

St Helen's Magazine

November 2021

50p



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Parish Directory

(The dialling code for these numbers is 01530 except where stated)

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♦Opening times Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm

- ♦ Facebook pages: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
St Helen's Heritage Ashby de la Zouch
- ♦ Twitter: @sthelensashby
- ♦ Website: sthelensashby.net
- ♦ Flagstaff Team: www.flagstaff.org.uk

Giving

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

Editor Writes ...

Some numbers caught my attention recently. It was the 2021 Forbes list of the wealthiest people in the world. According to Forbes's there are 2,755 billionaires worldwide. This is 660 higher than 2020's number. A new one is added every 17 hours.



I can't imagine \$1 billion. Or £1 billion.

Apparently, according to very much cleverer maths brains than mine, if you had been given £1000 a day since the time Jesus Christ lived, you would have just over £738 million by now. Less than a billion.

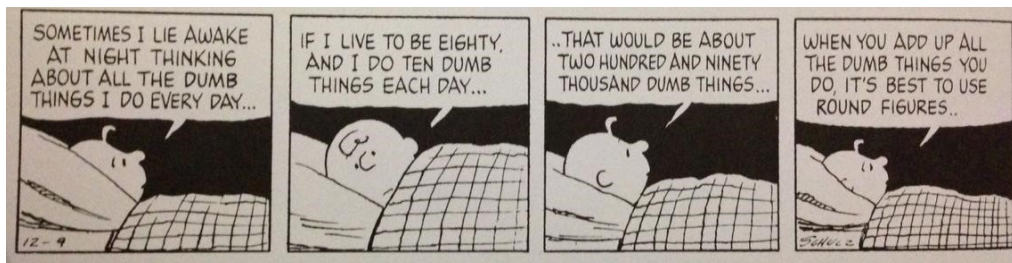
On the other hand, if Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk, up there at the top of the Forbes list, spent a million dollars a day from today onwards it would take over 600 years to spend their fortune. I think it's exceedingly difficult for human minds to grasp the enormity of these numbers. Cartoonist Dave Walker tries to help by represent some growing numbers pictorially on p 20.

Another number which is too large to imagine is the amount of discarded plastic on the planet – read a hopeful story on page 14.

Andy Smith is helping us to get our heads around some financial numbers (not Forbes sized) on page 10, the RHS suggests a list of 10 things to do in our gardens on page 20, the Pope gives us 9 prayers on page 22, and Beryl Stephens explains 16 important days on page 21. (I don't know how many articles Beryl has written for the magazine, but I do know they have been a very good read, and that we shall all miss our MU correspondent.)

Over the page Revd Mary is asking for some letters rather than numbers, although she might also be asking, '2, 4, 6, 8 – who do we appreciate?' And that could be the question we will be asking ourselves when we've read Martin Vaughan's thought provoking article on page 7.

Jill Chapman





Revd Mary Writes ...

Dear Friends

In this month's letter I want to be a cheerleader for kindness, and compassion, and gratitude. Why? - because it seems to me that each of these qualities are in short supply, especially in our public life and on social media.

A year ago, our teachers were on the sharp end of this lack of imagination, and of charity. All the teachers I know were working incredibly hard, trying to juggle in-school teaching of key worker children, with on-line teaching of other children, whilst managing their own anxieties about the pandemic, and doing what they could to stay well themselves. Was the public narrative one of gratitude? - not if the press and social media was anything to go by. No, there teachers were vilified for laziness or accused of being unprofessional. What an awful, damaging lie.

Now, this cruel and distorting spotlight has been turned on GPs, it seems, and the same charges have been laid at their door; that they are shying away from engaging with their patients or, somehow, having an easy life. If it wasn't so unkind, it would be laughable. I don't know any health care worker who is having an easy life just now. I know many who are exhausted, even despairing, and being under attack is not helping; not one bit.

What accounts for such unkindness, such a lack of imagination, such an unwillingness to see the pressures that another is under, to see their lives in the round? Is it fear, perhaps, or the need to lash out, or the tendency to criticise others in order to feel better about



ourselves? I don't know - but I *do* know how damaging unwarranted and unjustifiable criticism can be, how it undermines another's well-being, how it saps self-confidence and erodes vocation. And I do know how encouragement can build up, how thankfulness can motivate, how feeling noticed and appreciated can drive on even the most weary person.

