

January 2022 50p



THIS YEAR I WANT

- Hang out with sinners.
- Upset religious people.
- Tell stories that make people think.
- -Choose unpopular friends
- Be kind, loving and merciful.
- Take naps on boats.

St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Parish Directoru

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

(The dialing code for these numbers is 0.1550 except where stated)				
ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST BELL RINGERS	AYFC Office Michael Davidson	560940 DAVIDSON29029@aol.com		
BUILDINGS' TEAM CHURCHWARDENS	Shân Dyer	sthelensbuildings@gmail.com 07368 615406		
HERITAGE CENTRE LETTINGS	Judith Lewis Elaine Shaw	564204 07392 409745		
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC		sthelenslettings@gmail.com 07792 461782		
ELECTORAL ROLL	Andrew Chapman Eileen Coombs	417883		
FLOWER ROTA HERITAGE	Eileen Coombs	416370 sthelensheritage@gmail.com		
LANTERNS children's group MAGAZINE ADVERTISING	Sue Evans	461808		
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Jill Chapman	07725 519453		
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION	Margaret Worrall	jill.chapman12@btopenworld.com 413665		
MINISTERS - Rector	Mary Gregory	564372 revmarygregory@aol.co.uk		
MOTHERS' UNION PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Worrall Carole Nettles	413665 411607		
PCC SECRETARY PCC TREASURER TEAM	John Dennis	416124 07896 519807		
PLANNED GIVING	Andy Smith Andy Smith	07896 519807		
READERS	Sue Brown Carol Eyley	417313 412334		
	Judith Lewis Andy Smith	564204 07896 519807		
SAFEGUARDING SERVERS	Elizabeth Smith Eileen Barradel	07941 935887 838029		
SOUND SYSTEM	Simon Starkey	415718		

St Helen's Church contact details:

STREET PASTORS CONTACT Chris Lewis

Parish office: sthelensashby@gmail.com

◆01530 411607

◆Community Heritage Building, 4 Church Yard, South St, LE65 1AA

07828 463368

♦ 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 sthelensashby.net Website: 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 ...

This headline on the Facebook page of Ashby Nub News caught my attention recently - 'A 680-year old Ashby 'wow factor' tree is listed for national prize - but club officials say nomination was a total surprise.'

The headline worked. I clicked on it to find out more of the story. Sure enough, it seems a 680-year old Ashby tree has been listed for a national prize. I found out that the tree is a Sweet Chestnut tree and it has an 11m girth, that the national prize is the Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year, and that it is one of ten trees in contention. I also read about how mystery surrounds its nomination, no one at Willesley Golf course, where it grows, knowing how it came to be entered for the competition.

At much the same time an email from the Church Times arrived in my inbox, trying to tempt me in to read their articles. It said:

MIXED ecology will be the first strategic priority to be examined by the new General Synod when it receives an update on the Vision and Strategy initiative during the first meeting of the quinquennium, from 16 to 17 November, at Church House, Westminster

ECUMENICAL work is no longer optional: the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, which is now multilateral, has seen to that, says the Lutheran World Federation's former general secretary

Hmmm - hardly 'click bait'! It did set me wondering what tempts the readers of this magazine to read on. Perhaps, like my husband, you just read it all the way through from cover to cover. Or perhaps you have regular favourites – what has Revd Mary got to say, what interesting snippet of history is Wendy Freer sharing, what are the triumphs and challenges faced by Ashby YFC this month? If that's you, you need to turn to pages 4, 18 and 25.

Julie Starkey goes for a straightforward Nub News type title for her fascinating piece on page 10 - Marmaduke Vavasour 1796-1879, Vicar of St Helen's Church 1833-1875. Equally, doing exactly what it says on the tin, is 'Compulsory Masks Came Back, but Singing Can Continue' on page 15.

As for the rest of the titles, I do hope some of them draw you in!

Vicar & Activist page 7
Gendering the Bible page 8
Created For Joy page 14
Disturb Us, O Lord page 14
Remembering Arch page 22

And if C of E jargon IS your thing, see if you can spot which quote is not user-friendly for the uninitiated - page 29.



Revd Mary Writes ...

ear Friends

By the time you read this letter, you might well have packed Christmas away in the loft for another year. Perhaps your tree will be down, your cards recycled into next year's gift tags, the presents you were given joining the ranks on bookshelves or nestled in sock

drawer hibernation.

But this season of birth and celebration isn't quite over - not yet. There are travellers who haven't arrived yet - even though they've long been the trebled pin -up boys of your greetings cards. I'm thinking of course of the three kings, although there may or may not have been three of them, and they may or may not have been kings. In any case, I'm thinking of those intrepid travellers, those imaginative adventurers, who leave their home in the east determined to follow a particularly interesting star to find out what it signifies, what it might mean for them.

Weary of wassail by January 6th - when we especially remember them - these travellers are all too often skipped over in our desire to 'get back to normal'. (Do you remember 'normal'? Oh, the nostalgia!) So let's linger a moment with them, now.

Isn't their desire for 'more', for 'deeper', for 'beyond' inspiring?- their preparedness to go into unchartered territory - not only across unknown lands but deep inside themselves. And isn't their courage and independence in resisting Herod's power energising? And isn't their gift-making (gold for a king, frankincense for a



god, myrrh for one who suffers) intriguing? - how did they know? Who were they open to that they should bring such gifts? It seems they were following more than a star.....

We might each need the inspiration, the energy, the openness of these kings/ magi/ wise men as we journey into a new year. For each of us, the challenge in uncertain times and across unknown territory, will be to resist the temptation to stay still, to remain with what we know, rather than to travel onwards, to seek out 'more', 'deeper', 'beyond'. But although we might feel exhausted with the unknown after two years turned upside down, there is always so much more of life to explore, new things to discover around the next corner, if only we will just turn it, great views from the top of the next hill, if only we will just climb it.

