



# St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Loving God, Loving Others, Loving the World



# Parish Magazine

November 2024



St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

On the first Saturday of every month:

# Pause for Paws



Drop in on  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**  
between 10:15 & 12:15  
at St Helen's church  
(west door of the church)  
Refreshments will be provided

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AA



[Facebook.com/sthelensheritage](https://www.facebook.com/sthelensheritage)



[instagram.com/sthelensheritage](https://www.instagram.com/sthelensheritage)



[www.sthelensashby.net](http://www.sthelensashby.net)



## FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM

Dear Friends, when I started writing this letter, a line from one of my favourite childhood books came to me: “November is the most disagreeable month in the whole year”, which is said by Meg March in Little Women.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century poet, Thomas Hood, clearly shared these views, set out in his little poem “November”

No sun — no moon!  
No morn — no noon —  
No dawn — no dusk — no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member —  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! —  
November!



It’s easy to share Meg’s and Thomas Hood’s sentiments. The clocks have gone back, so the evenings are dark early. The weather is often gloomy; at worst we are beset by downpours and gales, occasionally even snow. The leaves are off the trees and turning into a slimy mess on the pavements. It is still several weeks until the shortest day. Perhaps we should just hibernate until Christmas.

Or perhaps we can think about it another way. Just because the days are short and the weather likely to be dank and chilly does not mean that we are obliged to be completely negative. November is a month that, with less invitation to be outside, gives us scope for reflection. On a bright note, at the beginning of the month, we remember and give thanks for all God’s saints over the centuries, but then it is followed by the more sombre All Souls Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, a day set aside for remembering loved ones who are no longer with us. And then we have Remembrance Day a few days later. All days that invite us to reflect.

If, that is, you can find the space in which to do so. Perhaps it is a mark of the culture in which we live that we are uncomfortable with unfilled time, with empty space, with an absence of distractions. The “no” month of November is easily filled with “yes” to early Christmas celebrations, pressure to snap up Black Friday bargains, fill our freezers now with supermarket luxuries or home-cooking in advance, buy the tins of Quality Street while they are on offer and so on. There’s always someone whose Christmas tree and lights go up round about now. There is so much noise around us all the time that it can be hard not to get sucked into it all. By the time we reach 1<sup>st</sup> December and Advent Sunday – which actually coincide this year – it has become increasingly difficult to make space for a traditional time of Advent reflection. “Celtic Advent”, with its origins in the early British churches, such as Iona and Lindisfarne, actually began on 15<sup>th</sup> December, giving 40 days to prepare for Christmas, mirroring the 40 days of Lent to prepare for Easter.

So perhaps an alternative to dwelling on the much-hyped gloom of this month is to allow ourselves to embrace some of that “no” of November. For at least some of the time to say “no” to the ever-pervasive surrounding noise and clamour and allow ourselves time to reflect. To remember with gratitude those who are no longer with us, but whose lives have shaped ours. To think back, perhaps, to inspiring teachers, to people who helped us develop professionally, to those who offered love and support during difficult times, those who introduced us to or nurtured us in our Christian faith – and, most of all, of course, the family and friends whom we have loved and who loved us.

November, again, gives us the opportunity to remember and give thanks for those whose lives or physical or mental health have been sacrificed in war for the good of others, and to be thankful for the years of peace in which, because of them, most of us have been privileged to live. And we can begin, whether on the official start of Celtic Advent or on some other date, to reflect on Advent themes, including the promised return of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who will make wars cease to the ends of the earth.

Perhaps also, as we make space for quiet reflection, there will be difficult feelings. Remembering those we have lost involves grief. Thinking back to days gone by may remind us of old, still raw, hurt and pain that we try to

keep at bay by keeping ourselves constantly busy. Having space enables us to notice where we need God's comfort and healing, and to allow him to enfold us in his embrace and guide us himself through the hurt or lead us to others who can help.

There is more than "no" to November.

I'd like to invite you, this November, to see it as an opportunity. Pull your curtains. Turn your phone off. Look into a real fire or a candle flame and allow yourself some space and silence from all the external demands and distractions. Take time to remember, take time to be thankful for all that is good, hold out to God in trust the things that are not, and then allow him to meet you in the stillness, with his ultimate "yes". The "yes" that you are precious and beloved and that all that matters to you, large or apparently trivial, is important to him because it is important to you. Not just in November, but every month of the year.

