



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Loving God, Loving Others, Loving the World



Parish Magazine

October 2024

FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM

Dear friends

October is the month for Harvest Festivals across the Flagstaff team. We begin on 6 October with Harvest Festivals at St Helen's (3.30pm and 6pm) and at Breedon (10.30am). On 20 October we have Harvest Festivals at Coleorton (10.30am) and at Staunton (4.30pm). We do hope you might be able to join us for one or more of these occasions.

My childhood memory of Harvests is of packing up the baskets you used to get from greengrocers with fresh fruit and vegetables to take to either school or church. There were the most marvellous displays and Harvest Festival was particularly significant for farmers marking the end of the growing season. Things have changed a lot in the last few years as we now use our Harvest Festivals as times not only to celebrate the fruits of creation, but also to share non perishable food with those who need support via Foodbanks.



Harvest is a time primarily of thanksgiving. It reminds us of those who work tirelessly and often without a good rate of pay, to provide us with all that we need. It also reminds us of the need to be thankful and to appreciate all that we have. This is often difficult in a culture that is so often about entitlement where we expect and demand to have certain rights and privileges. Starting from a place of gratitude alters our perspective on a number of things and helps us to see what we have as a gift rather than as a right.

And as we begin to appreciate all the good gifts that God gives us, we also then see others in a different light – perhaps realizing a little more of our responsibility to help them flourish, perhaps seeing where others have needs or would benefit from support. We perhaps realise the effect of our choices on others – not just those nearby but also those further afield. If I buy that cheap garment, who is really paying the price for it? Is it the per-

son who lives thousands of miles away who is not able to argue for a fair wage? If I always choose the cheapest option, who is suffering as a result of my choice?

Harvest is a time to reflect on the choices we make, to realise our global responsibility as well as our local one to do all we can to alleviate poverty and to be thankful for all that God has given us.

With my prayers,
Sue Field



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MESSY CHURCH

Members of our Messy Church community ranged from 18 months to 84 years old this month! We all had a lot of fun, enjoyed each other's company - and we're thankful for God's wonderful creation!

And a special word of appreciation to our 'Young Leader' who came to our very first Messy Church as a babe in arms and has been joining us ever since. Messy Church is addictive, it seems!

Please note, in a change from the usual pattern of dates: **Our next Messy Church is on Sunday 20th October at St Helen's Heritage Centre at the usual time of 3:30.**

Here's some photos from September's Messy Church.

Pat Stafford



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT.... OUR NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR?

We continue our look into the varied things God is doing within our church and meet Tim, recently appointed and much appreciated Parish Administrator for St Helen's.

Here are a few words to introduce myself as the new Church Administrator. I had intended to ask my wife to write this, as who better could describe me? After a few moments thought she said "short, grey, bearded, balding, chubby" an honest assessment of my appearance, so I didn't think it wise to let her describe my character too. Hence this is a brief introduction in my own words.



For the majority of my working life, like a number of other people in St Helen's I have since discovered, I was as a Maths teacher, but after leaving the profession I worked in a variety of administrative jobs, mostly in Education. In recent years I held the post of Church Administrator at St David's Church, Broom Leys, and Senior Assistant at Christian Resources Book Shop in St Martins House, the home of the offices of the Diocese of Leicester. In 2022 I took early retirement, but I began to really miss the regularity and routine of work, and with the cost-of-living crisis also providing a challenge I was delighted to have the opportunity take up this role.



I became a Christian when I was a student at Aberystwyth University. It was here where I met my wife, who had also come to faith while studying there. We have lived in Coalville for 25 years, (moving into our home on the day after the partial solar eclipse in 1999) and currently worship at Hall Lane Methodist Church, after a number of years at St David's, Broom Leys. We have two married daughters, one of whom

provided us with a loose connection to St Helen's: Louise was the bridesmaid to her best friend Hetty Ferrillo (née Boardman-Weston), who returned the favour at Louise's wedding earlier this year.