And for those of us engaged on a life of faith, vista upon vista of who God is opens to us as we travel further, as we refuse to be satisfied with easy answers, as we prefer 'I wonder' over 'I know', as we follow the star of our imagination, of our longing, of our calling, to the 'more' and 'deeper' and 'beyond' of God.

In 2022, saddle up your camels and go towards what you do not know, and what you have not seen. Who knows? - like those intrepid travellers, at journey's end you might find yourself face-to-face with your Saviour.

Happy New Year!

With love

Mary

January

An arbitrary divide in time; that moment when the passing of a second denotes the passing of a year, decade, century, millennium. You, like I, will have lived through all of these.

The door of the year guarded janitor-like both forward and back, leaves nothing to chance, keeping a watchful eye on the future; missing the reality of the now by ever gazing forward and back.

Had I entered merely through the back of what I'd left behind or glimpsed the front of pastures new?

Chris Lewis

Chris Lewis

Counsellor / Psychotherapist

Chris's Therapeutic Counselling

chriscounselling@mail.com 07828 463368

www.chrispersoncentred.co.uk

30 Moira Road Ashby de la Zouch LE65 2GA Also in Nottingham & Loughborough

BUILDING REPAIRS

No job too small

Telephone Keith:

01530 412404 07747194021



76b

Market Street

01530

411510

villair

Independent Travel Consultants

Specialist in

- Personalised itineraries
- · Over 20,000 computerised low cost airfares ·
 - · We search and book low cost airlines ·
- Accommodation or tours only if required
- · Very competitive annual and family insurance ·
- · Well travelled staff have visited Europe, Mediterranean ·
 - · USA, Canada, Caribbean, Bermuda ·
 - · Dubai, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand ·
 - Far East, Fiji, Hawaii, Mexico, Mauritius, etc. Pop in and see us at

1 Bath Street Corner, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2FH

Tel 01530 413055 e mail: enquiries@villair.com

Vicar and Activist

Did you see this vicar in the news, I wonder? This is how she described herself in mid-December: 'I am Sue, I am 79 and an Anglican priest. Tomorrow I may be sent to prison for doing the only thing that is left for me to do. Expert scientific opinion suggests that we may only have 3-4 years left to avoid the main tipping points which will then lead us to inevitable disaster.

I do not consider what I am doing as civil disobedience; I see it as being obedient to God. I have been arrested 11 times because nonviolent civil disobedience is the only action left for moral citizens to take in order to demand effective action, not words, from our government.'



Rev Sue Parfitt appeared in court on December 15th for taking part in the Insulate Britain protest which blocked the M25. To her surprise she wasn't imprisoned although two fellow protestors were. She was given a suspended sentence.

The first of Rev Sue's many arrests was in 1984, when she protested against US missiles being held on UK soil. The first of this Climate Change related campaign was for lying in the road in Oxford Circus in 2019. Probably the most high profile was in March 2021, when she was arrested for contempt of court after gluing herself to the furniture and live-streaming from the City of London Magistrates' Court whilst standing trial.

But is Rev Sue doing the right thing? A different side of the argument, which might be held even by those who agree that she is correct that governments won't listen and that action is needed, is that Insulate Britain's protests aren't inconveniencing the people they need to inconvenience, i.e. government or big businesses, but instead are upsetting ordinary everyday people, their fellow citizens. And the downside of such actions could be that, for governments and big businesses to be persuaded/forced to acknowledge the need to act will require winning the hearts and minds of the very people Insulate Britain are pushing away from the cause.

It's hard to know what to think, isn't it? As for Rev Sue, she has vowed to continue to break the law, saying just ahead of her most recent trial, 'It is of no consequence to me what you do with me ... If you leave me at liberty, I shall continue to protest in whatever way most dramatically draws attention to the plight we are all in - whether that involves breaking the law or not.'

Jill Chapman

A Message from Ashby Food Bank

A massive thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout 2021 - We are so grateful for all of your donations.

Please share our January list. We re-open for donations on 5th January.

(Donations can be left at the back of St Helen's Church, from where they are regularly collected and delivered to the Food Bank. - **Ed**.)



January Shopping List

- · Longlife Milk semi or full fat
- Tinned hot meat such as chicken in white sauce/stewing steak
- Longlife fruit juice
- Longlife Sponge puddings
- Tinned vegetables
- · Tinned rice pudding
- Instant mash
- Instant custard sachets
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Washing up liquid

At present we do not need beans, tinned soup or dried pasta

Donations can be left in the boxes in the porches of Holy Trinity Church or the Congregational Church or in the boxes in the Co-ops in and around Ashby and at Sainsburys in Melbourne.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support

Gendering the Bible

Any guesses what has been added or amended to target these two versions towards boys or girls? Do write in with your suggestions.







reflections and prayers





Marmaduke Vavasour 1796-1879

Vicar of St Helen's Church 1833-1875

When Marmaduke Vavasour was appointed vicar at St Helen's, Queen Victoria was still 4 years away from her accession to the throne. When he retired in 1875, she was a widowed grandmother. During his tenure, there were also many significant local events. Holy Trinity, was built and opened in Ashby in 1838, providing a new place a worship on the west side of town and easing the pressure on St Helen's in an era of huge congregations. On 1st August 1849, Ashby Railway Station opened on the Midland Railway line, revolutionising opportunities for travel to distant places.

This period also saw a hugely significant report by the General Board of Health on the sanitary – or insanitary – state of Ashby, published in 1849, at a time when typhus was endemic and mortality rates at all ages were shocking. The consequence of this was the founding of a local Board of Health, a focus on improving water supply and sanitation and the provision of a new burial ground for the town with the opening of Ashby Cemetery in 1857.