Or, if you are not a person to sit still, take yourself outside and notice what else is "yes" in November. The brightness of the stars in the dark winter sky, seen through the leafless branches of the trees. The gentle mistiness in the mornings as the sun starts to break through. The intricate delicacy of gossamer webs stretched across the hedgerows. Perhaps, depending on our unpredictable weather, to stand in awe at the power of storm and wind or even the whirl of snowflakes. And, in the midst of it all, the "yes", God's promise of hope to come, there in the bare and seemingly lifeless tree branches – where the buds are already there, holding in potential all the new life and leaf for next spring.

So perhaps it is fitting that I sign off by wishing you all a very blessed and God-filled "Yesember".

**Judith Lewis**



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**

# HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT.... OUR TEAM OF FLOWER ARRANGERS?

We continue our look into the many and varied things God does within our church as we hear from Eileen about the role of our talented team of flower arrangers.

St. Helen's has always been blessed with many creative, artistic and talented flower arrangers through the years. Having beautiful pedestals of flowers adorning the High Altar and the various Chapels definitely give a warm and welcoming touch to the many visitors who come into our historical building every day. The vibrancy of colours and the artistic display of flowers and foliage is not only a feast for the eyes but also truly reflects the beauty and glory in God's Creation.



We are very much indebted to Margaret Lawrence, who for years, has been the lead person in the Flower Arrangers Team; not to mention Helen Smith, a very experienced flower arranger, who had organised workshops to encourage others, less confident otherwise, to join the team. We are also grateful to Julie Ann Heath, though no longer worships at St Helen's, is very willing to help out on special occasions. Of course, Carol Eyley is forever there to encourage and help, with novel and imaginative suggestions to set higher standards for us to attain. Thanks also to Eileen Mary Barradell, Caroline Fraser, Caroline Millward, Lyn Price who have loyally supported this ministry for years; and recently, we are very happy to have Elizabeth Stewart and Alison Andrews, both seasoned flower arrangers in the churches they belong to previously, join the team. If you feel you are called to this ministry within the church, please contact any of us and we will be delighted to have you on board. No previous experience is needed, just enthusiasm and a desire to serve the Lord in this area of worship. If you don't think you want to be a flower arranger, but would like to donate some money towards this ministry, please let one of us know.

Thank you. God bless you all.

**Eileen Coombs**



St Helen's Church

# Remembrance Sunday

**10<sup>th</sup> November**  
**at 9.30am**

**& afterwards at the war memorial  
on Market Street for 11am  
where the service continues  
with the laying of wreaths  
and the minute's silence**



Facebook.com/sthelensheritage



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

instagram.com/sthelensheritage



www.sthelensashby.net





# A LIGHT IN THE WORLD

The first in a new column highlighting the various initiatives we are connected with as a church and how being involved in these helps us to live out our faith. This month we hear from Adrienne about her work with Ashby Foodbank...

## THE TRUSSELL TRUST FOODBANK AT ASHBY de la ZOUCH

In 2013 I moved to Ashby de la Zouch from Gloucestershire, initially I had plenty to occupy my time, but I knew as the year passed, I needed to find something in the community which would enable me to meet new people and help me to integrate, also to help others who were in difficult personal situations. The Foodbank was local, and I felt it enabled me to meet my needs and those less well off in the community. I can greet them with a cheery smile, talk to them, thus relaxing them at for them their most difficult period, where they had to ask for food to feed their family. As you can imagine this is an extremely upsetting time, when you have young children who can't understand why they cannot go to a supermarket as normal.



In 2014 after a gentle interview, I joined and started on a Tuesday morning to shadow an existing member of the team. After a suitable period, I was then used as a Volunteer with 2 others at what we term front of house. This is where the clients come into the hall & are met by us, our work starts at that moment.

I will briefly explain how a foodbank is divided into its working sections:

**Foodbank Referrers** – These are all people in the community who can issue the client with a Voucher to bring to the Foodbank to exchange for 3 days of emergency food to help them through their crisis.



**Front of house team** – Volunteers who meet clients & check from the voucher how many persons in the household, we then collect from the Warehouse the amount of food parcels relevant to their family needs. We also discuss & check with them that they are in touch with the various agencies who can assist them through their longer-term problems. We also **Signpost to Agencies** to assist clients through longer term problems be it Debt, information to contact DWP, service providers etc.

