



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Loving God, Loving Others, Loving the World



Parish Magazine

October 2023

WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Hello and welcome to October's parish magazine.

Between September 1st and October 4th, the Church of England celebrates the season of creationtide– the period in the annual church calendar dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows"

As you can see on the front cover, messy church had their own time of giving thanks for all that we have in their harvest celebration this month. There are lots of thanks being given in this edition and lots more things to be thankful for. Maybe you could count how many you get to by the end and then think of some of your own?

You can read about some of the ways our church family have been marking the season and thinking about the environment. There's a recipe from the eco-initiative brunch that we held, messy church celebrating harvest and Alan taking us well into autumn with some handy gardening tips. There are also updates from recent fundraising and work within our local communities. Grab a brew and read on...

With blessings for the month ahead,

Emily

REV. SUE FIELD WRITES

Dear friends

As I write this, we are right in the middle of the season of Harvest. A time when, traditionally, we give thanks for the work of farmers in bringing us food and other crops. With many of us buying our fruit and vegetables from supermarkets, it is easy to forget the hard work and stress (with unpredictable weather) that goes into bringing us those things that we so often take for granted we will be able to buy. Farmers are easily forgotten when it comes to thinking about our food and yet we know that for many of them, there is much isolation and stress in just keeping going.



As well as remembering and praying for farmers though, Harvest can be a time to reflect on the gifts that God gives us in so many ways. It can also be a time to reconsider how we use those gifts in His service. One year in a previous church, we focussed on the parable of the talents and we gave everyone £5 to see how they could use that to harvest more money to enable us to fund a development project on the church building. I was amazed at some of the creativity and effort that went into that, particularly amongst the children and we devoted an All Age service to hearing some fascinating stories from children and their families.

At St. Helen's at the end of October, we will be inviting the congregation to reflect on the ministry that they have and whether some of the current vacancies we have can be filled. For some people, that may mean dropping other roles to take up new ones and that feels to be a very healthy way forward. So often in churches people can get stuck doing things for life and I believe that God calls us to different things at different stages of life so we need to allow people to lay ministries down in order to follow a new calling. Of course, ministry is not just something we do in the church either. The witness and ministry of Christians in our workplaces and

communities is vital if others are to hear of the love of God and of the difference that can make to our lives.

By our baptism we become part of the Body of Christ and in St Paul's writings, he describes how the Body of Christ is made up of many different parts all working together, complementing one another with the different gifts and skills that we have been given. When one part of the Body is not functioning, the whole Body does not work as effectively.

As we approach a very busy time of year in the Church's calendar, please prayerfully reflect on how you can use your God-given gifts and skills in his service.

There is an old Christian tradition
That God sends each person into the world
With a special message to deliver
With a special song to sing for others
With a special act of love to bestow.
No one else can speak my message
Or sing my song
Or offer my act of love
These are entrusted only to me.

May we all discover those special things that God has given us to do.

**With best wishes,
Sue**

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...

LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN OF SANCTUARY?

Continuing our look at the many and varied things that God does within our church, Pat Stafford shares an update on the work at LTOS. Could you see yourself getting involved?

Dancing shoes, Snakes and Ladders, and homelessness.

Well, what a mixed bag of fun, laughter, heart-warming experiences and deeply worrying situations at Loughborough Town of Sanctuary this month!

First - the dancing shoes! **Thanks to your kind donations**, I've accompanied several children and their parents to buy school shoes for those very excited youngsters who now have school places.*Maryam, for example, found exactly what she wanted in no time at all: a pair of beautiful, black, shiny shoes. She slipped them on and did a twirling exuberant dance around the shop, delighted with her selection.

But it was her face that slipped when Mum explained gently that school uniform regulations, (though flexible) did not extend to allowing very large, glittery, velvet bows! Tears of disappointment followed! How could parents be so unfeeling?

Mum looked at me for help and I searched the shelves for a solution. There they were: a dainty pair of black regulation school shoes - with a lining of beautiful coloured hearts, which would of course, be invisible, once Maryam had put them on.

'Just look at these!' I enthused - '*Just perfect for dancing!*' Once mum had translated, a huge smile spread over Maryam's face - and she was soon dancing once again. Children the world over, it seems, just love to 'put on their dancing shoes'!