Marmaduke Vavasour, born on 14th March 1796, was the youngest son of Thomas Hippon Vavasour of Rochdale, Lancashire. His father was descended from a branch of the Vavasours of Hazlewood in Yorkshire, whose ancestor, Moshe le Vavasour, probably came over with William the Conqueror. Hazlewood castle passed through many generations of the family over 900 years until the direct line died out in 1826. Marmaduke was a family name, re-occurring regularly through the generations.

Marmaduke attended Brasenose College, Oxford, graduating with a BA in 1820 and an MA in 1822. He was a 'Hulme Exhibitioner' at Brasenose, a recipient of a fund for poor students, to support them through their studies and for four years after graduation. He was ordained deacon on Christmas Day 1822 in a ceremony in the chapel of Christ Church College, Oxford and was priested in December 1823 in Gloucester Cathedral.

On 19th October 1826, he married Mary Anne St John at Severn Stoke, Worcestershire. Her father, John Francis Seymour St John, was the Prebendary (Canon) of Worcester Cathedral.

Vavasour was Curate of Broadwell, Gloucestershire, before his appointment as vicar of Ashby in December 1833, following the resignation of the Hon & Rev Charles Dundas.

By the time Vavasour arrived in Ashby, he and Mary Ann already had a large family. Penelope was born in 1827, John St John in 1829, Frances Barbara in 1830, Mary Ann Elizabeth in 1831, Louisa Jane in 1832 and Marmaduke Walter in 1833. All were baptised – all but Penelope by their

father – in the parish church of St Paul's, Broadwell. Two more children were born in Ashby; Augusta Sophia in 1835 and John Francis Stukeley in 1838. Their eldest son, John St John, lived for just 11 weeks and was buried at Broadwell on 16th March 1829. All of his siblings survived to adulthood.

Three of the five Vavasour daughters married clergymen. The eldest, Penelope, was married at St Peter's Church, Netherseal on 23rd January 1849 to Rev John Morewood Gresley, a member of the long seated local family which later produced the well-known railway engineer, Sir Nigel Gresley. Penelope was 21, John 32.

By the time of the 1851 census, just four of the Vavasour children were still at home; Frances, Mary Ann Elizabeth, Louisa and John. Vavasour senior was away from home and 17 year old Marmaduke Walter had flown the nest. He was lodging in the home of Thomas Turvey, teacher of music, in Birkenhead and working as a 'general and North America merchant.'

In January 1853 Vavasour's second daughter, 22-year-old Frances, married Rev Montagu Webster at St Peter's Church, Netherseal. The service was conducted by her brother-in-law, John Morewood Gresley, Rector of Seale. Webster, a Sutton Coldfield native, served his curacy in Seales (Overseal & Netherseal) under John Gresley and later became vicar of Hill, Sutton Coldfield. Frances died in Hill in 1871, aged just 41 years.

On June 2nd 1857, Vavasour's third daughter, Mary Ann Elizabeth, was married at St Helen's to Rev John Denton, who had come to Ashby as Vavasour's curate in 1854, becoming incumbent of Holy Trinity Church in 1856. Denton was 27, his bride 26.

Louisa Jane, married Joseph Taylor, an Atherstone Solicitor, on 8th August 1867. Taylor wasn't a clergyman, but he *was* the son of a clergyman and they were married by the bride's brother, John, who was by this time Curate at St Helen's. Louisa was 35, a very advanced age for a Victorian bride. Three years earlier, her younger sister, Augusta Sophia, then 29, had married Edward William Cradoch Middleton, described as a 'gentleman' on the marriage certificate. This ceremony was also conducted by the bride's brother.

What of the Vavasour sons? Marmaduke Walter was the elder of the two surviving sons and his story is a sad one. He married, aged 26, Sybil Catherine Holdsworth in Kingsclere, Hampshire. How they met is not clear. They had two children, Marmaduke and Caroline, and lived in Broughton, near Salford, where successive census returns described him as a 'receiver land steward' and a 'land owner'. In 1877 they were divorced and a year later, aged 44, Marmaduke Walter took his own life by shooting himself in the head in a hotel in Hull. His brother John's evidence at the inquest painted a sorry picture. Marmaduke Walter had been in constant pain,

possibly from rheumatism, and had recently been operated on for a tumour. Reconciliation attempts with his wife had failed and he had recently 'speculated and lost money'. His son had also begun to go blind. He was buried in Hull Cemetery two days after his death with just four mourners in attendance: his brother, his nephew W S Gresley, his brother-in-law Rev John Denton and the family solicitor E F Mammatt. It would seem likely that his parents were too elderly and infirm to attend. His two children were brought up by their mother, Sybil, who remarried within a year. Marmaduke Walter's son, also Marmaduke, was an invalid all his life. He died in 1902.

John Francis Stukeley, the youngest of the Vavasour children, followed in his father's footsteps. He too was a recipient of a Hulmeian Exhibition at Brasenose College Oxford, graduating in 1861. He was ordained Deacon in 1863 and priest in 1864. Having served his curacy in Ashby, he was appointed to the post of Rector of Snelland, Lincolnshire, where he remained until shortly before his death in 1900. He married Eleanor Elizabeth Brooke and they had four children.

Marmaduke Vavasour retired due to ill health in 1875, in his 78th year, and his son in law, John Denton, took his place at St Helen's. Marmaduke and Mary Ann retired to Clifton, Bristol, where they lived at No.13 Prince's Buildings, a Georgian property close to the Clifton Suspension Bridge. He died there on 6th November 1879, in his 83rd year, and was brought back to Ashby to be buried on 12th November.

There is very little record of Marmaduke Vavasour's clerical life in Ashby, despite his almost 43 years in the town. In August 1844 he was appointed Rural Dean, a post he held until 1858 and in October 1851 he was appointed to an Honorary Canonry in Peterborough Cathedral. He was also 'perpetual curate' of Smisby.