So - let's hear it for kindness and compassion; for imagination and gratitude. Let's be responsive to Paul's encouragement to upgrade our autumn wardrobe, not only dressing ourselves in jumpers and fleeces and leggings, but also 'clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience' (Colossians 3.12). And when we are tempted to condemn, could we engage our imagination first, trying to see beyond what's caught our eye to the complexity that another might be facing, to all that they might be bearing?

I said I'd be a cheerleader so -

give me a k - 'K!'
give me an i - 'I!'
give me an n - 'N!'
give me a d - 'D!'
give me an n - 'N!'
give me an e - 'E!'
give me an s - 'S!'
give me an s - 'S!'
what have we got? - 'Kindness!'

Well have we? - have we 'got kindness'? Can we get some more?

With love
Mary



For news and views in North West Leicestershire read your local newspaper

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Church Action for Tax Justice

Throughout the Old and New Testaments there is no doubt that what God wants from his people is Justice and Mercy. When Zaccheus encountered Jesus his response was to restore the taxes he had collected unfairly.



As Christians we are good at helping those less well off in many ways - twinning toilets in Africa, helping to run food banks etc. However as Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said

“There comes a point when we have to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in”

One of the main reasons for people living in poverty is unfair taxation. In effect the rich are robbing the poor to further increase their own wealth. A nurse in the UK earning £24,000 pays a greater proportion of her income in tax than a company director who earns millions of pounds a year. Three times the amount of aid given to Africa leaves that continent in tax dodges by big multi national corporations.

What would Jesus have us do in the face of such unfairness? There is an organisation which is trying to provide answers to this question - Church Action for Tax Justice.

The chair of their management committee is Sue Richardson who lives on Burton Road in Ashby. Their web-site is:- catj.org.uk



Have a look at their compelling information and see if you would like to take their newsletters and support them - either financially or in their campaigning (or both). Stopping folks falling in the river is a better long term solution than just pulling them out !!

Martin Vaughan



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



St Helen's Church

Advent Concert Series

Saturday 20th November at 1pm

- ❖ Tesserae
- a quartet of women's voices
- ❖ present 'Threads of Gold'
- ❖ free entry
- ❖ retiring refreshments

Saturday 11th December at 1pm

- ❖ International pianist Jill Crossland will perform works by Bach, Scarlatti and Schubert.

Sunday 12th December at 7pm

- ❖ Ashby String Orchestra, Peter Rose
- ❖ free entry
- ❖ retiring collection



International pianist Jill Crossland is known for her imaginative, passionate interpretations of the classical repertoire.

Jill has played extensively in the UK and abroad, including at Wigmore Hall and South Bank in London, Sage Gateshead, Vienna Musikverein and Konzerthaus, and Leipzig Gewandhaus.

Jill's recordings, including the Bach Goldberg Variations on Warner Classics and the complete well-tempered Clavier on Signum, have received much critical acclaim. Her programme is sure to banish the winter blues!



**The
What's
On
Notice board**

Stalls, Games & Refreshments

Can you make crafts or cakes?
Or donate prizes?

Or help on the day?



Please talk to Eileen Coombs

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**Saturday
November
27th**

St Helen's
Ashby

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2pm**

Christmas Fayre

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Games

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Raffle

**Books
&
jigsaws**

**Face
Painting**

Cakes

**Bottle
stall**

Refreshments

**Home
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Please send any articles,
jokes, book reviews,
photos etc to
jill.chapman12@btopenworld.com

Thanks

In Which Andy Shares Some Thoughts on the Pennies...

Hi everyone, I wonder what your response is to that title? I don't imagine too many of you were drooling excitedly at the prospect of hearing about the church's finances.

But I thought it would be a good thing to do anyway 😊

I wonder what your attitude to money is, especially money as it affects the church? I am puzzled when churches and church members seem to view money as a sort of necessary evil or treat church finances as a subject for secrecy. Our financial lives (individually and as church) are part of our spiritual lives. Perhaps a reason that Jesus talked about money so much is that he knew our wellbeing is affected by how we deal with (or don't deal with) our finances.

So, for the short time I'll be shepherding St. Helen's finances, I thought I'd write an occasional piece for the magazine.

It may not surprise you if I start by saying that 2021 has been a challenging year financially, after all, when did you last hear the Treasurer start by saying "everything's rosy, what can we do with all this money"?!

But this year has been particularly challenging. For over half of the year no income from the Community Heritage Centre, Events, Weddings and Funerals – and those income streams took time to grow as restrictions lifted.

