



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 15th August 2021

Dear Friends

Despite a yellow-sou'wester-clad Swedish teenager, despite a nonagenarian national treasure, we have been asleep. Her passionate appeals, his laments over lost habitats, have not been enough to rouse us. But over the last few weeks, a heat dome has smothered north America, floods have swept Germany, fire is ravaging Greece and now a United Nations report has sounded a 'Code Red' for humanity so critical has the climate-crisis become. I think we're awake now. I pray that my letters might sometimes bring you comfort. I pray that this one does not. I don't want us to be comforted but disturbed - so disturbed by what we are doing to our beautiful planet that we might not only wake up but also take action, if not for ourselves then for my niece and nephews' generation, for their children and their children's children. And I pray that our action might be motivated, too, by our faith; by our honouring of our God who made the most beautiful planet and always entrusted it to our safe-keeping. I'm not going to tell you what to do. First, I need to tell myself what I am going to do; what changes I am going to make; what letters I am going to write; what protests I will march on. I need to decide what I am going to do because

I am no eco-warrior. I have been asleep too. I am part of a generation that consumes carelessly. I need to practice before I preach.

So all I urge you to do with me is to keep awake; with me, to challenge our own practices; with me, to become activists who call those in power to account without letting ourselves off the hook.

And as you consider what you might do, consider this beautiful reading from a Mothers' Union prayer book:

*If the earth were only a few feet in diameter,
floating a few feet above a field
somewhere,
people would come from everywhere
to marvel at it.*

*People would walk around it
marvelling at its big pools of water,
its little pools and the water flowing
between the pools.*

*People would marvel at the bumps on
it, and the holes in it,
and they would marvel at the very thin
layer of gas surrounding it
and the water suspended in the gas.*

*The people would marvel at all the
creatures walking around the surface
of the ball,*

and at the creatures in the water.

*The people would declare it sacred
because it was the only one,
and they would protect it so that it
would not be hurt.*

*The ball would be the greatest wonder
known,*

*and people would come to behold it,
to be healed,
to gain knowledge, to know beauty,
and to wonder how it could be.
People would come to love it, and
defend it with their lives,
because they would somehow know
that their lives,
their own roundedness, could be
nothing without it.
If the earth were only a few feet in
diameter.*

The earth, of course, is much more than a few feet in diameter but, still, it is the only one, and our lives, our roundedness can be nothing without it. Are you awake? Keep awake!

With love

Mary

NOTICES & NEWS

Welcome Anna and Jack!

This Sunday at St Helen's we are celebrating not one but two baptisms. The first at 10.30am (a service which includes Holy Communion) is for Anna Blatherwick. The second, at 12.30pm, is for Jack Greenhalgh. Please pray for these children and their families as they take their first steps in the Christian faith.

Thank you

Jill Chapman is coming to the end of her time as our administrator, serving St Helen's primarily and, over the pandemic in particular, the villages of Breedon, Coleorton, Isley Walton and Staunton Harold. There will come a moment to express our thanks to Jill publicly but for now, Jill, thank you so much for all your hard, patient, gracious work among us. You have been so lovely to work with!

If you'd like to contribute to a gift for Jill, please post an envelope marked 'Jill' through the Rectory door or pass it to Judith or Shân, our churchwardens.

Welcome to Carole

Our new administrator, Carole Nettles, has started work with us this week. She can be contacted via the usual email address

- sthelensashby@gmail.com or via the office telephone 01530 411607.

Carole's usual working days will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm.

Do say hello to her if you are around! Carole will also welcome our understanding as she begins to learn a complex role. We're delighted she's joined us!

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

Ann Skinner's funeral

Please pray for the family and friends of Ann Skinner whose funeral is in St Helen's on Tuesday morning.

Val Dawson's funeral

This will now be at St Helen's on Friday 20th July at midday, followed by a committal at Bretby Crematorium and a reception at the Lyric Rooms. Everyone welcome. Due to the large numbers expected, we do ask that people wear masks at the service unless they have an exemption. The service at St Helen's will follow a private service at St Matthew's, Worthington, the evening before when Val will be received back into the church she loved so much, and where she herself was much-loved. Please continue to pray for John, James and Jane and their families.

Prayer Chain

St Helen's Prayer Chain is now being coordinated by Adrienne Sedgman. Her email address is sedgmanadrienne@gmail.com. If you have any prayer requests, would like to be added to the Prayer Chain or to know more about it, please do contact her. Thanks, Judith

Dates for your diary

◆ Heritage Workshop for children Music, Makaton & Edward Mammot

-18th August, 11am-1.00pm

-In church

-Two fun, interactive workshops

-Primary age children

-£5 per child,

-Refreshments available

- to book

email sthelensheritage@gmail.com

Anna's confirmation: 22nd August
Anna Haines, a much loved and valued member of our church choir has chosen to get confirmed. The confirmation service will be at Packington Church on 22nd August at 6pm. Do come along and support Anna as she makes this public affirmation of her faith.

◆ Living in Love and Faith: final session

Graduates of the Living in Love and Faith course are reminded of our final session on 25th August at 7.30pm in the Heritage Centre.

◆ Sunday 29th August is a fifth Sunday and so will be a Flagstaff Family service for the whole team at 10.30am. This simple service of outdoor Holy Communion will be in the grounds of the church at Breedon on the Hill. There is ample parking. Hot drinks will be served after the service, but you are also very welcome to bring a picnic and to stay and eat together.

◆ Saturday 11th September We will be part of North-West Leicestershire's Hello Heritage event AND the annual 'Ride and Stride' fundraising event. There will be a churchyard self-guided tour, and tours of the church building at 10.30am, 12 noon and 2.00pm. We really encourage PCC members and church family members to come along to one of these tours so that you can understand more about our heritage and how it can help us share our faith. We are looking for volunteers to help us serve simple refreshments in our pop-up café, help steward church, and facilitate people eating their picnics in the Heritage Centre garden. If you can help please email sthelensheritage@gmail.com.

◆ **Quiet Morning 2022**

After all the Covid disruptions it seems quite scary to actually put a date in the diary and then expect it to happen, but, all being well we are hoping to offer a **Quiet Morning for the Flagstaff Family of Churches** based in the Heritage Centre and St Helen's Church Ashby on **Thursday 23rd June 2022**. Our usual format is to have breakfast together (and chatter!) followed by a short service and a reflection. Then a quiet time (with copious amounts of coffee and biscuits to fortify those who need it) followed by an informal Service of Holy Communion (in the garden weather permitting) and home by around 12.45.

We hope that this will give you a relaxing and special time out with God and each other, away from the usual distractions of an ordinary Thursday morning.

Further information will come over the next few months with a title and an opportunity to sign up, so put the date in your diaries and watch this space!

With love

Revd Margaret & Allan.

Giving

You can make donations to the work of St Helen's via our website

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

PRAYER

Please pray

for the Revd Brett Murphy, as he prepares to be inducted as Vicar of Broom Leys on Wednesday 1st September at 7.30pm.

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 the family and friends of Ann Skinner and of Val Dawson, and anyone known to you who is recently bereaved.

In love, we remember those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, praying for their families & friends:

- ◆ Albert Leslie Thompson
- ◆ Dorothy Drakeley
- ◆ Frederick Holmes
- ◆ Eric John Bradford
- ◆ Joyce Curtis
- ◆ Alfred Guy Nield
- ◆ Sarah Ann Stevenson

The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

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