He put his name to a subscription appeal for money to build Holy Trinity Church in 1837 and donated £100 to the cause. He was treasurer of the 'Ashby Saline Bathing Institution,' a short-lived venture launched at a public meeting in the already declining Bath rooms in 1853," to establish baths and provide accommodation of the poorer classes of the surrounding districts." He served on various committees and left some of his books to the Ashby Parish Library. A window at St Helen's is dedicated to his memory and a fine monument stands above his grave in Ashby Cemetery (see photo).

In January 1849, William Lee, Superintendent Inspector to the General Board of Health, led an inquiry in Ashby on the insanitary state of the town and its very high mortality rates. His report was shocking. The death rate for children under a year old was 1 in 6 and 45% of the town's children died before they reached the age of 5 years. There was little or no fresh water supply, the streets – and the brook – ran with sewage, typhus was endemic and life expectancy in Ashby in 1849 was 52 years and 6 months. In the

neighbouring village of Smisby it was 63 years and 3 months. For some reason, the vicar 'was prevented from attending after the first day of the enquiry.' This seems a strange state of affairs when one of his primary

concerns ought to have been improving the health and wellbeing of his parishioners.

On 15th November 1849 Marmaduke Vavasour and other clergy in the town led a day of thanksgiving "for the mercies vouchsafed to us in the abatement of the pestilence which lately afflicted many parts of this nation." The pestilence was cholera. Collections at church services went to Leicester Infirmary, where patients were being treated. "From the united exertion of our vicar. Mr Vavasour. Mr Fell. Incumbent of Trinity Church, and Mr Lowe our curate, a sum of upwards of £36 was realised in aid of the funds of the Infirmary."

At the time of Vavasour's death, St Helen's was undergoing a



huge extension and restoration project, "but owing to the kindness of the contractor, Mr Lilley, and the exertions of the Clerk of the Works and Mr C Matthews, the churchwarden, it was so arranged that the last rites were performed in the late Vicar's old church." The funeral procession walked from the vicarage, via the gate into the churchyard, to the west door of the church, through a double line of "the leading inhabitants and tradesmen" of the town and the bells rang a muffled peal. His body "was enclosed in three coffins, the outer one being of massive oak, with substantial brass ornaments, including a plain brass Latin cross and a plate with the following inscription:- "The Rev Marmaduke Vavasour, Honorary Canon of Peterborough, Vicar of Ashby de la Zouch from 1833 to 1875; born 14th March, 1796; died November 6, 1879." He left a personal estate under £2000. Mary Ann survived him by less than two years and is buried with him in Ashby.

Julie Starkey

Sources

Census, birth, marriage and death information, newspaper articles all researched via FindMyPast

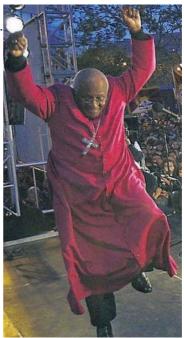
Created for Joy

sometimes forget that I was created for Joy.

My mind is too busy. My Heart is too heavy for me to remember that I have been called to dance the Sacred dance of life.

I was created to smile To Love To be lifted up And to lift others up.

O' Sacred One
Untangle my feet
from all that ensnares.
Free my soul.
That we might
Dance
and that our dancing
might be contagious.



Disturb Us, O Lord

This prayer is attributed to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu adapted from an original prayer by Sir Francis Drake.

Disturb us, O Lord

when we are too well-pleased with ourselves when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little, because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord

when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life when, having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord

to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas

where storms show Thy mastery, where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow.

Amen

Compulsory Masks Came Back, but Singing Can Continue

At the end of November there were new legal requirements to wear masks in shops, banks, post offices, hairdressers, and on public transport, but places of worship were exempt.

The Church of England coronavirus pages were subsequently updated with new guidance, which reiterated the need for individual choice, with incumbents remaining responsible for deciding what precautions to take within their churches, such as social distancing and mask wearing.

"Where we are now means we are being asked to take even more personal responsibility around coronavirus than when we were compelled to adhere to Government restrictions ... In every situation there is likely to be a range of feeling about risk, both to ourselves and to others, that will need to be accommodated by our churches in a way appropriate to each of them."

On 9th December the wearing of masks became mandatory again in places of worship in England, apart from for any individual who falls into an exempt category (such as a child under 11 or someone with a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability.)

However, the regulations stated that face coverings could legally be removed once in church, if leading a service or reading. They could also be removed "when it is reasonably necessary . . . to sing, including singing as part of a choir, or during a service or rehearsal, or for performance."

Subsequent Church of England guidelines acknowledged these exceptions, but none the less advised: "Congregations may wish to consider the use of face coverings while singing depending on the local circumstances." In particular they mentioned poorly ventilated spaces, where there is a higher risk of catching or passing on the virus, and said of congregational singing: "We advise additional precautions should be considered."

By and large, the guidance continues to place a lot of responsibility for decision-making on individual incumbents. Therefore, let us remember our church leaders in our prayers as they are called upon repeatedly to make incredibly difficult decisions. And, as church members, commit to giving our full support and understanding as discussions continue into the foreseeable future.