Next stop: our English conversation sessions. After a severe drop in numbers over the summer, we had casts of thousands (slight exaggeration!)



who turned up recently, just when many of our volunteers were away. Our punters were of a wide variation of competence in English but we tried as best we could to manage them in two (large!) groups. It was a frequently hilarious, thoroughly exhausting session - (Have you ever played 'Snakes and Ladders' with a pronoun-based rescue option and in teams of two?) - but here's what I think is a real benefit of these sessions: they give us the chance to chat and offer friendship and moral support. And this, as it turned out, was much needed!

- (Spoiler alert) Here comes a much sadder story.

It had begun at an earlier English session with a celebration. '*Saeed, one of our regular students who hails from Syria and was moved from Loughborough to Leicester, had been given the Right to Remain. Great news! ... Yes?

... and No!

We knew this would mean he couldn't stay in his hotel accommodation but what we didn't realise was that the notice period for this eviction process has recently been cut - from 28 days to just 7.

And in Saeed's case, this seven days included a weekend and a bank holiday! He was given an appointment with the council in three weeks time - and no other guidance about what to do in the meantime.

He now has official 'refugee' status, which means he is finally allowed to work, but again - how to begin? Saeed's English has come on a lot, but without an advocate, it's quite a challenge to negotiate the complexities of our housing and employment systems.

At that earlier English session, one of our tutors used his time to make lots of phone-calls on Saeed's behalf. Since then it's been a very steep learning curve for us all and we've done our best to find help and advice. We, as a



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SHOP

94 Market Street

Ashby de la Zouch

Serving the community since 1987

Quality nearly-new bargains for everyone

Gifts of donated goods always needed

Volunteer helpers welcome

Telephone **01530 417096**

group of amateurs embroiled in a complex and seemingly uncaring system, now know a lot more about those agencies - mostly charity organisations - which have some advice or a little practical help to offer. Fast forward to this week, and Saeed is still only able to access a shelter from 9pm till 7am, and sleep on a floor with 34 other homeless people: hardly a triumphant achievement! But still, there have been *some minor successes*.

Saeed himself is very determined to keep attending his English course at Loughborough College although, as he explained, it's a bit difficult to do 'homework' when you haven't got a 'home' and you've got nowhere to 'work'!

So - another intervention was called for - and after a phone call, Leicester library helpfully offered study and computer facilities without the usual need for a permanent address. At least there will now be a warm dry place for Saeed to study in the day time.

And next, we hope the council will come up trumps on some of those other issues at that meeting when it occurs - Your ongoing prayers would be much appreciated!

So

These are just three of the latest snapshots in the much wider work of Loughborough Town of Sanctuary. If you want to know more, and especially if you would like to volunteer with us, I can provide you further information and a copy of the report from our recent AGM.

Thank you all SO much for your donations, support and prayers! They really do make a difference.

As winter approaches, those **hats, scarves, gloves and mittens** (now needed for men, women and children please) will continue to be much appreciated, as well as the **£5 Superdrug vouchers**.

And look forward in the November issue to hearing about a project you can help with, to bring a little Christmas cheer to the children!

**Names have been changed.*

Pat Stafford

REFLECTIONS FROM GREENBELT

At the end of August, an entourage of St Helen's folk (+friends) headed off to Greenbelt Festival in the grounds of Boughton House, Northamptonshire. Greenbelt describes itself as a place where artistry meets activism and the political meets the practical. Well, the range of talks and events on offer certainly lived up to this. Highlights for this years Greenbelt goers included... "the talk by Gordon Brown on defeating poverty", "Carrie and David Grant in collaboration with the charity Home for Good", "Attenborough and his Animals" and "walking around and soaking up the atmosphere". "From listening to the rich sound of The Spirituals on the main stage to relaxing with poetry in the woods, there really was something for everyone".

This year was a special one, marking 50 years of Greenbelt festival. Over the years it has become a place where sacred and secular come together to celebrate inclusivity and tackle matters of injustice (and have a good time in the process). If you're into camping, community, creativity, or all three, then Greenbelt is probably for you.

Maybe you'd like to come along next year too...?

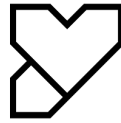


"Looking forward to lots more people from St Helen's joining us next year!"

ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

SEARCHING AND FINDING

Last month we visited the Ashby Statutes Fair. Crowded, dark, noisy, aromatic... Maintaining contact with the small groups of humans we were shepherding was hard. We'd briefed them on keeping their belongings se-



Ashby
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

ecure so it was with dismay but little surprise that I received news that one of our number had lost their glasses. A brief, shouted into ears, interrogation reduced the search area to the Waltzers. The task was intimidating. The owner of the glasses and his friends had already been told by a ride attendant that their ideas of searching were dangerous, pointless and that they should return 4 days later when the ride was being dismantled. Being more dispensable and senior looking I was allowed a little more grace by the ride staff. Every 2 minutes or so the Waltzers would empty of riders and, in the seconds before they refilled with a new crush of passengers, I would grovel around the ride in the dark, on hands and knees peering and groping into the dark recesses of the centrifuges on a centrifuge that are the Waltzers. After a number of cycles of prayer and stubbornness, I thrust an arm desperately into a gap between the seat and floor of one waltzer. With finger tips I found them. Joy. Then even greater joy reuniting them with their owner.

Jesus told several lost and found stories. Our experiences of losing and finding allow us resonance with God's searching heart. They also give us a hint at the joy that will be ours. We hopefully anticipate reunions to come. We are invited to enjoy with him, in advance, the restoration to him of his creations and his Creation - even while we grovel around in the noisy darkness.

Thank you for your prayers. Please pray that we will remain faithfully his in this search and rescue collaboration.

“... Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.” Luke 15:6

(Please also consider supporting our bursary fund. Some parents have told us they are unable to afford the modest subscriptions we charge for termly Rock Solid attendance. These fees cover the cost of the building and resources used. We would like to be able to offer parents the opportunity to apply for bursaries to fund their child’s attendance at Rock Solid. Be in touch for details.)

Vernon, Emily and the RS young people

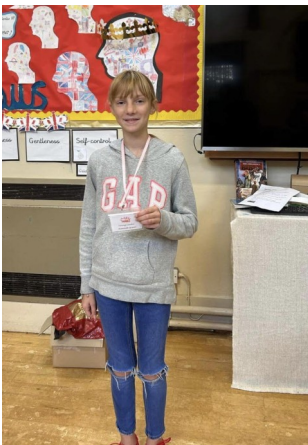
A VERY SPECIAL DAY AT MESSY CHURCH

Congratulations to Hannah, who attended our first ever Messy Church as a tiny baby 11 years ago and has been coming ever since! She has now decided to help other children enjoy the fun by becoming a Messy Church Young Leader.

Congratulations Hannah and thank you!!

This month’s Messy Church centred around a harvest theme and we heard the story of Ruth.

Next month’s Messy Church is at St Helen’s Heritage Centre, 3:30pm on Sunday October 22nd. See you there!



JUDITHS BRUNCH FRITTATA

Last month the eco-initiative team hosted a local produce breakfast before church. Judith's frittata was in high demand. Here is the recipe if you'd like to make one yourself. Not many of you will be cooking enough for twenty people I wouldn't think, so you will need to adapt the ingredients list accordingly (or you could just eat twenty portions of frittata teehee).

Ingredients:

2 large courgettes

8oz mushrooms

1 large or 2 small green peppers [any colour would work]

1 large onion

3 large tomatoes

200g spinach

18 eggs

600g cottage cheese

300g grated red Leicester - but any hard cheese would do and I only used Leicester because we were using local products.

salt and pepper to taste

Method

- Chop onion, peppers and mushrooms and roast with a drizzle of olive oil until tender but not charred.
- Slice courgettes and roast them separately in a single layer to get rid of some of the moisture content - don't brown them.
- Steam the spinach until wilted, then squeeze out excess water.
- Whisk eggs with cottage cheese and seasoning.
- Grease a large baking dish and pour half of the egg mixture into the bottom, then scatter over the onion, mushrooms, peppers and spinach, followed by half the grated cheese.
- Pour over the rest of the egg mixture and top with the sliced courgettes and thinly-sliced tomatoes. Top with the remaining cheese.
- Bake at 170 in a fan oven, 190 electric, gas mark 5 until set. This quantity in the dish I used took about an hour, but depending on the

depth of the frittata it may take around 40 minutes. It is done when it puffs up at the centre and feels set to the touch.

- Ingredients can be varied to taste and depending on what is available. Leeks, broccoli, potatoes, sweet potatoes, asparagus would all work. It can be kept warm in a low oven until wanted or can be reheated.

GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

October is a Beautiful Month of Autumnal Colour but also there is a risk of possible first frosts. Up to now we have had many hot days followed by extreme wet ones. However, use the occasional blue-sky days to tidy up and cut back in the garden, as well as harvesting, storing and possibly freezing both fruit and vegetables for the cold months ahead.

General garden jobs include:

- The tidying up of borders, clearing weeds and cutting down spent flower stems.
- The clearing of leaves off of paths, patios and anywhere else that slugs and snails can hide.
- The composting of green rubbish, but remember **Not** to put perennial roots into the compost bin.

To support our wildlife over Winter put high energy fat balls and sunflower seeds out for the birds, as well as the usual source of nutrition, such as peanuts. Put hedgehog and bug houses in place if not already done. As we are approaching bonfire night, be sure to cover any potential bonfire with plastic to keep them dry but more importantly to keep hedgehogs away. As a matter of routine, **Always** check for hedgehogs in any bonfire before lighting.



Clear out the pond and clean out the water pump. Remove floating leaves and scrape out excess sludge from the bottom and sides. Cover the pond with netting.

October is a time to pick, store and use any fresh Sprouts, Leeks, Cauliflowers, Carrots, Parsnips and Winter Squashes. Protect Salad and late root crops with Horticultural Fleece to extend the growing season. Once the vegetable patch is cleared you should carry out Winter digging, forking over

and mixing in Organic Matter such as manure as you go. Plant Spring Cabbage and over-wintering onion sets but leave out garlic until the end of the month, or any time in November.

Tomatoes are slowing down in the greenhouse and, depending on the weather, it could be time to cut the vines and leave them to ripen indoors. In any case always remove faded or discoloured leaves to prevent diseases and remove any flowers or very tiny green tomatoes which, by this time, are unlikely to come to fruit before winter sets in. Larger green tomatoes can be put in a dark place such as a kitchen drawer to ripen.



However, if your greenhouse is fairly empty now is a good time to clean and disinfect it.

The lawn needs a little more attention this time of year. Make a last mowing this month and re-cut lawn edges if necessary. Use a garden fork to aerate the lawn to avoid compaction and water logging over the winter period. There is still enough time to repair dead patches and / or lay fresh turf. Continue to plant Spring flowering bulbs and replace old Summer bedding with Winter and Spring bedding. You can get your own indoor bulbs to flower for Christmas. Plant early varieties of Hyacinths by early October. Put them in a cool (10 Degrees C), dark place until the shoots are about 5 centimetres high before bringing them into the house.

Finally, this is the time for those who love their house plants to consider what needs to be done with them before the Winter. Alison manages our house plants. She has had a rethink over the past months and has started to replace many of ours with Succulents. With Succulents they need very little watering. You can leave them for up to 4 weeks without watering and you get such a wonderful variety of colours, shapes and sizes. When she waters them, she soaks them and then leaves them for a few weeks. They do like Sun and Heat so a porch, conservatory or a window is ideal. House Plants can be so therapeutic over the long cold Winter months when you don't have the pleasure of seeing your outdoor plants in full bloom.

Alan Cross

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

OUR WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

	am	pm	Wednesday
1st Sunday 1st October		3.30pm All-Age Worship 6.00pm Choral Evensong	1st Wednesday– 4th Holy Communion 10.30am In church
2nd Sunday 8th October	10.30 am Holy Communion		2nd Wednesday-11th Holy Communion 10.30am Prior Park Community Centre
3rd Sunday 15th October	10.30 am Word & Worship		3rd Wednesday–18th Service of the word 10.30am In church
4th Sunday 22nd October	10.30 am Holy Communion	3.30pm Messy Church St Helen's Heritage centre	4th Wednesday-25th Holy Communion 10.30am In church
5th Sunday 29th October	10.30 am Team service Holy Trinity Ashby	3.30pm 'A time to remember '	

Regular activities:

- Monday mornings - Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am during term time
- Mondays - Monday Group – 8pm
- 3rd Tuesday - MU meeting – 10.30am till 12 noon
- 3rd Tuesday - PCC meeting – 7 till 9pm
- 1st Wednesday - Knit and natter – 2 till 4pm
- Thursdays - Choir practice – 6.30 till 8.30pm
- Fridays - Heart- warming Space 1-4pm
- Saturdays - Parish Prayers – 9.30am in the Hastings chapel

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY // OCTOBER

Saturday 7th - FASHION SHOW - 10.30 & 11.45am

The Sew It Don't Throw It team are joining with Ashby Fabulous and Sustainable fashion week to host a recycled and repurposed fashion show— this is a free drop in event with shows at 10.30 and 11.45 (each lasting about 10 minutes). Come along and be inspired!