**Food is Donated** – Warehouse & Labelling Team

**Food is Weighed, Sorted & Stored** – Warehouse & Labelling Team

The Foodbank must run in a similar way to a small business, Warehouse staff must ensure our stock after labelling is stored in strict date order, drawn from warehouse in order and given to client at its best. Because of the regulations which would be enforced if we were to use fresh produce, we use tinned produce, so this is normally easier to manage, but it is surprising how quickly our stock is turned over.

We do a stock check annually to prove our gifted food has been dealt with correctly,

To give you a brief idea of our incoming stock, at the beginning of October when Schools, Churches held their harvest festivals, and many offices donated because of the time of year. In one week, we received a ton of tinned food. This all must be man handled into the building, weighed in and noted who donated. Then a message relayed to that organisation. Each tin/ packet is then individually labelled with date & Year of end of use. It is then sorted to each type of food and placed for storage it's last move is to the warehouse where it is placed into stock in date order.

We are a small band of volunteers, working hard to fulfil the tasks in hand. We endeavour to keep our clients relaxed as it's been quite an anxious time for them to get their voucher and find us, so a smile is important.

If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me.

**Adrienne Sedgman**



## CHRIS'S THERAPEUTIC COUNSELLING

CHRIS LEWIS UKCP REGISTERED REG NO 2011165704

Telephone:01530 564204 Mobile:07828 463368

Email:chrislewiscounselling@gmail.com

Looking  
for the  
right  
advice?



## Choose Crane and Walton for everything legal...

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

- Property Law and Conveyancing
- 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

Lexcel  
LAWYERS  
AS STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**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](http://www.craneandwalton.com)



# 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](http://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**

## 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*



# REMEMBRANCE MONTH



*'The Unveiling and Dedication Of Ashby War Memorial, 1922' Courtesy of Ashby Museum*

November is the month when many of us will attend services to commemorate the fallen in two World Wars and, these days, many other conflicts too. These commemorations take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> November to mark the day when the guns of the First World War fell silent, but although that day is still marked with two minutes of silence around the war memorial, bigger commemorations take place on Remembrance Sunday, the Sunday preceding 11<sup>th</sup> November. This wasn't always the case.

The commemorations were once known as Armistice Day and took place on 11<sup>th</sup> November only. The first one in the UK was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919 to mark the first anniversary of the end of World War I. It began with a banquet held at Buckingham Palace on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> November and was followed by a two-minute silence the following morning.

As far as I can ascertain, the first commemoration in Ashby took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 1919, when the memorial cross in St Helen's

churchyard was unveiled by the Bishop of Leicester. The ceremony began when a cross-bearer headed a procession from the church to the memorial, consisting of the bishop, clergy, choir and a large congregation. The cross was covered by a Union Jack and was unveiled by Mrs Abney-Hastings. Lady Maud Hastings and Miss Flora Hastings were also present. A hymn was sung, the bishop spoke a dedication and the relatives of the fallen laid wreaths, accompanied by the singing of "When I survey the Wondrous Cross." Prayers were said for the fallen and the bishop gave "an impressive address". The service concluded with the blessing, the National Anthem and the Last Post.

The war memorial in Market Street was not erected until 1922 and was unveiled on 8<sup>th</sup> June that year by Lady Hood. Her husband, Sir Joseph Hood, after whom Hood Park is named, was also in attendance and gave an address. Also in attendance were the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, the Vicar of Ashby, Canon Sawyer, the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Rev. Thomas and various other members of the clergy along with a large crowd.

The band of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment played appropriate music beforehand and men of the local Territorial Regiment formed a Guard of Honour. After the opening hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past", an appeal was made for more contributions to be made towards the cost of the memorial, which was about £650. So far, only £460 had been raised with, it was claimed, fewer than 90 members of Ashby's 5,000 population making a contribution to date. At that time a garden behind the monument was planned but had not yet been built. That would add to the cost of the whole thing.

The Bishop dedicated the memorial and gave an address which was followed by prayers and the hymn "Now the Labourer's Task is O'er." The Last Post was sounded followed by Reveille. The Guard of Honour fired three volleys over the memorial, the band played the National Anthem and the Bishop liberated a number of pigeons as symbols of peace. The public then filed past the memorial on which many wreaths were laid.