Our Worship on Sundays in January

Week	8.30am	10.30am	pm
1 2 nd January Epiphany	Staunton Morning Prayer	St Helen's All Age Worthington Morning Worship	6.00pm St Helen's Evensong
2 9 th January Baptism of Christ		St Helen's Holy Communion Coleorton Holy Communion	12.30pm Coleorton Baptisms 6.00pm Isley Walton Holy Communion
3 16 th January Epiphany 2	Staunton Holy Communion	St Helen's Morning Prayer Breedon Holy Communion	
4 23 rd January Epiphany 3		St Helen's Holy Communion	12.30pm St Helen's Baptisms 3.30pm Coleorton Messy Church
5 30 th January Epiphany 4		Flagstaff Family of Churches Mary's final service	



Regular Sunday & Wednesday services at St Helen's are streamed live to Facebook, on the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page. In addition, you can catch up with services which have been live-streamed later, on the St Helen's Church website. - https://www.sthelensashby.net/

Other Services

- Wednesdays Holy Communion 10.30am in church & on-line
- Saturdays Parish Prayers 9.30am in church (Hastings chapel)

From the Albums ...



Our wonderful Priest Room Gang had a cake stall, and raised funds for the charity Mind.





It was good to welcome 'extras' to the choir, and the return of former choristers, for the various carol services.

The choir stalls in the current arrangement allowed the crib to be visible to those in church and those participating in services on-line. It also provided a suitable 'backdrop' to one of our three on-line Compline services.



Miss Redfern

In September 2020, I wrote an article for this magazine about Hilda Beatrice Kenyon, the Ashby woman who became only the second lady magistrate in Leicestershire in 1923. More recently I have been writing the screenplay for a film about this lady and during the course of my researches, one name kept cropping up – Miss Redfern. In accordance with the more formal customs of those days, she is always referred to as Miss Redfern, no first name and very rarely even an initial. Who was this mysterious lady who seemed so dedicated to community and public service? I couldn't help but wonder. Eventually I managed to track her down and discover that she was Ann Wood Redfern.

Miss Redfern was born in the late summer of 1858 in Nottingham. She appears to have been orphaned at an early age as, in the 1861 Census, she was living, aged 2, with her uncle, John Redfern, who was a pharmacist in Market Street, Ashby. John was unmarried and lived with his unmarried sister, Mary Ann Redfern, Miss Redfern's aunt. By 1871, she had moved with her aunt to Wood Street and had been joined by Mary Culley, a cousin, who was to become her lifelong companion.

Miss Redfern was an active member of St Helen's Church. By 1891 she had become one of the superintendents of the girls' Sunday School along with Mrs Denton, the wife of Canon Denton, Vicar of Ashby. She was often reported to be amongst the helpers who decorated the church at Harvest Festival and at other times, and in October 1894 she was one of the donors of corn, fruit and flowers to the Harvest Festival.

In June 1906, the Ashby branch of the Church of England Society for Waifs and Strays (imagine having a society called that today!) held its 25th anniversary with a celebration on the Bath Grounds and in the ballroom of the Baths themselves. There were performances by the girls of the North Street National School, and the girls of the Grammar School. Miss Redfern was on the refreshments committee.

Miss Redfern had interests outside the church too. It seems that whenever there were fund-raising efforts on behalf of a good cause, Miss Redfern was there. In December 1893, she was present at the first meeting of the governors of the Cottage Hospital. She did not join the committee but in 1897 she was amongst those donating vegetables and fruit to the hospital.

By 1891, Miss Redfern was living in South Street at "Castle View" with her cousin Mary Culley, and by 1895 she had started her long association with the Conservative Club of Ashby. In November of that year she presided, with other lady members, over the tables at the annual "meat tea, concert and dance" held in the Assembly Rooms at the Baths. Over the ensuing years she held the positions of secretary and treasurer and in 1924 it was

reported that she was one of the hardest workers in the constituency. She told the Leicester Journal in 1924 that when Ashby was in the Bosworth Division she had had 30 villages to control, but that now she concentrated on Ashby. It was said that she was the first to start the Ladies' Organisation and was the secretary of many other organisations including St Dunstan's for which she had raised £400. In January 1930 her resignation as secretary of the Ashby Branch of the Loughborough Women's Conservative and Unionist Association was announced when it was said that in 20 years she had never missed a single committee meeting.

Miss Redfern also had a long association with the Ashby workhouse. Even before she was elected as a Guardian she was helping out with treats and entertainments for the inmates. In 1914, the Guardians rented two houses in Burton Road which became homes for long stay workhouse children and Miss Redfern helped there, donating cakes from time to time. In 1915 she became involved in a row over the "Brabazon teaching' she had been doing at the girls' home because although the Guardians had given permission when this was taking place in the workhouse itself, they were unaware that it had continued when the children were transferred to Burton Road. It involved the teaching of fancy needlework to the girls and this, the Board felt, would be of little use to them in later life. Miss Redfern's efforts were therefore stopped.

Soon after this, Miss Redfern was elected to the Board as a Guardian herself. She held this position until 1st April 1930 when the Poor Law Guardians were abolished and the administration of the Poor Law was taken over by Leicestershire County Council. It wasn't the end for Miss Redfern, however, who was elected to represent Ashby on the Council's Public Assistance Committee

Ann Wood Redfern was never married. She continued to live with Mary Culley in South Street until Mary's death in 1917 at the age of 75. Ann then appears to have moved to The Hollies (now Lockton House) next to the girls' grammar school. She died in Ashby

Cottage Hospital on 3rd November 1935, aged 77, after a short illness and is buried in Ashby Cemetery in the same grave as cousin Mary Culley.

Wendy Freer

Blossom Caring Sweet Feet

DO YOU NEED HELP AT HOME?

Carina

Cooking

Cleaning

Hospital visits

Collections

Doctors appointments

Dog walking

Trips out

I opper a range op services and I am available as and when you need me

Contact April on 07857 562306 to dicause the assistance you need.

* I work according to COVID-19 guidelines with a limited number of clients *CRB-checked *15+ years experience *Reperences available

I offer a friendly professional service in the privacy and comfort of your own home. I am a fully qualified Foot Health Practitioner DipCFHP, MPSPract, and a member of the accredited register of foot health practitioners.