Thank you to everyone who have made me so welcome since I started. It is great to be working in such a modern and well-equipped office the envy of church administrators across the diocese, and further!

LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN OF SANCTUARY

Where did that year go? A thank you from Loughborough Town of Sanctuary.

At our recent AGM, we said thank you to our retiring chair person, Mo - and welcomed Stephen as the new chair. It was an excellent meeting of sharing ideas and discussing issues. I just want ALL those across the Flagstaff team of churches and beyond, who so kindly support Loughborough Town of Sanctuary in any way, to hear what one of our great supporters has said to us.

"I just wanted to say how amazing your AGM was last night. I've had a really rubbish couple of weeks at work, with things not working as they should with some organisations. Last night showed how amazing LToS is, the people, the work, the passion. You don't see that with a lot of organisations. I came away buzzing. You are all absolutely fantastic and deserve so much recognition for the work you are doing. My mind is blown.....off to feed back to my boss again how great you are."

So - No matter how small a donation or offer of support you have made in the past year or so please feel PROUD to be a part of such a great community.

If you want to know more, take a look at our Facebook page or get in touch (you can send any queries to be passed on via the parish office). We're a friendly bunch and always happy to offer an insight into what we do - and why we do it!

Pat Stafford.

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30TH ANNIVERSARIES

A superb evening of music from Notability was enjoyed as they hosted their 30th anniversary concert in St Helen's this month.



Save the date: Rock Solid youth club is marking its 30th anniversary this year. An open invitation is being issued to all supporters and past and present attendees of Rock Solid for our anniversary celebration on Friday 29th November, 7-8.30pm. This will be an open Rock Solid session with time to share memories from throughout the history of the club, the option to join in with some games and refreshments being served. If possible, please confirm your attendance with helen.davis@yfc.co.uk (but do feel free to turn up on the night).



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

This year our harvest celebration focused on the work of The Ripple Effect, a charity working amongst farmers in rural Africa.

With a focus on fighting poverty and building sustainable livelihoods, the Ripple Effect works across three main areas of expertise: sustainable agriculture, gender and social inclusion and enterprise development.



In 2023, the charity reached 1.38 million people in rural Africa, with 66% of those families now being classed as 'food secure'. Great news. They also regenerated 345,000 hectares of land and plan to further invest in this initiative by planting 44,000 fruit trees in their Responsible Carbon Project in Ethiopia.

All their projects stem from workshops for families which empower women to take a bigger role in family decision making, and to reduce their unpaid workload. They believe that 'when one person in a partnership or family is overburdened, everyone suffers'.

The charity have an ambitious goal to work with and empower 5 million more people by 2030. To find out more about how you could support this work, or for more information about what they do, visit their website at **www.rippleeffect.org** .



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NOTES FROM GREENBELT 2024



Hurrah ! August bank holiday and we were off to Greenbelt once again. Tents, awning and campervans packed!

Greenbelt is a festival of faith, arts and justice set in the beautiful leafy grounds of Boughton House in Northamptonshire. This year the theme was : “Dream on...” And we were set to do that!



The weather decided to intervene somewhat to begin with and our dreams were filled with battling with the wind when putting up tents and awnings - wearing as much wet weather protection items as could be amassed - but then the sun shone -we dried out the programme -established where the best toilets were locatedand the Dream opened up .

The talks were inspiring and thought provoking. We were glued to our seats (the Greenbelt version of “a soggy bottom”) by John Bell and inspired by poetry, art and being free to roam .



Sunday communion is always an awe-inspiring event when so many people are gathered together- including the call to us and I extend it to you.

What is Greenbelt's gift to the world? What do we as a community want to give away? Not just money but hope....beauty...vision for the life of the world.

And not just today at this festival, but in the next 50 days - next 50months - 50 years.

Come with us next year..

