

# St Helen's Magazine

April 2023

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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♦ Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch

♦ Instagram:

♦ Twitter: @sthelensashby

♦ Website: www.sthelensashby.net

### Giving

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

Cover photos - March's Messy Church ... being wonderfully messy!

## Editor Writes ...

There was great excitement recently when news broke that scientists have discovered water on the moon. The moon has long been believed to be dry, but, although it lacks the bodies of liquid water that are a hallmark of Earth, over the last few decades, there has been increasing evidence there is water both on the surface and trapped inside minerals.



Apparently the water molecules were discovered in soil samples from a lunar mission in 2020, and are trapped inside, what is described as, tiny beads of glass. These 'beads' are scattered across the moon, which means a potential reservoir of this precious resource for future explorers to extract and use, enabling human activities to become possible on the lunar surface.

How ironic that another big news story at the end of March was about the enormous amounts of sewage that UK water companies are discharging into our rivers and into the sea around our coast. The trouble with our human activities is that they impact the physical environment. How we mitigate this is on all of our minds these days, and there are interesting insights from Judith Lewis on page 5, and helpful prayers from Emily Darlington's on page 7.

Isn't it surprising that we humans seem to be able to forget that water is essential to our physical living? And if we can forget that, perhaps it's no wonder that sometimes it is possible to overlook how Jesus is essential to our spiritual living. Essential reading about a service of contemplation on page 23, and all our Easter services are listed on page 16.



*Jill Chapman*

Thank you to all members of the Worship Team who have written the magazine's letter whilst we are without an incumbent. This month ...

## Andrew Chapman Writes ...

**D**ear Friends,  
**Anglican Chants and the Psalter**

I hope you get beyond the title of this article...

Mrs C has an amazing memory for lyrics, Mr C, on the other hand, does not. However, the emotive power of music, and its association with certain lyrics, does enable greater recall. So it is, with psalms.

At the age of 12, I joined the choir of St James the Greater in Leicester. Thus started my relationship with psalms – matins one a month, and evensong every week. I suspect, like many trebles, I couldn't wait to 'get them out of the way' and enjoy the anthems and settings of the Jubilate, Te Deum, Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis. Our most enthusiastically sung psalms, would obviously have been 117 (2 verses), 100, 131 & 134 (4 verses each). We didn't relish the thought of the 176 verses of Psalm 119 though.

Over the years & decades, rather like 'Roses' Chocolates', they grew on me (some explanation may be required the younger generations!). It was the Anglican chants contained in the Parish Psalter, and the Revised Parish Psalter that have stayed with me (not all of them, of course, that would be silly!). Their close relationship with the poetry, rhythm and metre of the psalmist is very powerful.

A few in my top ten would include:

22 – My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me (Samuel Wesley)

24 – The earth is the Lord's & verse 7: Lift up your heads O ye gates (William Mathias anthem & all time favourite of the tenors)

42 – Like as the hart desireth the water brooks [not 'Water Works', Annabel] (Samuel Wesley & Sidney Nicholson – founder of the RSCM)

51 – Have mercy upon me O God - sung on Ash Wednesday (Matthew Camidge)

121 – I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills (superior chant from a certain Andrew Chapman!)

130 – Out of the deep have I called unto thee O Lord (Henry Purcell)

Other chant composers that may be familiar – Thomas Attwood, William Boyce, RP Goodenough, John Goss, Gerald Knight (former RSCM director), FAG Ouseley, John Stainer, TA Walmisley, Samuel & Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Psalms come in all shapes and sizes – hymns, meditative chants, anthems (including Coronation anthems – Sir Hubert Parry), they're for another day.

I know in the past, and coming again later in the year, we have favourite hymns (aided with the bribe of Pimms); maybe we ought to try a 'psalmathon' – with a serious bribe for the trebles - suggestions welcomed!

I could continue, but, that's enough for now.

## Aiming for Eco-Friendly

**A**t the end of March our sermon series on climate and environmental issues came to a conclusion, for now. Judith Lewis helpfully pulled together some of the strands we have been considering, including giving us a list of the various bits of eco-advice which have been appearing in our notices sheet over the weeks, for us to discuss. Below is an extract from Judith's sermon which followed. The readings were Romans 8 vs 18-23 and John 6 vs 3-13.



You might ask, though, what is the point? Surely whatever I do, as one person alone isn't going to make much difference. The amount of water I put in the kettle, how often I eat red meat, whatever chemicals I use in my garden, whether I keep on flying long-haul to my favourite holiday destinations – that's not going to make much of a difference to the size of the problem, is it? Even if the whole of Ashby started doing things differently, how much difference would that make to the world? When we know that China, India, Russia and still much of the United States are burning huge amounts of fossil fuels and our shops remain full of goods comprised of single-use plastic.