Saturday 7th— ASHBY CONCERT BAND - 7.30pm

Ashby Concert Band are holding a concert in St Helen's to raise money for St Giles hospice in memory of Suzanne Edwards. Tickets are £11, including booking fee and refreshments and are available via <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ashby-concert-band>. It would be lovely to see as many people as possible, remembering Suzanne, a much loved member of our congregation and choir and now very much missed. The choir will also be contributing a couple of items on the night.

Tuesday 24th— HERITAGE TALK// STAUNTON HAROLD CHURCH AND ROBERT SHIRLEY- MOIRA ACKERS - 7.30pm

The second in our series of talks. 'To have done the best things in ye worst times'. Robert Shirley commissioned the building of a laudian style church during the commonwealth. We shall explore why this was such a daring act.' Tickets are £4 including light refreshments and are available on the door.

Saturday 28th— CECELIAN SINGERS CONCERT— 7.30pm

'Sighing to the skies— *songs of pleading, devotion and love by composers including Purcell, Bruckner, Monteverdi, Part and Chilcott*'. Tickets are available from Caroline Essex (carolineessex@virginmedia.com / 01530 417056).

Sunday 29th - A TIME TO REMEMBER - 3.30pm

A peaceful service to remember loved ones we have lost with candle lighting and accompanied by music from the choir.

WHATS ON IN THE HERITAGE CENTRE?

St Helen's Community Heritage Centre has been open now for six years and, during that time, has hosted a myriad of different activities. First-time visitors invariably gasp at the size of Hastings Hall as the frontage in the churchyard gives a totally false impression of what is behind the facade. Since Covid lockdown, it has proved particularly popular for birthday and family parties. The Hildersham Room is ideal for meetings.

The Heritage Centre is the regular meeting place for a number of classes, groups and health clinics and is also available to hire for one-off or regular events.

Here are the regular events on offer each week:

Monday mornings (term-time) Little Fishes (toddler) group– drop in

Monday evenings – Pregnancy Yoga

Tuesday early evenings – Pilates

Wednesday mornings – Spanish classes

Thursday mornings – Spanish classes

Friday mornings – Yoga

Friday mornings – Dance Classes for the Over 55s

Friday afternoons – Heart Warming

Space – drop-in group

Friday evenings – Spanish classes

Saturday mornings – Spanish classes

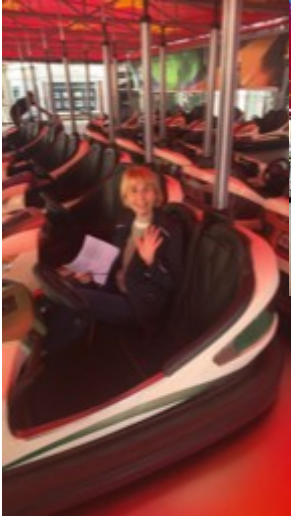


Contact details for the organisers of any of these activities can be obtained from the Lettings Officer on sthelenslettings@gmail.com or 07392 409745.

One off-events taking place in October include the first ever "Sing and Sip", an evening combining a fun and informal singing workshop followed by a tutored tasting of 4 great wines with singing and wine educator Aimee Harrison. No experience necessary. Friday 20th Oct at 7pm. Contact Aimee on aimeemusic@live.co.uk or 07967 316645.

Elaine Shaw –Heritage centre lettings

A LOOK BACK



We joined with churches from across the town for morning worship on the dodgems, hosted by Ashby Methodist Church.

The eco-church team hosted a tasty breakfast!

A heritage tour was part of the PCC day, along with time to reflect together and a lovely lunch.



We had a marvellous time celebrating the lovely Marjie's 90th birthday. Marjie would like to pass on her thanks to everyone who came along to make the day so special— she was very shocked to have such a fuss made of her and had a wonderful day.