Elizabeth Smith

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ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

If you would like to sign up for regular updates either follow this link <http://eepurl.com/dvVqrj> or email helen.davis@yfc.co.uk. Alternatively you can scan the QR code.



Thank you for all your prayers and support.

This year we are delighted to be joined by our year out student, Iona Dring. Iona will be supporting our work in Ashby School as well as our regular evening youth work and outdoor activities. We'll let Iona introduce herself, but please do pray for her as she embarks on this year, may it be an enriching year of personal growth and journeying in faith. We are certainly blessed to have her!

'Hi, I'm Iona and my dream is to study Medicine and become a Doctor on the Mercy ships. Since becoming a doctor takes a long time, I decided to take a gap year to do something meaningful and pursue my passion for mountaineering. That's why I joined AYFC. In 2022, my family and I had an amazing experience on a Mission trip to Narok, Kenya, which really opened my eyes to a new perspective. I also joined a Beach Mission team completing the residential section for my gold DofE.

I love jumping in the sea, playing my piano, climbing mountains, and paddling rivers. While at AYFC, I'm working with Vernon, the mountain GOAT, to gain experience and get my Mountain Leader qualification. As a young Christian who has faced challenges in school, I understand the importance of supporting young Christians. In my gap year, I want to share my faith and what it means to follow Christ.

My goals for this year are to ace my Medicine application, build my confidence working with young people, go on exciting trips, and finally take a break after completing 4 A levels.

If you would like to know more and support me personally - so I'm prayed

for and so I can eat and pay for my accommodation - do be in touch. I'm building a mailing list of people I will contact regularly with news, plans and needs.'

Thanks, Iona

iona.ayfc@gmail.com

Rock Solid:

Recently Rock Solid headed out of town (to avoid the statutes fair!) and enjoyed an evening of wide games and glow sticks. We have been encouraged by several new members this term as well as by some of our existing members stepping up to be apprentice leaders now they are in KS4.



Emily, Vernon and Karen

'Come and see': ...Said Philip to Nathanael after Nathanael had asked him a question about Jesus. Come and See will be a chance for young people in school years 7-9 to do the same. We'll be looking at Jesus through Bible study, silly games, food, drink, creativity, argument, mess, noise and kipper racing. 15:45 - 17:00, Thursdays in term time, 2nd October until Christmas, Holy Rood Church, Packington. If you know anyone who might like an invitation do let us know.

Vernon and Iona

'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked.

'Come and see,' said Philip.

John 1:46

OUR WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

	am	pm	Wednesday
1st Sunday 6th October		3.30pm Harvest Festival 6pm Evensong + Soiree	1st Wednesday-2nd Holy Communion 10.30am In Church
2nd Sunday 13th October	10.30 am Holy communion with stepping stones children's group		2nd Wednesday 9th Holy Communion 10.30am Prior Park Community centre
3rd Sunday 20th October	10.30 am Morning worship	3.30pm Messy Church in the heritage centre	3rd Wednesday-16th Morning prayer 10.30am In church
4th Sunday 27th October	10.30 am Holy Communion	3.30pm Time to remember	4th Wednesday-23rd Holy Communion 10.30am In church
			5th Wednesday- 30th Holy Communion 10.30am In Church

Regular activities:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Monday mornings | - Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am during term time |
| Mondays | - Pilgrim group |
| 3 rd Tuesday | - PCC meeting – 7 till 9pm |
| 1 st Wednesday | - We're in stitches – 2 till 4pm |
| Thursdays | - Choir practice – 6.30 till 8.30pm |
| Fridays | - Heart- warming Space 2-4pm |
| Saturdays | - Parish Prayers – 9.30am in the Hastings chapel |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY// OCTOBER

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER– EVENSONG + SOIREE

Join us for a service of choral evensong, sung by St Helen's choir followed by a break for refreshments before Ashby Baroque Strings give a recital of music by Purcell, Pachelbel and Boyce. The Ashby Baroque Strings consists of 6 friends who also play in Ashby String Orchestra. The recital will be played on period instruments.

TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER AND MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER– REPAIR AND ALTERATION WORKSHOPS

Mary Tuckey is offering 2 identical workshops for people to repair and alter their own garments. Dates are Tuesday 15th Oct from 10-11.30am and Monday 28th October from 2-3.30pm. The workshops cost £25 each and can be booked via the church website under the 'what's on' tab or by following: https://sthelens.churchinsight.com/Groups/334801/Sew_It_Dont.aspx

SUNDAY 20TH– SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER– BIBLE WEEK

Please see the flyer at the end of the magazine for an overview of events happening during this week as we mark not only 'Bible Sunday' but also bible week, as the flagstaff family.

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER– 3.30PM - TIME TO REMEMBER

Our annual service to reflect on and remember the lives of our loved ones who have passed away. There is the opportunity to have names read out and to light a candle, accompanied by music from the choir.



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St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

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Guided Tour of St Helen's Church

Tuesday 15th October at 2 pm

- Learn more about this Grade 1 listed 15th Century church, its history & some of its people
- Find out about its close connections to royalty
- Discover its links to the early Puritan movement in England
- See the only pilgrim memorial in England and a rare finger pillory

Guided Tour of St Helen's Churchyard

Saturday 12th October at 2 pm

- A brand new tour, not to be missed
- Hear about some of the Ashby personalities of centuries gone by who are buried here
- Learn from the grim report of the Board of Health in 1849
- Listen to the tale of the bodysnatchers
- Find out when the gravestones were laid flat - and why

Free tours but donations welcome



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The image shows the lower legs and feet of several people dancing on a wooden floor. Overlaid on this is the text 'The Ranter's Barn Dance Band' in a large, stylized, light blue font with a white outline. Below the band name, there is a block of text in blue and black, followed by contact information in blue.

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PSALM 119

The Guinness Book of Records is packed with amazing feats and heroic endeavours. The longest Psalm may not be in it, but it's our topic for today. It is truly colossal for a psalm, containing 176 verses. Hence you may not have heard it read out in church in one go. Or sung.

'And now the choir will sing Psalm one hundred and nineteen,' are words no minister has uttered for fear of losing the congregation. Permanently. It would take twenty minutes to sing it! However for those who could survive the challenge, it might prove to be a memorable achievement. That, or a restful sleep in an ambience of enchantment, with melodic song wafting all around.

What has always put me off until very recently is the repetitive nature of the verses. They all seem to say roughly the same thing with the words switched around. A bit like bellringers, who ring the same 10 bells, but each time in a different order.

Time now to wake up, roll up our sleeves, and get started. We'll be using our pliers, spanner, screwdriver, and crow-bar to take it apart. Psalm 119 that is.

Bible Gateway says, 'This psalm is an acrostic poem, the stanzas of which begin with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet; moreover, the verses of each stanza begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet.' Baffling but our New Revised Standard Version of the bible obscures some of that detail.

If Sherlock Holmes had read the psalm in Hebrew, he might think it was a coded clue to solve a crime. Alas, nothing so dramatic for us, but there are a lot of interesting features nevertheless.

The words that keep repeating are: commands; decrees; laws; precepts; promise; statutes; and word (meaning God's word). Although these words are not the same, they're close in meaning to each other. The message they give is summed up in verse 5, 'O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!'

And you're thinking, yes that's a good message.

But why repeat it 176 times in quick succession? Isn't that being obsessive? Isn't it a bit OTT? It is, but there are some gems, which is why the learned gentlemen who decided what to include, and not to include, in the bible chose to leave the whole of Psalm 119 in. And here are some of the gems.

Verse 18, 'Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.' To me the 'wondrous things' are insights or realisations. The Psalmist implies we should look and find them for ourselves in order to get some benefit.