It was just a few days ago that United Nations scientists stated that there is now virtually no chance of stopping the global increase in temperature rising above 1.5°C higher than those that existed prior to the industrial revolution. So, really, is there any point in such small cogs in the wheel as you and I even trying to make a difference? Isn't it just virtue-signalling?

I think it can feel like that. It can feel pretty hopeless – if we look at it the wrong way.

I chose today's gospel reading because I think it helps us look at it in the right way. John's account of the feeding of the 5,000.

As Andrew said, what is the point of 5 barley loaves and 2 fishes if that is all you have for so many people? And yet, in Jesus' hands, they became enough to feed a multitude.

There is a deep and profound truth in this, I think. This is a theme that runs both implicitly and explicitly through so much of Scripture. That when we offer something to God, he repays it in abundance. He is the God who can do immeasurably more than we can ask or think. He is the one who says “give and it will be given to you, full measure, running over”.

Over the past few weeks we’ve thought about humanity being charged with the responsibility to be stewards of God’s very good creation.

We’ve thought about the relationship between climate change and social justice – and remembered that concern for the poor, the vulnerable and those on the margins of society is a theme that runs throughout both the Old and New Testaments. The floods, droughts, impact of rising sea-level, record high temperatures leading to vast forest fires – all these disproportionately affect the people whose lives and livelihoods are among the most precarious on the planet. We, and most of the prosperous world, remain largely untouched so far. It’s easy to blank out the reality of what is happening elsewhere. Throughout preparing this sermon, I’ve been constantly and uncomfortably reminded of Jesus’ parable about the rich man in his fine home, eating his rich and abundant food, and barely noticing Lazarus, the poor man, sick and starving at his gate.

Our response to the factors driving all this environmental and climate change that at present affects primarily the Lazaruses of this world must be an intrinsic part of how we understand the gospel. It’s not an optional add-on to or a distraction from the core of our faith. Rather, it’s a necessary part of our Christian worship and service and our relationship with God. The choices that we make in responding to the risks to our environment can be seen as something that we offer to him.

Just as that little boy offered his lunch to Jesus. Who could have imagined what Jesus might have done with it?

If we take seriously what the Bible tells us about God, then surely there are no limits to what he can do as we hold out to him our equivalent of 5 loaves and 2 fish – our very humble, very inadequate, pitiful and maybe almost pathetic offerings of our concern for the world he created. Here you are, Lord. Here is my commitment to buying local, seasonal produce in order to reduce the air-miles involved in food transportation. Here is my commitment to signing up with a company that sources renewable energy. Here is my decision to stop using cling-film, that is so hard to recycle and that doesn’t biodegrade. But, as Andrew might have said, what is that among so much else?

Will we, like him, allow ourselves to have faith that God can use that offering to make a difference beyond our imagining? We are not to despair.

And, finally, nor are we to be afraid. One of the many things that drive concerns for the environment is fear. Understandably, because as global temperatures rise, we are steering towards uncharted waters and none of us know what to expect. But we are not to be afraid. I want to finish with the passage from Romans that we heard earlier.

This passage links what has gone wrong with creation with humanity's actions. It's a bigger story than just how we have been impacting on the environment in the past 200 years or so.

But what has happened in that time is certainly an example of what Paul is writing about. This, however, is a passage about hope, about looking forward.

It looks to the future – to the time that both our messed up, fallen, inadequate selves, and the whole damaged created order will be restored to all it and we should be and together will experience and proclaim the fullness of God's glory. God's ultimate plan for his creation will be fulfilled, and we will be part of it.

But in the meantime, as we wait in faith and hope for that day, our calling is to continue to honour God as stewards of his world today, recognising its beauty, using its resources wisely and justly and caring for it in its fragility.

And trust God to accept our offering of worship and service to him and that he can, indeed, do more than we can ever ask or imagine with it.

## **Prayers For Small Acts in the Face of Bigger Causes**

**H**ere are the Intercessions from the same service, by Emily Darlington

As we pray together this morning I'd like to hold the space in between the two images in our readings- one of the Earth groaning in its lack and one of a God who provides miraculously. In this space we have the opportunity to become like the boy who offered his picnic, giving small acts to God in the face of insurmountable issues, that He might use them for His glory. We pray then, today, for small acts in the face of bigger causes.