Treatments include:

- Routine foot care
- Nail trimming
- Corn removal and callous/hard skin reduction
- Fungal nails
- Reduction of thickened nails
- Verrucae
- Cracked heels
- Foot health advice and diabetic foot care
- Ingrown toenails

MOBILE FOOT CLINIC

Please call Wendy on 07938 750840 to arrange an appointment







Darklands

School of Motoring

Jane Armson, ADI

Friendly, professional tuition

Intensive courses

Full hour lessons

Pass Plus

Motorway Tuition

Telephone

01332 865293 (Staunton Harold)

> 07774 924913 (Mobile)

ENDY'S Courtyard Interiors

Made to measure curtains, valances, pelmets, swaas and tails, tie-backs & cushions etc. Velvets, prints and plain fabrics by: * Sanderson ★ Harlequin ★ Crowson ★ Blendworth ★ Nouveau ★ Hardys ★ Richard Barry ★ Villa Nova and many more

Co-ordinate your home with our Soft Furnishing Service

TRACKS ★ POLES ★ ACCESSORIES

Call in and see our huge range of blinds (including Roman) together with our fantastic selection of wallpaper

Free home measuring selection service

BULLENS COURTYARD, MILL LANE MEWS, ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH TEL, 01530 411078

Mothers' N

Christian care for families

Women and children across Britain and Ireland have been grateful for a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas in 2021, safe in refuges after fleeing months of domestic abuse. And their Christmas has been made even better by the kindness of Mothers' Union members across the country who have donated essential items, including sauce pans, crockery, cutlery, groceries, towels, food vouchers, toiletries, sheets, night clothes, toys and games.

One in three women world-wide has experienced domestic and sexual violence – a shocking statistic that soared following mandatory lockdowns due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mothers' Union has long campaigned for an end to abuse and violence, and last month launched its latest campaign - #nomore1in3, during the UN's 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. Bishops and Archbishops, across the UK, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, demonstrated their support for the campaign, with a photocall, followed by interviews with the communication's team of Mothers' Union, outside Church House, in Westminster, central London.



Gill Smallwood, the Chief Executive of Fortalice, a domestic abuse charity
in Bolton, said, 'Women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse
come to us with very little in the way of belongings and so the generosity
of organisation's such as Mothers' Union is very much appreciated. For
many women, this will be the first peaceful Christmas they have had with
their children, and so it should give them an idea what a Christmas should
be like – time to spend with the family without fear.'

Jill Chapman

Source: Mothers' Union website

Remembering Arch

The news of the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu (known as Arch) was received with profound sadness around the globe. As Revd Dr Sam Wells, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, put it, in words shared at the Archbishop's Memorial Service: 'Archbishop Desmond Tutu has a strong claim to have been the greatest Anglican of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.' Archbishop Justin Welby has said, 'When you were in parts of the world where there was little Anglican presence and people weren't sure what the Anglican church was, it was enough to say "It's the Church that Desmond Tutu belongs to."

Here we remember and celebrate him through his own words:

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument."

"Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened."

"I wish I could shut up, but I can't ... and I won't"

"We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low."

"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another."

"When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said "Let us pray." We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land."

"Forgiving and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved ones are not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back and turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness, the abuse, the hurt, the truth. It could even sometimes make things worse. It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring real healing. Superficial reconciliation can bring only superficial healing."

"We learn from history that we don't learn from history!"

"When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we hate. When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves. All of our humanity is dependent upon recognizing the humanity in others."

"A person is a person through other persons.

None of us comes into the world fully formed. We would not know how to think, or walk, or speak, or behave as human beings unless we learned it from other human beings. We need other human beings in order to be

human. I am because other people are. A person is entitled to a stable community life, and the first of these communities is the family."

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

"We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family."



"We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets, to enjoy looking at the billows of the sea and to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew... Human beings are actually created for the transcendent, for the sublime, for the beautiful, for the truthful... and all of us are given the task of trying to make this world a little more hospitable to these beautiful things."

"In the end what matters is not how good we are but how good God is. Not how much we love Him but how much He loves us. And God loves us whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe or can't."

"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."

"Like when you sit in front of a fire in winter — you are just there in front of the fire. You don't have to be smart or anything. The fire warms you."

"Language is very powerful. Language does not just describe reality. Language creates the reality it describes."

"Religion is like a knife: you can either use it to cut bread, or stick in someone's back."

"We are made for loving. If we don't love, we will be like plants without water."

"Dear Child of God, I write these words because we all experience sadness, we all come at times to despair, and we all lose hope that the suffering in our lives and in the world will ever end. I want to share with you my faith and my understanding that this suffering can be transformed and redeemed. There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case. Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with brokenness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God can do so always, can do so now - in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally. ... Indeed, God is transforming the world now - through us - because God loves us."

"It is through weakness and vulnerability that most of us learn empathy and compassion and discover our soul."

"You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them."

"Dear Child of God, I am sorry to say that suffering is not optional."

"A person is a person through other persons; you can't be human in isolation; you are human only in relationships."

"We must be ready to learn from one another, not claiming that we alone possess all truth and that somehow we have a corner on God."

"God is not upset that Ghandi was not a Christian! All of God's children and their different faiths help us to realise the immensity of God."

"I am not interested in picking up the crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights."

"We oldies have made something of a mess of the world. And we want to say to the leaders ... look in the eyes of your grandchildren. Climate change is already a serious crisis today. But we can do something about it."

"If I go to heaven and find a homophobic God, I will tell him I prefer the other place."

"I don't preach a social gospel, I preach the gospel, period. The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is concerned with the whole person. When people were hungry, Jesus didn't say, 'Now, is that political or social?" He said, 'I feed you.' Because the good news to a hungry person is bread."