For example, sometimes you get the feeling you just don't fit in, or you think, 'Why am I so different to everyone else?' You're not the only one. Look at verse 19, 'I live as an alien in the land.' Maybe I should set up a WhatsApp group for all who feel they are an Alien.

Here's another, verse 32, 'I run the way of your commandments, for you enlarge my understanding.' This suggests that if you're narrow minded, then to submerge yourself in the good advice of the scriptures will help. Of course, it's other people who are narrow minded, not the readers of this church mag.

Some are poetic, 'I turn my feet to your decrees,' v 59.

For insomniacs, 'My eyes are awake before each watch of the night,' v 148.

Tasty, such as v 103: 'How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.'

Dramatic, 'My soul languishes for your salvation,' v 81.

Well known, 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path,' v 105.

A blessing, 'Make your face shine upon your servant,' v 135.

Unfathomable, 'For I have become a wineskin in the smoke,' v 83.

Enough! To discover other fab verses, you must read the psalm yourself. We can wrap it all up with the intriguing last verse, 176, 'I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.' This is not a verse about us seeking God, but the other way round. We are asking God to seek us out. Saves us a job.

GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

Autumn is officially here so beware of the first frosts. We have already had a frost scare in the middle of September. The ground is very wet with rain and dew in the morning but some days may still be pleasantly warm. Leaves are falling from the trees in abundance and many Summer vegetables and fruit are coming to an end.

This is the time to prepare for Winter by cutting back / dead heading your perennials, shrubs and trees. Continue to weed the borders especially the perennial ones such as Dandelions. Keep sweeping up the fallen leaves especially from your lawns as they are favourite hiding place for slugs and snails.

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 bonfires 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.

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 recut lawn edges if necessary. Use a garden fork to aerate the lawn to avoid compaction and waterlogging 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.

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 and she has increased our collection of Succulents. Our indoor plant collection is now all Succulents. They need very little watering. She soaks them every 3 to 4 weeks depending on the outdoor temperature and sun. You get such a wonderful variety of colours, shapes and sizes. 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. You can also take leaf cuttings from Succulents such as Echeveria, Crassula and Sedums (some of which can be kept outside).

Give houseplants extra humidity to combat the effects of central heating. Mind you I imagine we all have our thermostats down a bit lower. Check your houseplants for pests like Aphids, Scale insect, Thrips and Mealybugs.

We are planning trips to some of our more local Botanical Gardens such as the University of Leicester and Birmingham. It's also lovely to have a walk around some local garden centres. The added advantage is that they usually all have a very inviting café.

Alan and Alison Cross



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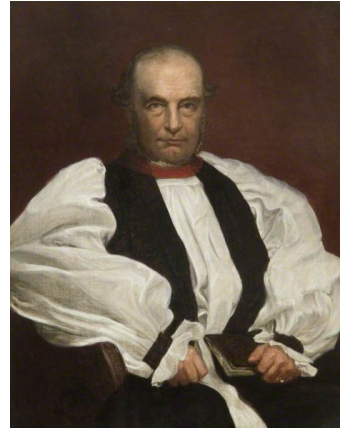
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IN THE NEWS: ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH IN 1890

19th century newspapers were very different from those of today. Packed with dense small print, and very few illustrations, they can look very off-putting at first. But it is worth taking a closer look because they usually contain some interesting stories. One big difference from today is the amount of detail they devote to things such as speeches, court cases and even church sermons, often reporting what was said almost verbatim.

An example of this is in the Loughborough Herald and North Leicestershire Gazette for Thursday 15th May 1890. A report on the visit to Ashby of William Magee, Bishop of Peterborough, the previous Saturday devotes 1,243 words, out of a total of 1,586, to the content of the Bishop's sermon on Sunday morning. He took as his text Luke 22 ch 11 and the reporter goes into great detail on what the Bishop had to say about the meaning and purpose of miracles.