We pray for all the people around the world who feel small or overshadowed. In particular we pray for the nations which are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change whilst treading the Earth so lightly themselves. Help us and all western nations to be stirred to action even when we are not ourselves directly impacted. We also pray for those

made vulnerable as they work to fuel or resource the lifestyles of others, including those working in exploitative conditions in developing countries. Guide governments and authorities to act decisively with justice as their motivation, with actions to help the many not the few.

As creation groans to be heard, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all the people who add their own small voice to the mass of those calling for justice. We commend to you the work of environmental organisations such as Greenpeace and Christian Climate Action and all those who use their freedom of speech for the good of others. Help us all to take courage from the knowledge that our God speaks with a whisper strong enough to quell the forces of nature, seeing that it is not always the loudest voice which is the most powerful. Help us to listen to your gentle whisper more attentively as we seek to do your will.

As creation groans for justice, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for all the people who, through small everyday habits, are working for the good of our planet and its ecosystems. It can be easy to despair, thinking that our small actions won't make a difference. As the world speeds up and demands more from our time and more of our money, help us all to make more environmentally and socially conscious decisions where possible in our daily lives. Within Ashby, we pray for the people we see regularly out keeping our streets free from litter. We pray for the Ashby highstreet as businesses come and go, asking that this would become more and more a place where community is formed by people choosing to shop small and local. We pray particularly for Fair2all and hope expectantly for a day when this will be a mantra endorsed by all in industry.

As creation groans for repair, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As we reach the conclusion of the lent discussions this week, we thank you for the wisdom that has been gained and shared within our small group meetings. We pray that your spirit would inspire us all to offer our gifts and skills afresh to your service, that as your body we might become better equipped to be your hands with the privilege of seeking out your kingdom around us. Help us all in our shared vocations of being beacons of hope and truth within our locality. We offer to you our current projects which aim to give a warm welcome to members of the community, namely the warm space initiative and the sew it don't throw it project. Both speak into the current and ever-present need to better steward our resources and we pray that we, too, would speak to the people who come along with relevance and a hand of friendship.

As creation groans for hope, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As climate anxiety is now widely recognised, we pray for all those who groan in concern for the state of the world, unaware of the One who hears and knows all our fears. We pray that they would come to know the power of your spirit in the world, that your peace - which passes all understanding and present circumstances - might guard all our hearts and minds.

Lastly we pray for ourselves. In our own strength we might seem small, yet you God know every detail of our lives. In our own strength we might not seem significant, yet in yours we partake in a greater calling. Help us each to look down and see what lies in our own hands, the gifts we possess and the resources we have, that placed in your hands our small offerings might be multiplied and useful in your plans of justice and redemption. We pray that all that we have and all that we are might bring glory to your name.

As creation groans for you, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

## Challenging times at Loughborough Town of Sanctuary!



So - it's all change for asylum seekers in Loughborough and new challenges for LToS!

First, those who have been following Basim's story will be pleased to hear that (after being removed at short notice to Leicester) he and some of his friends are still managing to attend our English conversation sessions and the courses at the college- thanks to some help from Loughborough College with the cost of travel from Leicester. As far as I know, Basim and his fellow students still have no date for a decision on their asylum claim (which on current estimates will take two years or more) but their determination and resilience is an absolute inspiration!

The news for those dispersed further afield is less encouraging, but we have contacted the relevant City of Sanctuary teams and although they are very over-stretched, we hope they will soon be able to help those recently arrived from Loughborough.

Meanwhile, their previous hotel is now occupied by 44 family groups including babies, young children and others of secondary school age. They are of multiple nationalities from Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zambia, Gambia, Eritrea, Yemen and Egypt. The adults have a wide range of professional knowledge, practical skills and previous experience to offer and many different languages are spoken.

It is likely they will be with us in Loughborough for about two years and at first we were told that no school provision would be available for the children before September. However, many of our volunteers are resourceful ex-teachers with some useful contacts - and thanks to some determined detective work and local lobbying, school places are beginning to be offered to a few of the children. These seem to be a fair distance from their accommodation, but given the journeys they have already experienced, you can imagine that a very long walk to school doesn't seem to daunt them! LToS volunteers have taken the families along to help them register the children (in some cases, with a great deal of help from 'Google Translate'!) and the children will hopefully soon be settling in.

It's also heartening to report that LToS, local churches and other Loughborough community groups are pulling together and trying to co-ordinate support, including invitations to existing parent and toddler groups at the churches, other free opportunities in the town, and introductions to the local park, library and other local facilities.

In another exciting development - and thanks to a very generous individual donation from St Helen's, some of the women and children have been helped to buy swimsuits and introduced by our volunteers to family sessions at the local pool. I'm told their excitement and enjoyment is an absolute delight to see!