And there have been significant exceptional items of expenditure on our building. After years of short-term fixes, the electrical distribution and lighting circuits had to be replaced, which also needed asbestos removal.



To protect our beautiful church the PCC were proactive in installing a roof alarm and replacing the archaic intruder alarm system.

All necessary work, but nonetheless £30,000 of additional, and unplanned expenditure.

But this is not just a “gloom-fest”. Our God is good and blesses us. Thanks to extraordinary efforts by a small group of people, we have attracted significant grant funding. Nearly £21,000 from the Cultural Recovery Fund 2 has enabled us to meet the cost of reopening after lockdown and funded a programme of events and activity. All being well we will claim £5,500 of VAT incurred on the asbestos and electrical works from the Listed Place of Worship scheme. Between them, Leicestershire Historic Churches and the Diocese of Leicester contributed £3,000 towards the cost of the roof alarm because of its deterrent effect on lead theft. The furlough scheme allowed us to keep our staff in post through these difficult times while reducing the cost to us.

And of course, we have the generosity of your giving which has remained steadfast through the hard months. We are truly thankful for all who give regularly, especially if you give through the Parish Giving Scheme and increase your giving by at least the rate of inflation each year.

So, all is not doom and gloom. But still the PCC felt it prudent to reduce our Parish Contribution to the Diocese by over 20% with other measures mentioned and using some of a legacy to fund the balance of the roof alarm means that we hope to reach the year end with the church’s General Fund at a break-even point, though total cash at the bank will be c. £10,000 less than at the start of the year.

I hope that’s given you flavour of what the Rector, Officers and PCC have been grappling with this year. Through November to January the PCC will be considering and agreeing the Budget for 2022 which will include planning the works identified in the recent quinquennial report on the church fabric. And the Tower needs work, as does the clock, and we’d like to re-order the church someday.... You might say, euphemistically that “we live in interesting times”.

As they begin that work here are five ways that you could help...

- By praying. Pray for Mary, the PCC and I as we work to decide how we can raise income and spend that income wisely to grow God’s kingdom here in Ashby.
- Consider how you can practically help the church by giving time to help with some of the tasks that need doing:
 - ◆ collecting and counting donations, loose plate collections, the wall safe and donations gathered from events and activities etc, then making up and banking the money.

- ♦ reviewing our contracts on major expenditure such as utilities, insurance, phone/broadband, etc to ensure St Helen's gets the best value for money possible – just as you do at home.
- ♦ working with the Rector to pro-actively encourage generosity of giving from our church family, administering the PGS and reclaiming Gift Aid where individuals are not part of the PGS.
- ♦ helping volunteer to organise and run events that will raise income. The time when churches raised sufficient funds to thrive and grow through the giving of its congregation alone is long past. We need to be ever more creative and energetic in giving people a reason to visit our church and Community Heritage Centre, not just to raise money but because its also part of our mission.

If you have any questions about the points I've made here, or would like to help with some of the work, please don't hesitate to contact me – text or call 07896519807 or email mailformrsmith@changesmith.solutions.

Grace and Peace

Andy Smith

Donington Hall German Prisoner of War Camp

During the First World War, Donington Hall became a prison camp for high ranking German officers. It opened in 1915 in conjunction with a second camp at Sutton Bonington on a site which is now part of the University of Nottingham. By June 1916, it held 194 prisoners.

Donington camp came under much criticism in the press and in the House



of Commons because it was felt that prisoners there enjoyed a luxurious lifestyle unbefitting prisoners of war. Officers took their meals in the dining room where they were waited on by men from lower ranks who were housed not in the hall but in huts.

One local historian, Anton Rippon, described the dining and catering facilities like this:

"It was all laid out with silver service cutlery and table cloths, rather like a posh hotel.

There was a good menu with a choice of options and there was a good wine list - but they could also send home for wine and other things.

"The local post office had to put extra staff on because so many parcels were sent from Germany and of course they were all waited on by German privates and corporal, who were billeted in huts in the grounds.



"I wouldn't call it luxury perhaps but it was certainly great comfort - and the contrast with the soldiers at the front could hardly have been greater."

Some of the claims made at the time were found to be exaggerated but when the camp was inspected in June 1916 it was found that there were three tennis courts, a skittles alley, places for playing hockey and football and paths for leisurely walks through 'beautiful country'. The men were happy and contented and none had any complaints to make.

A collection of photographs unearthed in 2019 show that the men put on plays, although all the parts had to be taken by men of course!