[A Portrait Of William Connor Magee]

The service itself was conducted by the Vicar, Reverend Denton, assisted by the Headmaster of the Grammar School, Reverend Lloyd. The choir, consisting of over 40 voices, “acquitted themselves admirably” and the organist, Mr Chas. Horn, played a “triumphal march” at the close of the service. The church was well attended and the reporter praised “the churchwardens and sidesmen for the excellent arrangements made for seating the congregation, which, large as it was, would have been much larger had it not been for the extremely unfavourable weather.”

A peel was rung when the Bishop arrived on Saturday, before the morning service and also after the evening service which was conducted by the Vicar. The Bishop stayed with Reverend Denton at the vicarage until midday on Monday. Before leaving, he accompanied the Vicar on visits to some of the schools in town and expressed his satisfaction at the excellent educational work being done. Apparently, the Bishop had visited the vicar

several times before but this was the first time he had preached in the parish church.

Although the report took up nearly a whole column, it was by no means the only thing happening in Ashby that week that merited a mention. The next item concerned a visit of the Inspector of Nuisances to Ashby Market, where a quantity of fish, mackerel and cod, was seized, condemned and ordered to be buried immediately. A meeting of the Local Board the following Monday decided that proceedings should be taken against the two men offering the fish for sale. Here again, the amount of detail is remarkable with the names of every man attending the Local Board meeting being given.

In the next column, we learn that a bowling match had taken place on the Bath Grounds the previous Friday and was won by Messrs A Stimson and W Cutter. More intriguing is a short report about “the swing boats” in the town. The Local Board had received a letter of complaint about them from a Mr Radford who said that his mare had been frightened by them. He claimed that the animal had been frightened by the splashing of water from the Local Board’s water cart. No further details are given, just when we would have liked to know more!

The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Poultry, Pigeon and Rabbit fanciers’ Society get a mention next with a report on their finances. The Society had been founded the previous year and enjoyed the patronage of half a dozen members of the local aristocracy, including Earl Ferrers and the Hon. Paulyn Hastings. The Society’s first show had been held the previous September during the Statutes and was a great success.

It was reported that the Boundary Congregational Sunday School had held its anniversary celebrations on the previous Sunday with a crowded congregation, whilst on Tuesday evening, members of the I Company of the Leicestershire Regiment of Volunteers had assembled for drill. Two officers and 88 “rank and file” took part. They marched from the market hall to the Bath Grounds where they were drilled in front of numerous spectators. Twenty-one of the men had never missed a drill in five years and many more had only been absent once or twice. It was announced that

the Company would take part in the Barnaby Challenge shooting competition on Whit Sunday against Companies from other Leicestershire towns.

Other reports covered the sudden death of Joseph Broadhurst of Wood Street, the fortnightly stock sale of farm animals on the sales ground near the railway station, a meeting of the Horticultural Society to plan their next annual show, a traffic accident near the Cattle Market between a horse trap and a pony cart and a special meeting of the Local Government Board to discuss the disposal of grass in the Mill Meadow.

The final report for Ashby covered, at great length, a meeting of the Ashby Guardians at the workhouse. Much of the meeting was taken up discussing the positioning, refixing and use of a weighing machine for measuring incoming goods. Again, what was said by named members of the Board was reported almost verbatim, something that would hardly be seen in the newspapers of today.

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HERITAGE TALKS 2024 –25

Rachel Askew

Tuesday 29th October at 7.30pm

Anglo-Saxon Sculpture of Breedon Priory Church

Rachel will explore with us one of the largest and finest collections of Anglo Saxon sculpture in the country, sharing the fascinating story of why it's here, who created it and what it can tell us about the Anglo Saxon church which once stood on this site.

Tickets on the door - £4 including light refreshments



Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
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FAITH INSIDE THE PRISON SYSTEM

The third instalment of Bob's testimony, the second of which can be found in the September edition.