Clothes, toys and baby equipment have been provided to the hotel (no more please, as space is very limited!) Our English conversation sessions (this is where I am now mainly involved) has been adapted to include provision for families and children. A Wednesday 'learn together' session has begun for the families still waiting for school places and an afternoon table tennis club has been set up at the Baptist Church by a member of the Quaker community.

Your individual donations and that recently agreed upon by St Helen's PCC have helped to support much of this work: **THANK YOU!**

In the face of recent unrest and protests around hotels accommodating asylum seekers in the Midlands, Bishop Martin has said that he hopes that those *'with understandable concerns about this growing challenge ... will, through encounters - actually meeting those people - understand that often they are very fragile and vulnerable and they are here for very good reasons in most cases.'* He also reminds us that *'these are human beings with feelings, with a desire for not just safety but to contribute to society.'*

That is certainly my experience! I'm aware that some of the above might sound like lots of free fun at a time when some of us are struggling ourselves to afford such activities. But let me tell you that I often wonder just what some of these children have seen and experienced in their short lives.

Some of the adults have told me stories of unspeakable tragedy which keep me awake at night - and make me enormously grateful to have been born in the UK. They are fulsome in their appreciation of the welcome they have been given here: I only hope it stays that way, in the light of current discussions in Parliament.



And do bear in mind that according to the figures on the House of Parliament's own website, at least 84% of these people's asylum applications would ultimately be successful, particularly given the countries of origin listed above and the political and social situations which pertain there.

Meanwhile, the original arm of LToS work (meeting and greeting those already in the system and reporting at the 'Immigration Enforcement Centre') still continues - and hats, scarves, gloves, meal vouchers for the café at John Storer House and £5 Superdrug vouchers are still much welcomed.

If you would like to help LToS in any way, do get in touch with me on [pat@destafford.co.uk](mailto:pat@destafford.co.uk) to hear about the range of possibilities and if you wish to donate, you can do so via:

Loughborough Town of Sanctuary (Business Account)  
40-30-24  
83879542

If you are able to gift aid, please e mail me for a form.

And please, *please* do keep our new residents - and also those making decisions at government level - in your prayers!

On behalf of all at LToS - and of course, the asylum seekers themselves - again - THANK YOU!

**Pat Stafford**



The  
**What's  
On**  
Notice board



St Helen's Church &  
Heritage Centre  
Ashby de la Zouch

# Palm Sunday Procession with donkey(s)!

On Palm Sunday, when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey the crowds greeted him with an enormous & exuberant welcome, waving palm branches in celebration of his victorious arrival.

Join us from **3pm**  
on **2<sup>nd</sup> April** as we

gather in the churchyard for a procession with a real life donkey (or two) ready to wave a palm frond!

If you want to attend our Palm Sunday Family Service it commences immediately afterwards at 3.30pm in the church.

& is followed by refreshments in the Heritage Centre



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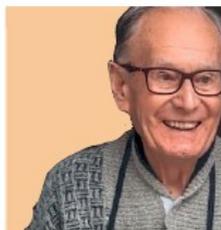
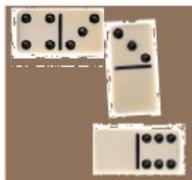
Heritage  
Lottery Fund



St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

Starting  
14<sup>th</sup> April  
2023

# HEART WARMING SPACE



All  
Welcome

Every  
Friday,  
1pm  
to  
4pm

Tea  
Cake  
Chat  
Cards  
Games



Includes a  
'children's  
corner'



Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AB



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Heritage Lottery Fund

# Sew It Don't Throw It is Underway!

Our eco project, Sew It Don't Throw It, was launched in March. It aims to tap in to the current trend to recycle, refurbish, reuse and repurpose, reminiscent of the 'Make do and mend' ethos of earlier times. Our three talented tutors were kept busy at our well-attended launch day, answering questions, and guiding some beginner sewers to try a small 'make' or mend. Classes have now begun, with two 'Get To Know Your Sewing Machine' sessions both voted a great success by the participants.



All workshops must be booked on the website [www.sthelensashby.net](http://www.sthelensashby.net) on the What's Coming Up page. It can also be accessed via the QR code.

Classes will be open for booking a month ahead.