"This is a moral universe which means despite all the evidence that seems to be to the contrary, there is no way that evil, injustice, oppression and lies can have the last word."



Happy New Year from Sk8ers Youth Group

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your loved ones.

At our final Sk8ers of 2021, we hosted 14 sk8ers, 6 parents and 4 staff team and volunteers for a roast turkey dinner, games and Message of Hope. It was a wonderful evening and the parents especially shared how they felt so special to be invited to the meal and festivities. We shared bad jokes, served everyone a scrumptious meal (even serving the wrong meal to a young person and then resolving it with lots of laughter) and heard about how marvellously we had all been created, and how so many of the gifts we receive are actually unwanted - but God wants to come into our lives, by invitation and wants the very best for us.

Interestingly it was a couple of the parents who responded to this message and we spoke to them about Alpha. We also offered for any of the young people to come along to Sk8ers Plus, a hope for the new year of a more discipleship based group for our young people - just 30-45 minutes - short and sweet opportunities to delve a little deeper into the message shared in our God Spots at Sk8ers.

So please pray for this new initiative, our young people, volunteers, staff team and their parents - as we return on Monday 10th January - that we each find a new way to engage with our Heavenly Father in this new year, and take opportunities to go deeper with Him.

If you would like to visit us one week; to serve and / or share with our young people from your life, please email katie.ayfc@gmail.com anytime.

God bless you in the new year,

The Sk8ers team, Kate, Katie, Vernon, Eileen, Mike & Debbie

Rock Solid

In mid-December a small band, mostly from Rock Solid, went rock climbing at a local crag / quarry, to enjoy all the benefits of going somewhere a bit wild and doing something challenging in the company of friends.

The rock remained dry and apart from some seasonally chilly fingers and noses we had a physically comfortable time of adventure. One of the lads, who last time called bingo at about half height and then asked to be lowered, this time climbed all the way to the top - much to his and our



delight.

This young man is one of our corps of RS young leaders. He is persevering with his service even though it is regularly punctuated by failure; failure which sets both him and the group back. He is an example of developing character to us all. It is much easier to throw in the towel ("This isn't for me...") or lower our expectations of ourselves (That's just who I am"). To accept we are insufficient but that God's grace is sufficient for us is surely the key to knowing the coming of God's Kingdom ("Blessed are the poor...").

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." Winston Churchill

Most of our last meeting of the term was outside, partly to evade Covid, and partly because it is fun. We went looking for Jesus in the celebratory decorations around Ashby. One of the lads found a lamb in a charity shop and explained that Jesus came as an atoning sacrifice - to die for us. So we can retire now.

Thank you for praying for us this year

Football

"I've been looking forward to this all day" said one of the young men with feeling as he arrived on the pitch after a long day of fixing tractors. Thank you and thank God for the great blessing this weekly session is to our attending young men. They enjoy the healthy exercise, competition and camaraderie. Perhaps because of this they are more ready to listen with openness to the brief message of hope. Please pray that this seed of hope will sink deep into their hearts and that at the right time God will bring it to healthy, fruitful life. Please pray that I will be an increasingly effective sower and tiller of the soil.

Football has been one of the most covid-proof of our activities with young people. It has provided some with a regular connection that they have valued highly through months that have been highly irregular and unpredictable. Let's thank God for this.

Please pray that as these young people have moments of reflection at the turn of this year they will recognise our Rock as the foundation of that which they value. Pray that some of his words that they have heard this year will return to them with challenge and comfort.

Thank you for being the invisible but fundamental strength behind our fun on Wednesdays. Please thank God for your part in his work of redemption.

Youth Alpha

Thank you for you prayers for our Autumn Youth Alpha collaboration with Swadlincote Youth For Christ. This series of evening meals / meetings was enormously enjoyable, probably because the young people in attendance were so responsive. It was hard not to notice / feel the effect of God's gracious Spirit and your prayers throughout.

Two of those who came along said:

'Alpha is an experience to never forget, it's a place of confidentiality to talk about your feeling with no worries, it's a place to be at ease and develop your learning and understanding about christ. Alpha is a excitable, fun, energetic, loving experience.'

'Alpha is creating memories, sharing experience, and education about faith.'

Next? The ongoing support of these young people as they continue to respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him is a priority. This is likely to be different for each. Some are already young leaders / servants of younger peers through other projects and as such are enjoying an 'apprenticeship' which includes small group support meetings. We are also planning a new series of Bible Studies for them in the New Year. This is likely to follow the course of one of the Gospels.

Your continued prayer is much appreciated.

National Conference

Members of Ashby's Youth For Christ team will attend YFC national conference in Blackpool 3rd-7th January 2022. Please pray for rest for our team, time with God and an opportunity to reflect and learn with peers in the new year.

Green Grass

Landscaping and garden maintenance

ALL YEAR-ROUND SERVICE

30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

Hard & Soft Landscaping Grass Cutting: mower & ride-on Strimming & Lawn Edging Overgrown Site Clearance Waste Removal & Disposal Excavation & Rotovation Patios, Paving & Drives Turfing & Seeding Hedge & Shrub Cutting Pruning Planting & Plant Removal Ponds & Water Features Leaf & Snow Clearance Stump Grinding Weeding Fence Painting Pressure Washing

Plus more, and we are pleased to discuss your requirements

FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTATION, PLEASE CALL CRAIG & SHARON

Mobile: 07970627509 Office: 01530 830032

Let US build your dream garden or maintain it

MILL LANE MEWS DRY CLEANERS

On site alterations and repairs
Same day cleaning
duvets, curtains and other household items
suede and leather

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30-5.30 Wednesday 8.30-3.30 Saturday 8.30-2.30

Quotes for the Month

'Yesterday marked the start of Advent ... What now follows is a rather weird exercise in learning to wait (as if we don't know what's coming) whilst actually knowing how the story goes.'