THANKS FROM BOB

It was very comforting for me to know that people committed to praying via the Prayer Chain were praying for Bob, our friend in prison, who had been stabbed ten times by a guy with a screwdriver. Bob will tell you that the Holy Spirit didn't prevent the attack but he did prevent serious harm and even death. His heart was threatened and his lung was punctured! We are pleased to say that Bob is recovering well from his physical wounds but is beginning a potentially lengthy season of counselling for the stress caused.

Bob says a big "Thankyou" to everyone who cared enough to pray for him. When I saw this poem he had written I asked if I could share it with you - the aliens are the cancer cells - and he agreed. The other poem is to make you titter....Bob writes poems and short stories that feature in many prison-related sources...a gifted guy! Thankyou.

Pam Watson

Seasons will pass me by
Seasons will pass me by
I got prostate cancer
I survived
I got stabbed
I survived
Pump me full of radiation
To kill my Alien nation

Scrape my heart with a flat head
screwdriver
Puncture my lung with the same in-
tention
Pump me full of antibiotics
To kill any lung infection
I live long
I live longer

I don't know what it is
I don't know what it is
But it's big and the cats gone missing!
The place is a mess,
And there's a weird smell.
/The cat has left it's food.
The sofa looks like it has been
through a tornado.
And whatever was in here
Has left a very large pile in the middle
of my favourite carpet.
/I am looking around,
I'm surprised at what I found.
Large scratches across my hall floor
And right to the top of the door.
/I don't know what it is
But it's big and the cats gone missing!
I hear a deep and loud roar.
Yep, I'm out the front door!

RIDE AND STRIDE



I awoke to beautiful sunshine; the weather was looking promising for the Ride and Stride event. However, before starting out, I joined the Breakfast Club (hearty meal to set me on my way), followed by a talk at the Methodist chapel.

I began my bike ride at 10am, checking in with Margaret at St Helen's, then I headed off to Holy Rood, Packington where all the kneelers were lined up on the pews - a wonderful, colourful sight. Having cycled up Redburrow Lane, I called at Holy Trinity, Normanton, by which time the sun was at full strength. From there to John the Baptist, Heather followed by St Peter's at Swepestone where I chatted with the wel-

come steward, more drinks (but still no biscuits!). Here also was a beautiful display of kneelers along the pew shelves. I made my way to Appleby Magna, signed in at St Michael's, another imposing building. Onwards to St Lawrence, Measham and then the long drag back to Ashby, in sweltering heat, to visit Holy Trinity (nice flapjacks!), Congregational chapel and finally the Baptist chapel. It was a most enjoyable and rewarding bike ride, and I was made most welcome at all the churches.

Ride and Stride is a sponsored event, and all money raised is split equally between the nominated church (mine being St Helen's, Ashby) and the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust. The Trust uses these funds for grants to churches and chapels for repair, restoration and improvement projects. I am most grateful to everyone who was so kind to sponsor me this year; a total of £265 has been collected for this worthy cause.

Many thanks,

Rob Millward

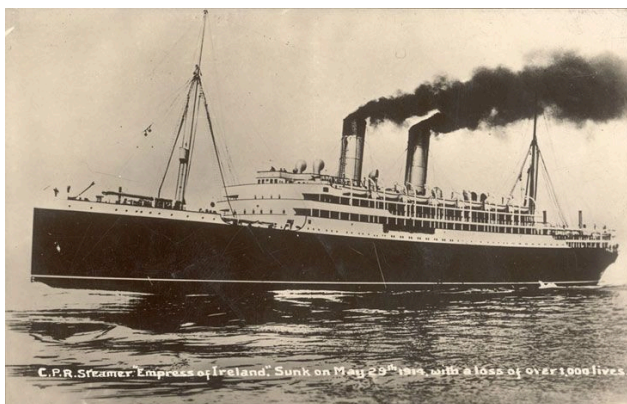
ASHBY CEMETARY STORIES

To round off my series of articles on interesting burials and memorials in Ashby de la Zouch Cemetery, this month I will mention several more.

Firstly, in Cemetery 1, there is a memorial to `Mary Jane Buck and her brother Daniel Staley who died on 29th May 1914, (although their memorial says 1913.) They were third class passengers on the ship the Empress of Ireland which left Quebec City for Liverpool on that day with 1,477 passengers and crew onboard. It collided with the Norwegian collier SS Storstad in thick fog in the mouth of the Saint Lawrence River. More than 1,000 people died.