# Sew It Don't Throw It

## WORKSHOPS

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April** Two workshops - 11.00-12.30 & 13.30-15.00

Make a carrier bag dispenser using basic sewing machine skills: Gain confidence using a sewing machine to make a seam, hem, tuck and elastic casing by making a simple item to store your plastic bags (or other items, even socks and underwear) that can be easily hung up. You'll need a piece of fabric at least 14 x 20 inches. Tea towels, curtains, cushion covers are great for this project. You can also use dress/skirt fabric and bedding, but preferably not stretch fabric.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April** 13.30-15.30

Mending and repair: Covering mending and repair of clothing and household textiles. These will include hand and machine sewing. This will be done by samples so you can apply your new skill to your own items at home.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April** 10.00-11.30

Know your sewing machine: No skills required. Learn to use a sewing machine, best practice and safety. Threading, stitching and generally 'getting to know' the machine.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May** 10.00-11.30

Introduction to sewing, dressmaking and simple alterations: For those who can use a sewing machine - work on samples to learn the techniques of sewing basic seams, darts, pleats and gathers.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May** 13.30-15.30

Clothing alterations: Simple alterations can give a new lease of life to your clothing. Learn some of the process involved. Bring garments you would like to alter along with matching thread. Ideal projects will be changing length / sleeve length or general fit. If you don't have anything you can do samples for future reference.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June** Two workshops – 11.00-12.30 & 13.30-15.00

Glasses or phone case: Discover a fun way to use the decorative stitches on a sewing machine to make a padded pouch to keep your glasses or phone in. You need two pieces of fabric approximately 10 x 10 inches. The outside one will be decorated and the inside one needs to be ok against the lenses of your glasses. If you have something padded to use in between the layers please bring that as well, your main fabric could already be padded or I'll provide something from industry offcuts. You can bring pieces of narrow ribbon to appliqué onto your project, even the tapes used to hang clothes on hangers is really useful.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June** 10.00-12.00

Crazy patchwork: Cutting and sewing different pieces of fabric together to create patchwork. Bring odds and ends of small pieces of fabric and optional larger pieces for backing.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June** 13.30-15.30

Make an apron: An apron can be made from any sturdy fabric. Ideal textiles would be old curtains, duvet covers, souvenir tea towels. Please bring what you have and we will transform the unloved to something useful.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June** Two workshops – 11.00-12.30 & 13.30-15.00

Zippered bag for toiletries, cables/chargers: Learn to sew a zip whilst making a box bag that has multiple uses for everyone. You'll need a piece of fabric at least 12 x 16 inches and a 12 inch zip. The fabric can be almost anything, including bags for life or IKEA bags. The zip can be removed from an unwanted item. I'll bring some zips in a limited range of colours.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** 13.30-15.30

The no zip cushion cover: Cushion covers can be made from many textiles. This one is quick and easy and lends itself to creative mixing colour and pattern. Bring any textiles you have and a cushion inner if you have one. Suggested fabrics - old denim, old coat or jacket, unused duvet cover, old curtains or tea towels.

There will be more to follow, up to September - dates to be confirmed.

**Booking is essential:** All workshops can be booked via the website a month prior to each workshop date.

# Our Worship in April

	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>pm</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> April Palm Sunday	Holy Communion		<b>3.30pm</b> All-Age Worship <b>6.00pm</b> Evensong
<b>Wednesday</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> April		Holy Communion & Stations of the Cross	
<b>Thursday</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday			<b>7.30pm</b> Holy Communion
<b>Friday</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> April Good Friday			<b>7.30pm</b> "Watch by the Cross" service of music and reflection
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday		Easter Communion & Dedication	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> April		Word & Worship Civic Service	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> April		Holy Communion	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> April		<b>Flagstaff Family of Churches</b> Holy Communion	

## Compline on Wednesdays

There is a 20 minute Compline at 9pm every Wednesday in Lent, held on Zoom. The room opens at 8:50pm. Please contact the Holy Trinity office [Office@trinityashby.net](mailto:Office@trinityashby.net) for details of the zoom link.

## Regular activities:

Monday mornings, term time	– Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am
Mondays	– Monday Group - 8pm
First Tuesday of the month	– MU meeting 7.30pm - 9pm
Third Tuesday of the month	– MU meeting 10.30am - 12 noon
Third Tuesday of the month	– PCC meeting 7 - 9.30pm
First Wednesday of the month	– ‘We’re In Stitches’ Knit & natter 2 - 4pm
Thursdays	– Choir practice 6.30-8.30
Fridays	– Heart-Warming Space 1 - 4pm