As with all prisoner of war camps, there were attempts to escape. At least two happened soon after the camp opened. Flight Lieutenant Otto Thelen and Naval Lieutenant Hans Keilhach found their way into the cellars of the hall. Armed with a poker and a broken garden trowel they toiled over many weeks to dig a well and a tunnel through which they could escape. They piled the earth which they dug out in the next cellar and also managed to obtain two pairs of overalls which they wore while working and which were left in the cellars when they came back up. This was so that they were not given away to the guards by soil stains on their clothes. Finally, on the night

of 17th September, they made their escape. They managed to get to Derby where they caught a train to London and made their way to a port. Keilhach signed on a ship bound for a neutral port as a fireman and Thelen was concealed as a stowaway. However, once at sea, both were discovered and returned.

Earlier, German pilot, Lieutenant Gunther Pluschow, famously escaped successfully from Donington and became the only POW in either World Wars to do so. On Sunday, 4 July 1915 Pluschow and fellow inmate Trefftz, managed to get through the wire fence and make their way by train to London. Trefftz was arrested in Millwall docks but Pluschow managed to evade capture and passed some time in London in disguise before identifying a ship that was sailing to neutral Holland. He rowed out at midnight, climbed aboard and escaped, arriving in Germany on the 13th July 1915. He became a national hero and was awarded the Iron Cross First Class but he no further part in the war refused to join any of the Fascist groups that sprung up after it.

On 28 January 1931, while exploring the gigantic Perito Moreno Glacier, he was killed in a plane crash, aged only 43.

As for Donington, a further 23 prisoners attempted an escape by tunnelling in September 1917 but were soon recaptured. The camp was decommissioned over several months from 1919 and the prisoners were repatriated.

Wendy Freer

Fighting Back Against Plastic!

Have you heard about the North Atlantic Garbage Patch or the Great Pacific Garbage Patch? Both consist of millions of tons of floating plastic and micro plastic (fingernail-sized pieces right down to microscopic) debris. The Pacific one alone is estimated to spread over 1.6 million square kms.

Some of the plastic is over 50 years old, and includes recognisable items such as plastic lighters, toothbrushes, water bottles, pens, baby bottles, cell phones and plastic bags.

In an exciting new initiative, a mission to remove floating rubbish from the sea returned to shore with its first haul at the end of October. A ship belonging to 'The Ocean Cleanup' organisation, trialed a new technology that skims the water to remove rubbish, and it successfully brought almost 30,000kg of rubbish ashore.

It's a small amount compared to the enormity of the problem, of course, but the most important thing about this particular expedition is that it proves clean-up is possible.

As Christians who love God's creation we all want to play our part, however small, in the planet's fight back against plastic, and we are blessed here in Ashby to have Mandy McIntosh's Fair2All shop enabling some of our behaviour changes.

Refilling your empty washing up liquid, liquid soap or laundry detergent bottles is one very simple way to reduce waste plastic. Not only are you doing your bit, but refills actually cost less than a new bottle, the products are eco-friendly, and by not throwing your old bottles away you are lowering the council's disposal costs.

Another way of reducing our reliance on single-use plastics is to get into the habit of always having reusable bags with us whenever we shop. This was a lovely window display at Fair2all recently, encouraging just that.

Jill Chapman



Our Sunday Worship in November

Week	8.30am	10.30am	pm
1 7 th November 3 rd before Advent	Staunton Holy Communion	St Helen's All Age	3.30pm Breedon Fresh Expression 6.00pm St Helen's Evening Prayer 6.00pm Isley Walton Holy Communion
2 14 th November 2 nd before Advent	St Helen's Holy Communion	St Helen's The Remembrance service will be on the Bath Grounds Coleorton Remembrance Breedon Remembrance	12.30pm Village churches Baptisms
3 21 st November Christ the King	Staunton Morning Prayer	St Helen's Morning Prayer Breedon Holy Communion	
4 28 th November Advent Sunday		St Helen's Holy Communion	12.30pm St Helen's Baptisms 4.00pm Coleorton Carols on the green 6.30pm St Helen's Advent Carol Service



Services in St Helen's are streamed live to Facebook, on the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page. And you can catch up with services later, on the St Helen's Church website.

Other Services

- Wednesdays - Holy Communion - 10am in church & on-line
- Saturdays - Parish Prayers - 9.30am in church (Hastings chapel)

From the Albums ...

What a red letter day for us when Liz was licensed as a Reader. We are so thankful for her and proud of her!