In January 1923, an anonymous doner contributed £130 towards the cost of the additions to the war memorial. This presumably refers to the garden

and apparently constituted half of the expected cost.

I am not sure when it became customary to commemorate Armistice Day at the war memorial itself. In 1923, 11<sup>th</sup> November fell on a Sunday and in Ashby it was commemorated in St Helen's church where the bells were muffled for the morning service. A Requiem for the fallen was sung and the Vicar read out the names of the dead from Ashby. Floral tributes were placed at the foot of the Memorial Cross in the churchyard.

The first newspaper reference to a commemoration at the war memorial that I have been able to find was in November 1927, when a large crowd gathered in Market Street. That year, for the first time, the Roman Catholic congregation held a separate service in their own church.

At this time, commemorations took place only on 11<sup>th</sup> November, but other customs associated with remembrance came into being soon after the first Armistice Day. The funeral of the Unknown Soldier took place at the Cenotaph in London in 1920 and The Royal British Legion started selling poppies from 1921.

Immediately after the end of the Second World War there was debate about whether another date should be chosen. Some people felt that 11<sup>th</sup> November focused too much on the First World War, ignoring the Second. Eventually, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1945, it was announced by the Prime Minister, Clement Atlee, that henceforth, the Sunday before 11<sup>th</sup> November would be known as Remembrance Sunday, and so it has remained to this day.

**Wendy Freer**



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](mailto:editor@ashbytimes.com)  
[advertising@ashbytimes.com](mailto:advertising@ashbytimes.com)

14

# ***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 NOVEMBER

	am	pm	Wednesday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b> 3rd November		<b>3.30pm</b> All age <b>6pm</b> Evensong	1st Wednesday-6th Holy Communion 10.30am In Church
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b> 10th November	<b>9.30am</b> <b>Service for</b> <b>Remembrance</b> <b>Sunday</b>		2nd Wednesday 13th Holy Communion 10.30am Prior Park Community centre
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b> 17th November	<b>10.30 am</b> Holy Communion		3rd Wednesday-20th Morning prayer 10.30am In church
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> 24th November	<b>10.30 am</b> Holy Communion	<b>3.30pm</b> Messy Church @ Viscount Beaumont's School	4th Wednesday-27th Holy Communion 10.30am In church

### Regular activities:

- Monday mornings - Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am during term time
- Mondays - Pilgrim group
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday - PCC meeting – 7 till 9pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> 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
- 1st Saturday - Pause for Paws– 10.15-12.15 at the tower door.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY// NOVEMBER**

**SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER– SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG-  
6PM**

**SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER– REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY– 9.30AM  
AT ST HELENS**

Followed by the traditional act of remembrance at the war memorial on Market Street at 11am.

**TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER– HERITAGE TALK– 7.30PM**

‘The Bate and Kirkland families of Ashby: their lives, ancestry and descendants’ with Anthony Yates. Tickets available on the door for £4, to include light refreshments.

**FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER– 30 YEARS OF ROCK SOLID– 7.30-8PM**

‘Join Ashby Youth For Christ as we celebrate 30 years of our Friday night youth club with this open evening to share memories and enjoy games and refreshments. Please RSVP to [helen.davis@yfc.co.uk](mailto:helen.davis@yfc.co.uk), we would love to see you there.’

**SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER– ADVENT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT-  
6.30pm**

**FRIDAY 6TH– STAUNTON HAROLD CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT–  
7pm**

# 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](mailto:helen.davis@yfc.co.uk). Alternatively you can scan the QR code.*



*Thank you for all your prayers and support.*

## Rock Solid:

The coming weeks hold some excitement for members of Rock Solid with a number of events in the calendar. On Friday 29th November we will be celebrating 30 years of the club by opening our doors to past and present supporters. On the night we will share in games and refreshments as well as hearing memories from past attendees and a short talk from Neil O'Boyle, national director of Youth For Christ. We would love it if you could join us for the evening, which will run from 7-8.30pm at Ashby Baptist Church. Please RSVP to [helen.davis@yfc.co.uk](mailto:helen.davis@yfc.co.uk) if you are able to attend.