## April Diary

<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Concordia concert</b>
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11-12.30</b>	<b>)Two Sew It Don’t Throw It workshops</b>
	<b>1.30-3.30</b>	<b>) - Make a carrier bag dispenser</b>
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2 - 4pm</b>	<b>We’re in Stitches knit &amp; natter group</b>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1 - 4pm</b>	<b>Heart-warming Space week 1</b>
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1.30-3.30</b>	<b>SIDTI workshop - mending &amp; repairs</b>
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>APCM</b>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5pm</b>	<b>PRG</b>
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7.15pm</b>	<b>Gresley Male Voice Choir concert</b>
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10-11.30</b>	<b>SIDTI workshop - Know your sewing machine</b>

## Our usual pattern for services:

- **Sundays**
  - First Sunday of the month -  
8.30am Holy Communion  
3.30pm All-Age  
6pm Choral Evensong
  - Second AND Fourth Sundays of the month -  
10.30am Holy Communion
  - Third Sunday of the month -  
10.30am Service of the Word
  - Fourth Sunday of the month  
3.30pm - 5pm Messy Church (alternation between Viscount  
Beaumont School and St Helen’s Heritage Centre.)
- **Wednesdays - Holy Communion - 10.30am**
  - First Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion - in church
  - Second Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion -  
at Prior Park Community Centre
  - Third Wednesday of the month - Service of the Word - in church
- **Saturdays - Parish Prayers - 9.30am in church (Hastings chapel)**



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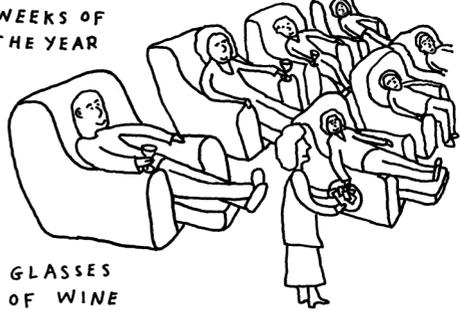
WE TEND TO GO ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY AND THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - I DON'T KNOW WHY REALLY - IT'S JUST A HABIT WE'VE GOT INTO



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# Ashby's Coronation Celebrations of the Past Part 1

As the Coronation of King Charles III approaches, I thought it would be interesting to look at how our town has celebrated previous Coronations. It turns out that there is quite a lot to say about such events, so I will divide this article into two parts.

For the coronation of Queen Victoria in June 1838, a committee of *"most of the respectable inhabitants,"* was organized to oversee the celebrations. The Leicester Mercury of the day gave quite a full description, which I have reproduced in a previous article, but as that was quite a few years ago, I will remind you of it here:

*"At four o'clock on the morning of the Coronation, the inhabitants were aroused from their slumbers by the roaring of cannon. Shortly afterwards, several waggon loads of green boughs were brought to decorate a bower previously erected in the Market street. In a very few hours this beautiful little street, as if touched by the wand of the magician, became a scene of enchantment. Scarcely a house but was decorated with flags, banners, the latter bearing appropriate devices and mottos. Several houses, Mr. Wayte's and Mr. H. Dewes, in particular, excited great praise; the former had a kind of Grecian temple, wreathed and festooned with flowers, and a very handsome crown on a crimson cushion in the centre, encircled by the motto, "May her throne be established in righteousness".*

*"Between ten and eleven o'clock, a procession took place.... The procession extended about half a mile in length, and on proceeding up the spacious and beautifully decorated Market Street, the scene presented from the lower end of the street was of the most splendid and brilliant character, and will not soon be forgotten.*

*"After the procession, about 2,500 of the poorer inhabitants dined in the bower, and their comforts were diligently attended by their wealthier neighbours. Roast beef, plum pudding and ale was provided in great abundance. During the dinner, which was exceedingly well regulated, bells were ringing their merry peal, bands playing, cannon firing, and joy and*



*gladness beamed in every countenance, young and old, rich and poor. The scene was indeed one of the most animating and spirit-stirring description.*

*“In the evening, about 800 females drank tea together at the National School, attended*

*by the ladies of Ashby, a very pleasing and enlivening scene. Fireworks, and other amusements, with a very beautiful illumination, in gas, by Messrs Orchard, concluded the joyous day, which will long live in the memory of the inhabitants of Ashby. The ladies and gentlemen dined together at the Hastings Hotel [later named the Royal Hotel] on the following day, and had the most delightful and harmonious meeting, which concluded with a ball in the evening.”*

What a pity there were no photographs in those days! After the Coronation the Leicester Mercury reported that:

*“in no town of its size was there a stronger or more unanimous demonstration of ardent loyalty and attachment to our youthful and beloved Queen, than at Ashby.”*

One thing that seems to have been common to all the Coronations from 1902 on, is that the weather was not good. On the day before the Coronation of Edward VII, the Coalville Times reported that the children's tea, which should have taken place on Mr Gutteridge's farm, would be held in various schools in the town and the old people's treat would also be moved indoors. However, the weather proved to be better than expected on the day and the programme of festivities in Ashby was reported to have been an unparalleled success. The streets had been decorated with *“Venetian masts, shields, streamers and evergreens”* and the shopkeepers also decorated their establishments. The houses of the town were lit by countless fairy lights in the windows and the Town Hall was a blaze of gas jets, specially installed for the event.

