 3 Alton Way, Ashby (tel. 413511).

### **Welcome to the Revd Darren Walker!**

Please pray for the Revd Darren Walker, to be inducted as priest-in-charge of Whitwick, Thringstone and Swannington on Tuesday 3rd August at 7.30pm.

### **Our 2 Heritage Workshops for children in the summer holiday**

#### **◆ Glass fusing workshop**

14<sup>th</sup> August, 10am

#### **◆ Music, Makaton & Edward Mamat**

18<sup>th</sup> August, 11am-1.00pm

### **Virtual Holiday Club**

◆ Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **Summer Cleaning**

Please join us if you can on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July from 10am to noon for a long overdue cleaning of our lovely church building. Bring a brush, pan and mop if you are able, but cleaning material will be provided. Come when you can and go when you have to. Thank you.

### **Poppy Cascade**

We are creating a knitted/ crocheted poppies net fall from the tower for Remembrance Sunday, as described in our parish magazine for May <https://www.sthelensashby.net/Publicis/Files/File.aspx?ID=285717>

At the back of church there is red wool available, along with printed copies of the pattern. The pattern will be attached to the notices email too, for those who receive it that way.

### **Ride and Stride**

We will be taking part in Ride & Stride again this year (Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>) raising funds for Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust – more details to follow from Elizabeth Smith. But the sponsorship form is available already:

<https://www.lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

We were very grateful to Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust earlier this year for granting St Helen's PCC £3,000 towards a roof alarm.

Details of other Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust events will be in August's magazine

## PRAYER

### A Reminder

- Parish Prayers happen ...
- every Saturday
- at 9.30am
- within the St Helen's church building

### Diocesan employees

Please continue to pray for Diocesan employees who continue to live with uncertainty about 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:

- ◆ Bernard Weston
- ◆ Ann Matthews Moxon
- ◆ Ethel Jean Watson  
(known as Jean)
- ◆ Francis Mary Illsley
- ◆ Charlotte Tilley
- ◆ Janet Henderson Stuart
- ◆ Ronald Anthony Kemble

### The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

- ◆ Peggy & Syd Adams
  - ◆ Val Dawson
  - ◆ David Wileman
- ...& others known to you

### Contact Details

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