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A recreation of a recreation of the creation

Did you make some art on the beach on your summer holiday this year? Maybe a castle or a sand sculpture or a beautiful collection of shells and stones? Next year you might be inspired by artist Justin Bateman who makes his pieces on beaches around the UK. He creates each artwork using only colourful stones and pebbles he has found and collected, which he arranges according to hue and size.

Each mosaic is made on-site and survives for only a short amount of time. Once completed he relinquishes it to the environment in which it was made.

Often Bateman recreates famous works of art, reimagining masterpieces such as Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa and Vermeer's Girl With a Pearl Earring. You can see more of his amazing land art on his website <https://landminds.weebly.com/>. And why has he been included in a parish magazine you may ask? The reason is his depiction of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel fresco of the Creation of Adam. What you might call a recreation of a recreation of a creation.



Jill Chapman



God's Garden

The Lord God planted a garden
In the first white days of the world,
And He set there an angel warden
In a garment of light enfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,
That the hawk might nest with the wren,
For there in the cool of the even
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden-closes
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod
And their lilies and bowers of roses,
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,--
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

For He broke it for us in a garden
Under the olive-trees
Where the angel of strength was the warden
And the soul of the world found ease.

Dorothy Frances Gurney

Gardening Goes (even) Greener

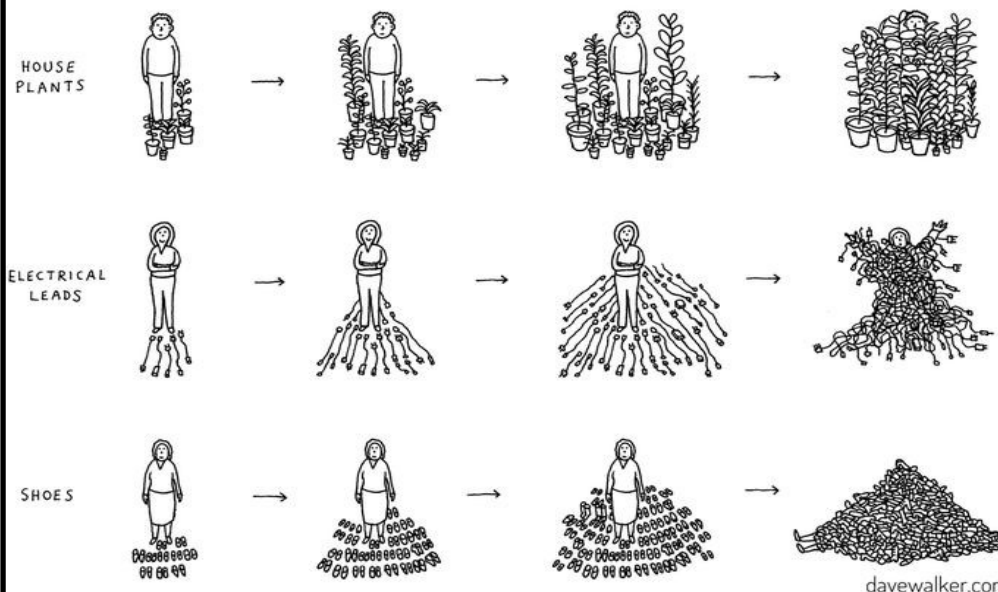
The RHS has launched a campaign to mobilise Britain's 30 million gardeners to fight climate change and tackle biodiversity problems, announcing a [ten-point guide](https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/gardening-for-the-environment/planet-friendly-gardening-tips) to help gardeners, already naturally environmentally-conscious, to see if they can be even more so. Fuller details at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/gardening-for-the-environment/planet-friendly-gardening-tips>

1. Plant a tree
2. Water the way nature intended
3. Go peat-free
4. Make your own compost
5. Pull up a paving slab
6. Plant for pollinators
7. Grow your own bunch of flowers
8. Electrify your garden
9. Help map UK plant biodiversity
10. Eat more home-grown, UK, local and seasonal fruit & vegetables



PERPETUAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

DEMONSTRATED USING...



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

16 Days of Activism

The United Nations' 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Abuse is an annual international campaign. It takes

place from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

Started 30 years ago by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute, the 16 Days are used by individuals and organisations around

the world, including Mothers' Union, to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) can affect any person at any time, and statistics show that women and girls are particularly at risk. Every day of the year, MU works alongside communities to help end domestic abuse and GBV and to support those affected by it. For these 16 days, we focus on women and girls, recognising the value of women and men reflecting, praying, and acting together to call for an end to violence in all its forms.