Rt Revd Nick Baines, Pause for Thought on BBC Radio 2's Zoe Ball Breakfast Show, Nov 29th

'Midnight Mass was always my favourite service as a chorister ... everyone was really jolly. I always thought it was because they were singing jolly hymns.'

Aled Jones interviewed for December's Christianity Magazine

'British civilisation is built on principles of compassion, tolerance and justice ... from which I and many other refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers have benefited over the years.' Lord Bishop of Chelmsford Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Lords debate, December 2nd

'I prefer not to think about that study that shows children who play Mary and Joseph are statistically more successful in adulthood. As I watch my son play Sheep Number 42.' Felicity Hannah, Twitter, December 8th

'We recognise the continuing difficulty deciding on the measures needed in some situations ... It is strongly urged that the approach to differences of opinion is above all pastoral' C of E Guidance for COVID-19 Opening and managing church buildings, December 9th

'Jesus played cricket.'

Tom Holland & Dominic Sandbrook, The Rest Is History podcast, December 9th

'I'm happiest being halfway through a poem & realising that it's looking forward to meeting me.' Poet Roger McGough, Church Times interview, December 10th

'We say yes to everything here at Highfields - even to jazz carols in our Christmas jumpers.' Sunday Worship, BBC Radio 4, December 12th

'Got told off by The Granddaughter for putting baby Jesus in his crib already. I replied that I was afraid I'd forget where I put him if I didn't put him in now!'

Chorister 9 retired. Twitter. December 12th

'For me, music is what makes Christmas perfect (I've never been that keen on turkey)' Composer John Rutter, The Spectator, December 14th

'Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild Sleep in heavenly peace, Then wake every two hours for feeds'

The Church Mouse. Twitter. December 18th

'The first Christmas tells us of God coming into our world among ordinary lives of human struggle. It foregrounds a refugee family, against the backdrop of a genocide of infants. There's not much about lullabies and cuddly farm animals.'

Most Rev Justin Welby & Most Rev Hosam Naoum, www.archbishopofcanterbury.org, Dec19th

'The good news is that ascetical theology can be retrieved and decolonized; the urgent news is that it must be retrieved and decolonized.'

Rev. Benjamin Wyatt, The Forgotten Science of Spiritual Growth, Earth & Altar blog, Dec 20th

'Getting jabbed [is] not just ... for ourselves, but for friends and family and everyone we meet. And that, after all, is the teaching of Jesus Christ, whose birth is at the heart of this enormous festival - that we should love our neighbours as we love ourselves.'

P.M. Boris Johnson, Christmas address, December 24th

'We can still enjoy the many happy traditions, be it the singing of carols (pause); as long as the tune is well known.'

Her Majesty the Queen, The Christmas Broadcast, December 25th

THE CHILDEN'S SOCIETY SHOP



94 Market Street Ashby de la Zouch

Serving the community since 1987 Gifts of donated goods always needed Volunteer helpers welcome

Quality nearly-new bargains for everyone Telephone 01530 417096

Looking for the right advice?



Choose Crane and Walton for everything legal...

We provide quality services in a friendly yet professional way on a range of legal matters, including:

- Property Law and Conveyancing
 Family Law
- Inheritance Tax Planning

Litigation

- Wills and Probate
- · Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Court of Protection Applications Business Law
- Trusts



CRANE AND WALTONLD

excel

SOLICITORS

Ashby Office 30 South Street Ashby de la Zouch

Leicestershire LE65 1BT Tel: 01530 414111 Fax: 01530 417022

Coalville Office

21-25 London Road Coalville Leicestershire LE67 3|B Tel: 01530 834466 Fax: 01530 810886

Leicester Office

113-117 London Road Leicester LE2 ORG Tel: 0116 2551901 Fax: 0116 2555864

Melbourne Office

William's Yard Derby Road, Melbourne Derbyshire DE73 8JR Tel: 01332 863810

www.craneandwalton.com

DC WOODWARD, MRCVS

Veterinary Surgeon

Mon-Fri 8 am-7 pm | Sat 9 am-12 noon | Sun 9.30-10.30 am All consultations by appointment

24 hr Emergency Service

Ivanhoe Business Park Smisby Road 01530 412035

St Helen's Church, Ashby de la Zouch is part of the

Flagstaff Family of Churches

Team Rector: Revd. Canon Mary Gregory 01530 564372
Team Vicar: Revd. Tim Phillips 01530 412339

& Ashby Churches

Alliance Church Ashby Baptist Church Ashby Congregational Ashby Methodist Church Our Lady of Lourdes

 Revd. Mike Baraniak
 07753 679147

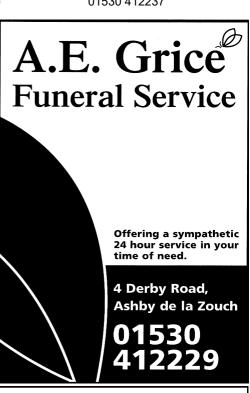
 Revd. Graham Heath
 01530 413721

 Revd. Catherine Booton
 01530 563301

 Revd. Jacky Goaten
 01530 412298

 Father Peter Wade
 01530 412237







DV Accountancy Service

Small Business Specialist Self-Assessment - Payroll VAT - Business Planning Evening Appoint Howitt

David Howitt

127, Burton Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leics. LE65 2LH 01530 412273



JP SPRINGTHORPE & Co

Suneral Directors

Castle Lodge
South Street
Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire
LE65 1BR

As the only privately owned, family run, Funeral Directors in Ashby de la Zouch, we are able to offer an extremely personal, yet professional service, and at a reasonable cost, both in Leicestershire and Derbyshire

Under the personal supervision of John Springthorpe

Quotations given

Telephone: 01530 417310 anytime