'... All through these examinations and scans, I kept praying to Christ. My escort said that they could not understand how I was so calm after what had happened and with all that was going on around me. It was because I had put my life in Christ's and the Holy Spirit's hands. I had no worries and I thanked Christ for giving me the peace in my heart as others looked on. I was also thinking about what Paul said in Hebrews 4:16 'Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.'

After the scan I was taken upstairs to a large ward and put into a single room that had a shower and a toilet, a TV and a phone that was free to call landlines. I thanked Christ again for making this happen. I used the phone each day to call Pam. The first one was the hardest as I had to go through what had happened; after that it was to give her updates of how I was doing and to have a chat. That really helped as she was very supportive. I also had to call Fine Cell Work who sends me in sewing work for me to do in my room and I earned money for each one sent back. At the time I had 4 cushions to hand embroider for HRH Queen Camilla. It was her Royal Insignia and I learnt afterwards that each was to be given to a visiting woman dignitary such as the First Lady of the USA. I had to let them know that I might not hit the deadline and why. They were very understanding and told me not to worry, just get well.

Later that day I had a visit from the Senior Trauma Consultant along with his juniors and their juniors. He had looked at my scans and then looked at me. "Mr Findlay, you should not be here." He said. One of my escorts asked "Do you mean he can go back?" The consultant shook his head, "No, I mean I am looking at a miracle, you are a very lucky man." The escort asked "What do you mean a miracle?" The consultant smiled, "If Mr Findlay was a cat, he would have lost 5 of his lives yesterday. He should by rights be dead with what had happened to him, but he is not, he is here." I asked him if he was a Christian and he replied he was, and I told him so was I, and that I truly believed that Christ had sent the Holy Spirit to protect me.

The consultant nodded “I would agree”, he replied. The other escort then asked “why do you say that it is a miracle?”

The consultant turned the computer round so we could see it and on the screens came the scans that had been taken on my arrival. “Mr Findlay experienced 10 stab wounds of which 3 were not life threatening. The one at the top of his brain missed his skull by a couple of millimetres; the one on his neck missed his carotid artery by less than 2 millimetres and a nerve in his neck. The worst wound on his left side missed two veins, a couple of major arteries and nerves and only nicked his left lung because we think he breathed in at the point of contact and then went on to scrape along the sheath protecting the heart. Either artery or nerve suffering damage and Mr Findlay would have died, along with the heart that must have been at the right point when contact was made otherwise major damage and Mr Findlay would have been dead within minutes. That, though, was not the miracle. If we look at the path the screwdriver took, then it is clear that either Mr Findlay as he was stabbed just happened to wriggle at the precise angle and breathed in and his heart took the right beat precisely at the right millisecond, or a guiding hand moved the veins, arteries, nerves, lung and heart so that the blade did the least damage it could.

I could feel the power of the Holy Spirit in the room with me and how the words of Consultant were affecting not just the other doctors and nurses, but also the escorts with me. I smiled at him and he nodded and we both said “Hallelujah, praise the Lord.” I could feel the Holy Spirit within me helping my body to heal as if nothing had happened. Using my inner voice I prayed to the Lord thanking Him for using me to show others His power and the power of the Holy Spirit. I felt warm and comforted by that knowledge. I was reminded of the words of Paul to the Ephesians 2: 1-2a, 4-5 ‘As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— it is by grace you have been saved.’”

Bob (Via Pam Watson)



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WANT TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE BETTER ?

**Join us for Bible Week
@ St. Helen's
20th - 27th October 2024**



Sunday 20th October 10.30 a.m.

Morning Worship - "A light on my path"

Monday 21st & Wednesday 23rd October 7.30 p.m.

"Know Your Bible Better" 2 sessions which:

- Explore the Bible through games and activities
- Examine the Bible's authenticity
- Consider the Bible as Literature
- Try different ways to engage with Scripture

And there's even a "Bible Bake-Off" !!

Sunday 27th October 10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion on Bible Sunday

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint
Helen, Ashby de-la Zouch. Charity Number 1200922**