The disaster was widely reported in the press. The Dublin Evening Herald stated that the ship sank in ten minutes. When the SOS message reached the Marconi Station at Father Point, a government steamer was dispatched, but wireless communication was lost before it could reach the stricken ship. The Empress of Ireland was said to be the last word in modern comfort and equipment, but despite having enough lifeboats for everyone on board, she sank so quickly that only around 350 were saved, including the captain, Captain Kendall. One newspaper reported that Kendall had once been world famous for assisting in the capture of Dr Crippen and partner who were in disguise aboard one of his former vessels.



Daniel Staley was born in the summer of 1879 in Ashby de la Zouch, the son of John, a farmer and blacksmith. In 1891 they were living at Doles farm house, near to Old Parks Farm. In 1901, he lived with his sister and brother-in-law at Alexandra Road in Church Gresley, working as a bricklayer. He had lived in Vancouver since early 1913. Mr. Staley was travelling from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Ashby de la Zouch on the Empress of Ireland, because both his parents were seriously ill. He was accompanied by his sister, Mrs. Mary Jane Buck. Both were lost when the ship sank.

Mary Jane was born in Ashby in 1873. She married William Buck, a letterpress printer who was four years her senior. She had a daughter, Frances, who died in Coalville in 1992 at the age of 90. The Canadian census for 1911 shows Mary Jane living in Saskatchewan and the probate register also records her place of residence there. By the time of her death, she was a widow. It would seem, then, that she and her husband went out to live in Canada and Daniel had gone out to join them.



It is not known what the illness was that caused Daniel and Mary to embark on their ill-fated voyage but both parents survived. The father, John, died in 1919 and mother Elizabeth in 1939, aged 91.

It was Jack Fargher who drew my attention to the memorial for Daniel and Mary. He also mentioned two First World War German prisoners of war. Wilhelm Schwenke (aged 31) and Joseph Huber (32) were buried in Ashby cemetery in December 1918. They used to lie in an unmarked grave which was purchased by the Imperial War Graves Commission (now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission). They were exhumed and their remains removed to the German military cemetery at Cannock Chase in the early 1960s.

I traced a photograph of their headstone at Cannock. Both are

commemorated on a single stone engraved only with their names and date of death.

The death of Schwenke was reported in the Leicester Evening Mail on Saturday 14th December 1918. It was stated that he was one of the German prisoners working on the land in the district and who were quartered in rooms to the rear of the Queen's Head Hotel. He was a native of Hamburg. Both died of pneumonia, probably connected with the flu epidemic which followed the First World War.

You may wonder why there were German prisoners of war still here a month after the armistice. In fact, it took a long time for the repatriation of these men to be completed. By December of 1918, there were 115,950 Germans interned in Britain, 89,937 of whom were German military. There were still 90,276 Germans here by July of 1919 including 3,373 civilians, 2,899 naval personnel and 84,004 soldiers. Finally, on 9 April 1920, three officers and nine other ranks (specially retained prisoners) completed the repatriation of Germans interned on British soil during the Great War.

Wendy Freer

Wanted by Restorer

Do you have ...

⇒ pre 1970s furniture, wood or woodworking tools?

* Teak, mahogany, oak, pine etc.

* Painted, broken or woodworm

* Even charity shop rejects

Contact Paul on 07895 451158 or pwin2457@gmail.com

FREEMASONRY IN ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

Have you ever looked closely at the brass plaque on the steps leading up to the marble Pulpit in St Helen's Church?

You will notice that the Pulpit was donated by the Ferrers & Ivanhoe Lodge of Ashby Freemasons during the Victorian renovation and the Earl of Ferrers was present at the time as the Provincial Grand Master.

The wording carved around the Pulpit mentions the glory of God and the Brotherhood.

If you do your research on past Vicars of St Helen's you will note that over the years a large number were also very active Freemasons.

So who are these Freemasons and what is Freemasonry all about in this Century?