Mothers' Union Worldwide President Sheran Harper writes,

'Let us not be overcome, but through our prayers and actions be part of something that means women and girls can live to their full potential.

Let's work to make our world a place where they can do this without fear, in the knowledge that they are precious, that they have rights, that they are wonderfully made.'

'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.' (Romans 12:21)

Beryl Stephens

In the name of God

In October, Pope Francis gave a keynote address via video message to the forth World Meeting of Popular Movements, a group that includes activists working on a wide variety of justice causes.

Throughout his pontificate, Francis has sought to encourage grassroots movements and organisations worldwide in their efforts to improve the lives of millions of people who live in poverty and misery. Aware that there are many, even in the Catholic Church, who criticise him for what he says on social justice questions, Francis, in his talk, emphasised that what he is asking and saying is all based on the Church's social teaching and is in line with what his predecessors have taught.

His speech included nine prayer requests "in the name of God" -

- In the name of God, I ask all the great pharmaceutical laboratories to release the patents. Make a gesture of humanity and allow every country, every people, every human being, to have access to the vaccines. There are countries where only three or four per cent of the inhabitants have been vaccinated.
- In the name of God, I ask financial groups and international credit

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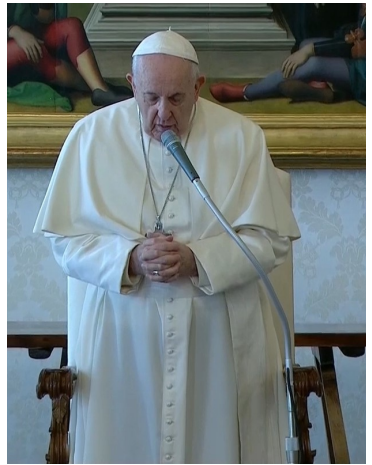
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institutions to allow poor countries to assure “the basic needs of their people” and to cancel those debts that so often are contracted against the interests of those same peoples.

- In the name of God, I ask the great extractive industries -- mining, oil, forestry, real estate, agribusiness -- to stop destroying forests, wetlands and mountains, to stop polluting rivers and seas, to stop poisoning food and people.
- In the name of God, I ask the great food corporations to stop imposing monopolistic systems of production and distribution that inflate prices and end up withholding bread from the hungry.
- In the name of God, I ask arms manufacturers and dealers to completely stop their activity, because it foments violence and war, it contributes to those awful geopolitical games which cost millions of lives displaced and millions dead.
- In the name of God, I ask the technology giants to stop exploiting human weakness, people’s vulnerability, for the sake of profits without caring about the spread of hate speech, grooming, fake news, conspiracy theories, and political manipulation.
- In the name of God, I ask the telecommunications giants to ease access to educational material and connectivity for teachers via the internet so that poor children can be educated even under quarantine.
- In the name of God, I ask the media to stop the logic of post-truth, disinformation, defamation, slander and the unhealthy attraction to dirt and scandal, and to contribute to human fraternity and empathy with those who are most deeply damaged.
- In the name of God, I call on powerful countries to stop aggression, blockades and unilateral sanctions against any country anywhere on earth. No to neo-colonialism. Conflicts must be resolved in multilateral fora such as the United Nations. We have already seen how unilateral interventions, invasions and occupations end up; even if they are justified by noble motives and fine words.



He went on to say, ‘This system, with its relentless logic of profit, is escaping all human control. It is time to slow the locomotive down, an out-of-control locomotive hurtling towards the abyss. There is still time.’



Rock Solid

Some weeks we have a small number of young people (yp) attending, other weeks a good number.

Please pray that the young people who have been to RS this term (and their parents), who we know have varied and well stuffed diaries, will know they are always welcome at RS - irregular attendance is accepted, even expected by the RS leaders. Pray they will be reminded of this each week.

Pray for the young leaders, that they will be able to accept this without disappointment or confusion and that they will feel affirmed however many yp attend. Pray they will know the encouragement of the Master who says to those who sacrifice clarity and security for him, 'Well done good and faithful servant' Matt 25:21

Some weeks we have a vigorous, all male gathering. We do have female leaders and young leaders but when we have no girl attendees, although it is no problem, it does shape what we do (and it is historically a first for Ashby Rock Solid).