The day began with a special service in St Helen's Church, conducted by Canon Denton. This was followed by a procession of *“triumphal cars, decorated bicycles and mailcarts and masked characters.”* Two bands



accompanied the parade which assembled in the Market Place where the National Anthem was sung. It then continued to the “Queen’s Meadow” (the former name of Hood Park) where a comic cricket match and sports were held. At night there was a torchlit procession in masquerade and a big bonfire was lit.

Next month we will hear about the coronation celebrations in 1911, 1937 and 1953.

**Wendy Freer**

*(Photographs courtesy of Ashby de la Zouch Museum.)*

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# Mothers' UNION

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Our gardens are springing into life with the Spring bulbs, coming into flower. A particular favourite of mine is the Primrose, I have many plants that have moved with me from my Devon home. They remind me particularly, of the hedgerows, full of the creamy yellow flower as I walked the country lanes.



A walk taken by many at this time of year is around St Helen's, and on the 5<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30, Mother's Union will again hold a service of the Stations of the Cross & incorporate it with the Wednesday Communion service.

This has always been an open service to all who wish to join us. Our modern images are placed around the church, the Crucifer leads the Clergy & congregation to each image, where a reading & response is said. Those present can pause for quiet contemplation while the Cross will continue to the next image. For those who find standing difficult they are able to move with the cross & sit in a pew. We do have use of a microphone which will also help with hearing.

After the final image, usually at the chancel steps we proceed to the side chapel for our communion service to end our contemplative service.

The Stations of the Cross originated in pilgrimage to Jerusalem & the via Delarosa. From this has grown the Stations of the Cross or Way of the Cross.

Please consider it as a part of your Holy Week preparation.

### **Collect for Palm Sunday**

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: Grant us the faith to know you and love you, That we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, Which is the path of glory. Amen

*Adrienne Sedgman*

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## April Gardening Tips

If you are fortunate, daffodils are still in full bloom with Tulips to follow together with blossoming trees. Last month was very wet and sometimes cold, but we can expect sunnier and warmer days ahead – with the occasional April shower.

It is an exciting month as the indoor-sown seeds will be well into growth and it is also time to begin sowing annuals, herbs and wild flower seeds outdoors. Sowing seeds outside is an easy, inexpensive and fun way to grow new plants.

In the greenhouse (after it is cleaned of course) you can start to pot up your dahlia tubers and begin sowing seeds of sunflowers, sweet peas, cosmos and many types of vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, peas, broad beans and main crop potatoes.



If growing from seed is not your preferred garden task (too time-consuming and not a guaranteed success) then go for plug plants either online or from a garden centre. But such small plants still require a lot of care and attention to ensure success in summer. They need to be in full and all-round light, but also require careful watering as early on in their growing life they can easily rot. Most plug plants come in very small containers so pot them on immediately but be aware that you should only increase one stage in pot size at a time. A small plant in a big pot will not thrive easily. Finally, do not plant out bedding plants until the risk of frost has past, normally the end of May, “Don’t cast a clout till May is out”, as my wife would say. You can plant out earlier but be prepared to protect them from frost with a cloche or some fleece.

Dead-head current bedding such as primroses to encourage prolonged flowering. Also, dead-head faded daffodils and tulips but leave the green foliage in place as this will feed the bulbs for next year. Remove dead leaves from around the bases of alpine plants to prevent rot.

Feed roses with high potash fertiliser to encourage healthier and stronger flowers.

If you didn’t do it in March, it is very valuable to prepare your beds and borders by improving the soil. Dig in around five centimetres thick layer of good multipurpose compost (peat free if you prefer) or well-rotted manure,

as well as a small amount of all-purpose fertiliser (you now have some good organic choices).

Spring is the key breeding season for birds and so this means that green hedges Must Not be cut or trimmed. The RSPB state that bird nesting season is between March and September. Migratory birds are arriving back and so they require high protein feed such as sunflower and Niger seeds after their long flight back to your garden. If you can, why not put up a bird nesting box (asap). Also ensure there is a continuous supply of clean water for our feathered friends.