Now is your time to find out, as **both Lodges in Ashby are holding an open evening on Wednesday 18th October 2023 at the Masonic Hall, Lower Church Street, Ashby de la Zouch at 7.00pm.**

(The Masonic Hall is located at the top of the Lyric Rooms passageway)

Anyone will be most welcome to visit on this evening to see an open Lodge, meet the members, ask questions, hear about what Freemasonry is and what it means to its members as well as hearing about the good works that we continue to do. To RSVP please contact:

Matt Trewartha T: 07563 341 230 E: matthewtrewartha@hotmail.com
or

Jamie Mackenzie T: 07368 839 280 E: jamie.hastings8695@gmail.com

Hugh Milward

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



petdeli
Free Local Delivery

Your local pet food specialist

5a Brook Street, Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire, LE65 1HA
Telephone : 01530 417484

See our latest offers on our
website, Facebook & Twitter pages!



www.petdeliashby.com

A.E. Grice
Funeral Service

**Offering a sympathetic
24 hour service in your
time of need.**

**4 Derby Road,
Ashby de la Zouch**

**01530
412229**

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 •

Sighing to the Skies

Songs of pleading, devotion and love by composers including Purcell, Bruckner, Monteverdi, Part and Chilcott

Cecilian Singers

Music Director: Benjamin Kirk

Assistant Music Director: Guy Turner

St Helen's Church

Ashby de la Zouch LE65 1AA

Saturday 28th October 7.30pm
2023

Tickets £15 available from:

www.Eventbrite.co.uk

jane.cotton2@ntlworld.com Tel. 0115 937 2993

carolineessex@virginmedia.com Tel. 01530 417056

www.ceciliansingers.co.uk



Looking
for the
right
advice?



Property Law Business Law Wills & Probate Family Law Litigation

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
- Litigation
- Court of Protection Applications
- Family Law
- Wills and Probate
- Business Law
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Trusts



CRANE AND WALTON LLP



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 3JB
Tel: 01530 834466
Fax: 01530 810886

Leicester Office
113-117 London Road
Leicester LE2 0RG
Tel: 0116 2551901
Fax: 0116 2555864

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

www.craneandwalton.com

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)

Blossom Caring

DO YOU NEED HELP AT HOME?

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Caring | Cooking |
| Cleaning | Hospital visits |
| Collections | Doctors appointments |
| Dog walking | Trips out |

I offer a range of services and I am available as and when you need me

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

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

**References available*

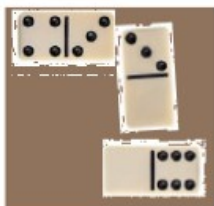




St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

Every
Friday

HEART WARMING SPACE



All
Welcome

1pm
to
4pm

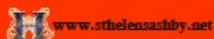
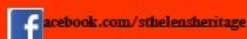
Tea
Cake
Chat
Cards
Games



Includes a
'children's
corner'



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





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

Ashby Times

on sale every Thursday at your local newsagent

Telephone:

01530 813101

email:

editor@ashbytimes.com
advertising@ashbytimes.com

The Ranters Barn Dance Band

**We are a locally based
5 piece Barn Dance Band
with a lady caller.**

We can do Weddings/Harvest
Suppers/parties/etc etc.

We are an experienced band and we
promise you a wonderful evening!

Ring Jane Clayton on 07598 139429
jane.clayton@btinternet.com



SHOPPING LIST FOR OCTOBER

Donations can be left in the boxes at the back of St Helen's Church, in the porch of Holy Trinity or the Congregational Church, or at any of Ashby's Co-ops. Thank you to everyone for the continued support.

- Tinned vegetables
- Small jars of coffee
 - Jam
 - Squash
- Pot noodles/ pasta pots/ cuppa soups
- Chocolate bars/ cereal snack bars
 - Larger sized nappies
 - Soap
- Deodorant - gender neutral
 - Washing tablets

St Helen's Church is part of the **Ashby Churches**

Alliance Church	07753 679147
Ashby Baptist Church	01530 413721
Ashby Congregational	01530 563301
Ashby Methodist Church	01530 412298
Holy Trinity	01530 412339
Our Lady of Lourdes	01530 412237



St Helen's Church & Heritage Centre



Come along to our exciting

Fashion Show



In church on
**Saturday
7th October**

10.30 & 11.45

*a free, drop in event lasting
about 10 minutes*

**- to conclude our repair,
recycle & repurpose textiles
project**

A Sustainable Fashion Week Event

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-
Facebook.com/sthelensheritage
instagram.com/sthelensheritage
www.sthelensashby.net



Supported by
Leicestershire
County Council