Please pray that the young people who attend will be convicted of the grace and generosity of God in his offer to share in his kingdom. Pray they will be confident and faith-filled in responding to his invitation, that as they hear Jesus calling them to follow him they would be convicted of his superiority; that like the apostles they would become willing to let go of all other sources of security, approval, comfort, pleasure and purpose for the riches of believing and trusting in him.

Please pray for our young leaders. Some are only slightly older than the young people they serve. For them to lead an activity for a group of young men intent on questioning their authority is a big challenge. It's hard for them to not feel demoralised. Please pray they will know the strengthening of God; that his accompanying Spirit will enable them to accept disrespect patiently and compassionately. Pray that we as more experienced leaders would be worthy examples of faithful gracious service.

Thank you for your persistence in prayer. Please go on asking that these young people would become increasingly sensitive and responsive to the call of God to build their lives on the rock solid foundations of Jesus' teaching and know the indwelling of his Holy Spirit. Pray they would grow in their desire to submit to him and know eternal freedom.

Schools

We had the privilege of spending the day at Ashby C of E school at the beginning of October - We transformed their peace garden into a prayer garden for the day.

Each class had the opportunity to visit the garden and think about ways that we can pray to our loving God. We incorporated the school values, scripture and activities to encourage the children. We prayed at the end of each session with the children

and staff.

Please pray that the children would continue to grow in their faith as they are nurtured by amazing staff within the school. Pray for the staff that they will be inspired and encouraged by the children's honesty and their thankful hearts. Pray the sadness felt by some will be dealt with sensitively.

Please pray that as we continue our 1-2-1 mentoring work within the school we will remind the children about the prayer garden and how they can talk to Jesus about every aspect of their lives.

Jesus said "let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these".

Sk8ers

God is good. All the time. We often say this in Christian circles or at church; We've been wondering how this statement would impact the Sk8ers Young people? Greggs to eat is good, Sk8ers is good, school is..... well let's not go there. We want the Sk8ers young people to see God is awesome! He is the God that listens, answers prayer, provides miracles, and is alive and with us today. Good, just doesn't seem 'good enough' of a description.

Will you pray that our Sk8ers young people have an opportunity to see God's goodness in what we do at and through Sk8ers? That they may be bowled over by it, as well as filled with Joy and Peace; for He is the God of hope, and we trust in him.

At Sk8ers, we are regularly trying to fill the young people with the promises of God we read of in the Bible; talking of His Peace, Love, Faithfulness, and Hope. When a



rainbow appeared in Ashby, we were caught as a leadership team, on just how powerful being reminded of these is. So, in our 'talk time' we shared the story of one of our faithful prayer partners, whose wife went to be with the Lord during the summer, and how they rested and found peace in God's loving arms at that time of passing. We shared that the young people too can have this kind of peace, if they want to accept Jesus into their lives.

Please pray that our Sk8ers young people respond to this offering, and accept Jesus into their hearts. We know that it isn't easy in a world where anyone's opinion can be 'Truth'; but we know there is only one true God and he waits for these young people and will run to meet them, when they are ready to come home.

Youth Alpha

Our Youth Alpha course is up and running at Hartshorne Church as we partner with Swadlincote Youth for Christ. We meet on Tuesday evenings 5.30 to 7.30pm. Please pray for the 4 young people who have embarked on this journey. Please pray and give thanks for the amazing volunteers who support us every week by cooking, cleaning up, baking delicious puddings and serving these lovely young people.

Football

Please join with me in thanking God for an encouragement one of the older lads received this week. After years of sometimes and minimally paid work accompanied by uncertainty and rejection as he considered and applied for other work options, this week he received an offer of training in a field he has been pursuing for a long time and then (through some voluntary residential work), discovered another line of work that he is really passionate about. After waiting for ages for a vocational break to arrive, 2 come along the same time!

Please pray for the older lads as the age gap between them and our younger players grows. Pray they will enjoy the challenge of seniority. Pray they will know pastoral gifts and grace as competitive spirits compete and frustrations are expressed. Pray they will sense Jesus' call to follow him and understand his work and sacrifice as a servant.

I was a little disappointed to be on the apple picking weekend without any of the football lads I'd invited - it was fun and inspirational to be working alongside people of all ages, races, sizes, shapes, creeds, piles ownership (you find out a lot about people when you work alongside them)... One thing we had in common, which was probably the bit I was sad the lads missed out on, was enjoyment of work and being part of a team. Football is fun but it's mostly alongside peers who struggle with similar issues: There's camaraderie but not much compassion and hope on offer.