You might also like to save the date for 'Crackerteria'- our annual pop up café run by the young people of Rock Solid to raise funds for the work of Youth For Christ in Moldova. This will be taking place on Saturday 7th December, also at Ashby Baptist Church. More details to follow.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing prayer and financial support received from members of Ashby's Churches and beyond, and as we reach this milestone year, we continued to be humbled and wowed by the faithfulness of God as He continues to provide for us and bear fruit in our young people.

*'Lord, thank you for the care, courage and faithfulness of your Church in serving young people– and for those who oversee and support this work. Please direct them and encourage them. Help them to know your presence as they serve alongside you. In Jesus' name, Amen.'*

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

30

*YEARS OF  
ROCK SOLID*

FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

7:00-8.30PM

Ashby Baptist Church

JOIN US FOR THIS OPEN ROCK SOLID SESSION AS WE MARK 30 YEARS OF SERVING ASHBYS YOUNG PEOPLE, SHARING HIGHLIGHTS PAST AND PRESENT AND ENJOYING (OPTIONAL) GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS.



# St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

## Heritage Talks 2024—2025

October 1st	Gay Evans	<i>Annoying Ancestors</i>
October 29th	Rachel Askew	<i>The Anglo-Saxon Sculpture of Breedon Priory Church</i>
November 26th	Anthony Yates	<i>The Bate &amp; Kirkland families of Ashby: lives, ancestry &amp; descendants</i>
January 28th	Claire Strachan	<i>Small Things Forgotten: Churches &amp; the little stories of Parish Life in Post-medieval England</i>
February 25th	Peter Liddle	<i>Roman Villas &amp; peasant farms</i>
March 25th	Lesley Rowe	<i>Samuel Shaw (1635-1698) : Little man with a big impact</i>

*Tuesdays at 7.30 pm / £4 including light refreshments*

*Tickets available on the door*



Facebook.com/sthelenschurch



Instagram.com/sthelenschurchandheritage

Website: [www.sthelensashby.net](http://www.sthelensashby.net)





# 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](mailto:pwin2457@gmail.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](mailto:jane.clayton@btinternet.com)

# ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE

Let's try to find some animals named in the bible.

There's Noah's Ark, with the animals going in two by two. Lots of children's books have pictures of the animals in this endearing story. What animals? We imagine a list including the likes of elephants, lions, and giraffes. But the Genesis story has only two, the raven and the dove. Where else can we look?

The Crib! The birth of Jesus! Surely there are lots of farm animals near the manger, like the goat, sheep, lamb, cow, camel, hen, goose, and perhaps a mouse? Sorry, no animals are mentioned. Not even a donkey for Mary to ride, but it helps the song to clip-clop along. What else?

As the bible's a big book, you'd expect to find lots of animals. And indeed there are, such as the antelope in Isaiah 51:20. Unfortunately it's been caught in a net. The lion is in Isaiah 65:25, but it's eating straw! I cannot cope with that, and neither could the lion. Even a pre-school child would query it. We see a leopard in Isaiah 11:6, where it's lying down with a goat. We are not told how nervous the goat is. Possibly it has no fear if the verse is metaphorical. All relax.

In passing, you will have noticed Isaiah is doing very well with his animal quotes, and that's a good feature of the whole bible – there are hundreds of vivid images, graphic descriptions, and cracking yarns. Now here's a verse you will never tell your children, Isaiah 11:8,

'The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand in the viper's net.' Or maybe not. Not my child, or anyone else's. Health and safety. Child protection.

At this point you'll be wanting me to say something about the lamb and the dove. The lamb is often written Lamb, meaning Jesus, the Lamb of God. The dove represents the Holy Spirit, as in Matthew's gospel, chapter 3. As the Lamb and the Dove are a topic in themselves, perhaps we'll discuss them another day. Back to the rest of the animals.

How about Leviticus? In chapter 11 we have a huge list, a veritable hoard. Cow, camel, rock badger, hare, pig, eagle, vulture, kite, white owl, horned owl, desert owl, little owl, pelican, stork, heron, hoopoe, bat, rabbit, gull, cormorant, osprey, cricket, cicada, grass-hopper, locust, weasel, great lizard,



wall lizard, monitor lizard, gecko, chameleon, rat. Not tried to put them in any order, and have used several translations.