**Alan Cross**

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# Flagstaff Team's St Mary's Coleorton has a Special Visit

It was great to welcome Bishop Martyn Snow and his colleagues to our church as part of their 'Lenten Pilgrimage' around mainly rural parishes in the Diocese of Leicester.

We were able to share with him some of the joys and challenges of life in a village church - and Sandra even had 'a word' with him about St John's chapel!

Here's one of the prayers he shared with us:

## A Pilgrimage Prayer, by Jenny Child.

God of our pilgrimage, you have given us a desire to take the questing way and set out on our journey. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, that whatever we encounter as we travel, we may seek to glorify you by the way we live.

Eternal God, give us courage on the way. May we travel unhindered by worldly possessions, simply trusting in you for all we need.

Sometimes our hearts will be heavy as we plod along and our feet will ache and feel dirty.

Other times we will rejoice as the sun shines on the path stretching before us. May we ponder the truth, that the pilgrim's journey is never finished till we reach home.



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# Quotes for the Month

'Actually 'they' is a beautiful pronoun for God.'

*Sojourners Facebook page, March 3<sup>rd</sup>*

'As Evangelicals, we are committed to the authority of scripture, but we are also acutely aware that we continue to "see in a mirror, dimly" as we seek to interpret the scriptures.'

*Archdeacons of Sheffield & Rotherham and 17 others, Letter to Church Times, March 3<sup>rd</sup>*

'After close study I have concluded that Jesus believed there are two types of people: Your neighbours, whom you are supposed to love; your enemies, whom you are supposed to love.'

*Rev Mark Sandlin quoted by Sad Jesus Facebook page, March 13<sup>th</sup>*

'We are compelled to resist.'

*Church of England Evangelical Council declaration, March 16<sup>th</sup>*

'In the Church of England the one way to get anyone to do the opposite of what you want is to give them an order. It works with all of us.' - Archbishop Welby

*Prof Ian Paul, Pandemic Pandemonium & the Purple Powers, www.psephizo.com, March 10<sup>th</sup>*

'But as I studied the 23rd Psalm for today, I began to reflect on my own history of anti-shepherdarianism ... how I do not like being told what to do.'

*Nadia Bolz-Weber, a sermon on still waters for incarcerated women, March 19<sup>th</sup>*

'All you need to do is look and see, said Jesus. Open your eyes, your bodies, your emotions, your heart and soul ... Just stand and look, gaze, absorb, breathe, feel. Life in all its fullness is within you and you are immersed within it, whoever you are and wherever you are.'

*Rev Colin Coward, Living Life in All its Fullness, www.unadulteratedlove.net/blog, March 21<sup>st</sup>*

'When the practice of the Church in how it treats its lesbian & gay members persists in being so out of step with the country as a whole, that established status is bound to be questioned.'

*Mr Ben Bradshaw MP, House of Commons, March 21<sup>st</sup>*

'Gentle Justin, the archbishop who has steered the CofE through a troubled decade'

*Religion Media Centre briefing to mark 10 years of the archiepiscopate, March 21<sup>st</sup>*

'With Welby, open evangelicalism has become the new centre of gravity in the Church of England. More Radio 2 than Radio 4.'

*Revd Giles Fraser, <https://unherd.com>, March 21<sup>st</sup>*

'Having given up things I truly loved, in the form of smokes and steak, I felt I could indulge a little more in minor bad habits ... In that first Lent, I took up playing scratch cards.'

*Fergus Butler-Gallie, extract from memoir about life as young priest, Church Times, Mar 24<sup>th</sup>*

'God, guns and Trump'

*Supporters at launch of Trump's 2024 presidential campaign in Waco, Texas, March 25<sup>th</sup>*

'Prayers should be as honest as possible.'

*Archbishop of Canterbury's Facebook page, March 26<sup>th</sup>*

'The baleful influence of Platonism on Christianity...was the idea that Christians had to be good so they could book a place in heaven, assume a position on a cloud, sprout wings & sing.'

*Jim Tickner, Premier Unbelievable, March 27<sup>th</sup>*

'As a nation, we owe these families more than our prayers.'

*President Biden following Nashville school shooting, March 28<sup>th</sup>*

'Faith is ... paranoia in reverse.' - Philip Yancey

*Jared Stacy, Premier Christianity, March 29<sup>th</sup>*

'The amount of people who've said to me I love sharing my Saturday morning with you when I'm in bed - not a phrase vicars often hear.'

*Rev Richard Coles interviewed about leaving Saturday Live, Feedback BBC R4, March 31<sup>st</sup>*

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Community Event -

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