Please pray that the footy lads will be drawn by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus and to be part of the eternal Communion of Saints who have overcome the corrupted world and the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. Pray they will get to know supportive, faith filled folk who will tell them how they've found God to be good and great.

We continued to meet for football during half term. Because the football teams who

usually train on the Ivanhoe astroturf after us didn't meet, we could play on and enjoy a longer session. This faded out as some lads went off in search of food and we wound down chatting about work and feeling bottom of the heap. Some players have no contract, minimum wage, minimum respect type jobs and often feel demotivated after a shift or two of serving messy people. The anger, violence and hopelessness of their clients / customers seems to affect / infect them.

Meanwhile, these young men and others similarly affected are tempted to behave badly and harm or upset others. When they do they are reviled for their conduct and attempts are made to 'tackle <their> antisocial behaviour'. Vital, but too late and limited. In contrast your pre-emptive, preventative petitions on their behalf are powerful and effective.

Please continue to pray that these young men, overlooked or worse by people who should value them, will know that God looks on them with great affection and compassion; and that he is mighty to save and renew. Pray that the fruit of his Spirit in their lives will shock people into worship.

Please pray that the fun, banter, Bible and prayer will be truly recreational for these young men: Pray they will know growing freedom, disentanglement and stamina as they gaze on Jesus.



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Quotes for the Month

'We have inherited a garden – we must not leave our children a desert.'

Archbishop Justin Welby, "Faith and Science: Towards COP26" meeting, The Vatican, Oct 4th

'Fundamentalism is to faith what Paint by Numbers is to art ...literalism is when religion curdles.'

Revd Canon Mark Oakley, Beyond Belief - Poetry, Language of Religion, BBC Radio4, Oct 4th

'Mr Johnson said that the levelling-up agenda would address inequality in the UK [and] had been inspired by Thomas Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard"'

Report of PM's Conservative Party conference speech, Church Times, October 6th

'Leicester diocese is bringing to its synod a plan to carve the diocese into 'minster communities' ... The plan contains the usual pious genuflections towards the parish, but parishes with priests are undermined.'

Angela Tilby, Ministry that is lay-led is not Anglican, Church Times, October 8th

'Pope Francis has been censored by Vatican staff after calling a bottle of Scotch Whisky 'the real holy water' for a BBC documentary.'

The Express newspaper on-line, October 9th

'We cannot and must not have a recovery where the wealthy can speed off down the fast lane, while others are left broken down on the hard shoulder.'

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell in Challenge Poverty Week, Yorkshire Post, October 11th

'Worship is allowing every breath, sensation, and experience of life to become a sensuous embodied "Halleluia!"'

Worship leader Michael Gungor, Gungor Facebook page, October 14th

'A high-profile Anglican bishop has joined the Catholic Church in what has been described as "one of the most politically significant conversions for a very long time".'

Simon Caldwell, Catholic Herald, October 14th

'I wish [Michael Nazir-Ali] all the best in his personal faith & public ministry, but still find it surprising evangelicals can muster enough theological flexibility to become Roman Catholic.'

The Church Mouse, Twitter, October 14th

'The murder of an MP ...is a deep blow to this country, its citizens and everyone who desires a peaceful and flourishing democracy ... The only antidote to violence & hatred is love and unity.'

Archbishop Justin Welby on the death of Conservative MP Sir David Amess, October 15th

'Bare shelves, no holidays... At last, a biblical kind of Christmas.'

Ed Cumming, The Observer, October 17th

'When I meet them, I reckon God will talk like David Attenborough'

Father Didymus, Twitter, October 18th

'Coffee first reached Europe in 1515. Martin Luther sparked the reformation in 1517. Beware a caffeinated pastor.'

Revd Mark Sandlin, Facebook, October 22nd

'First it was messy; now it's wild.'

Julie McKee re C of E's children & the environment venture, Church Times, October 22nd

'A vote is a prayer about the kind of world you want to live in.'

Rev Raphael Warnock, ProgressiveChristianity.org, Facebook, October 27th

'Demand for exorcisms boomed during the pandemic'

Premier Christian News headline, October 28th

'Every crisis calls for vision... to rethink the future of the world.'

Pope Francis, Thought for the Day ahead of COP26, BBC Radio 4, October 29th

'Anglicans - don't forget to put your clocks back tonight. & don't forget that people who choose not to put their clocks back also have a legitimate point of view and should be accommodated.'

Andrew Graystone, Twitter, October 30th

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