Is Leviticus an animal lover? Possibly, but it seems a lot of these animals were classed as unclean, and certain rules applied if you touched them.

To the best of my knowledge, Christians are not too bothered nowadays by Leviticus. The rules that is. We like all animals and try to give them good habitats to save them from extinction. Also, most of us disapprove of sacrificing animals. We wince when an animal is being sacrificed in the Old Testament. Well, I do anyway.

Is there a hedgehog in the bible? Depends which version you are reading.

'I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,' declares the Lord of hosts, Isaiah 14:23.

Sadly, our pew bible has no hedgehogs in it. The original word is quippoz, which is not always translated as hedgehog. This proves how interesting a book the bible is. Different versions may say slightly different things. Bible nerds are in their element. Move on.

I was intending to have a review of the beasts and monsters of the bible, but they might frighten the children. What about different coloured horses? Of course, we're in Revelation, and the famous four horses of the apocalypse. They suddenly appear when the Lamb opens the scrolls in chapter 6. There's a white horse, a fiery red one, a black horse, and a pale green horse.

The last one may be just a pale horse, which sounds harmless enough. Wrong! Its rider is Death, with Hades following close behind. Not ideal for an 'Open the Book' bible storytelling at school, as promoted by the Bible Society. On the other hand, the children might love it, when dramatized by the volunteers. The end is near.

Hope you enjoyed this short tour of some of the animals we find in the Bible. Keep looking for more.

PS: I've just found an ant in my bible, but not a wasp.

**Richard Vann**

# GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Although November tends to be about woolly jumpers, hot drinks and cosy movie nights, there is still plenty to do in the garden. It is an ideal time to clear up, review planting schemes and tackle any weeds as well as planting Winter flowers, bulbs, vegetables and fruit trees.

It is well known that good Physical and Mental Wellbeing has strong links to gardening.

The Winter months can also be a challenging time for animals, so being prepared to support local wildlife, including birds and hedgehogs, can really make a difference. They need to stay warm and well-fed to survive and this can be a real struggle. Hedgehogs go into hibernation anytime between

October and December depending on how mild the temperature is. To prepare for this they often start eating more and building a nest. You should consider installing a hedgehog house in your garden, and providing them with food as long as they are eating it.

Birds usually eat more to build up fat reserves (as we know from our nuts and seeds which seem to be disappearing very quickly) and find somewhere to roost during the colder months. You could add bird boxes to your garden to give them a home for the Winter and you could also install a bird feeder and provide them with high fat foods like sunflower seeds, peanuts and mealworm fat balls. Birds need water for drinking and bathing so give them a fresh supply of clean water in a birdbath.

Continue to rake up the leaves from lawns, ponds and other areas in the garden – it seems to be a never-ending job! Decomposition of leaves and plants in a pond will raise the Nitrate levels and so reduce the oxygen which is not good for the fish and other pond creatures. As mentioned before, it is worth saving the leaves to make leaf mould.

November is a good time to plant tulip bulbs in the ground or in pots. Plant 2/3 times the depth of the bulb in light soil. If your soil is heavy then add grit to improve drainage as the bulbs do not like to sit in water.



Hardy bedding plants, such as Pansies, Violas, Cyclamens, Primroses and Heathers are great tolerating our frosty British Winter and will provide lovely colour, even when it's miserable outside. Winter berries encourage birds to visit your garden. Particularly suitable shrubs include variegated Holly, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and Berberis.

It is recommended that you cover your vegetable beds with well-rotted organic matter if leaving them empty over Winter. It will break down in the cold weather to release its valuable nutrients that will improve fertility and soil structure.

However, you can sow first Early Peas, Onions, Garlic and Broad Beans this month. Consider adding fairy lights and garden ornaments to your garden. We have added many sets as they are battery operated, remote controlled and inexpensive. It is lovely to wrap up, take a walk outside on a cold Winter's evening and enjoy your garden.

**Alan and Alison Cross**

## **A TIME TO REMEMBER**



Grateful thanks to everyone who supported last month's time to remember service, and to the choir for the reflective music which accompanied the lighting of candles. We continue the remembrance theme this month as we mark remembrance Sunday— why not pop by to see the poppy display pictured on the cover of this edition?

# WHY WE SHOULD BE SCARED OF THE FAR RIGHT

*The following article from Martin forms part of a series exploring the importance of how we interact with the political system as Christians. The views expressed in this article are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the whole church.*

In my last article I talked about the philosophies of the left and right wings of politics.

This month I want to look at the “far right”. There is no clear boundary of where this becomes distinct from mainstream Conservatism, but the further to the right you go, the more likely you are to find extreme nationalism, xenophobia, homophobia, white supremacy, racism, and religious fundamentalism. Because most people would not normally support these characteristics, then they tend to be accompanied by authoritarian leaders, control of the mass media and vigorous suppression of any opposition.

The average person in the pew today might think, “well we’ll never vote for a party like that, there’s no danger of such views taking hold”. But if you look at events between the first and second World Wars in Italy and Germany, then you had a situation where people felt that the democratic process had let them down - that they had no power over the way they were governed. In such situations, individuals seeking power can take advantage of people’s despair. They promise strong government, economic stability and to make their country great again. They will often have scapegoats to blame for their current situation. Unfortunately, once in power their policies tend to do the opposite of what was promised.

Mussolini was voted into power on a promise to recreate the glories of the Roman Empire (imagine red baseball caps with “Make Italy Great Again”!). Hitler convinced the German voters of the Arian supremacy theory and told them Jews were responsible for their economic and social mess.

People who lived through the Second World War and who had seen first hand what fascist leaders could do, were very careful not to let the far

right anywhere near power for many decades. The political leaders of many nations sat down and talked about how to prevent a recurrence of the economic depression which had resulted in the despair that allowed the far right to flourish in the 1930s. The thirty years following the end of the Second World War saw the greatest improvements in overall living standards, health and education, for the average family in the whole of human history.

Today however, the collective memories of war and fascism amongst the population have faded. Lawyers and politicians to the right of the spectrum found ways to circumvent the international treaties that had led to the increase in general prosperity. The pursuit of individual wealth and acquisition of material goods became the dominant ideology at the expense of social welfare and infrastructure. BUT, since the 1980s, and more so in the last twenty years this ideology has failed the average citizen and the assumption that each new generation would be better off than their parents is now no longer true. Wages, adjusted for inflation, have hardly risen in the last twenty years. The proportion of younger people on a middle income who own their own home has fallen from 65% to 27% in the last thirty years.

This disillusionment with the political system has been manifest in a definite shift to the right in the proportion of people voting for far right parties. Their leaders, like Trump or Farage, promise a return to a former (unspecified) golden age. They say they will break free from the traditional political elites and bring prosperity for the average citizen. This sounds very attractive to those who feel betrayed by politicians and democracy. These leaders play on fears about immigration, support nationalism, and subtly encourage racial and religious intolerance. They also muddy the waters with the deliberate spreading of conspiracy theories so it becomes harder for voters to decide what is true and what is not.

However history teaches us that out of far right political views can emerge authoritarian leaders who cling to power, erode democracy and suppress any dissent. Don't like my politics - have some Novichok on your door handle, a prolonged stay in a "re-education facility", or Polonium in

your tea.

To return to the Christian foundations of our values / ethics / morals. Where would Christ stand in all of this? If we are called to follow Him, then what should our response be when Farage makes subtle innuendoes that the Southport stabbings were a terrorist incident and that the truth was being withheld from the public ( when the Police had already stated clearly that the attack was not terrorist related) ?

As Paul writes, put on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and be very aware of the tactics that the far right use to gain support. Don't be seduced !!

Next time - why has the current economic system failed the average citizen? Let me introduce you to the concept of Neoliberalism.

**Martin Vaughan**

**villair**

## **Independent Travel Consultants**

*Specialist in*

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

*Pop in and see us at*

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

**Tel 01530 413055** e mail: [enquiries@villair.com](mailto:enquiries@villair.com)



# St Helen's Church & Heritage Centre

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE651AA



We're In  
Stitches

It's 'knit & natter' but so much more ... including crochet, embroidery, sewing, weaving  
Bring your own textile project All welcome (over 18s please)

Get together with like minded textile enthusiasts Drop in & chat, exchange advice, tips and ideas

In the lovely Hastings Hall at the Heritage Centre

**On the First Wednesday of the month 2pm - 4pm**

Tea and coffee available



Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch

Email: [sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)

Website: [sthelensashby.net](http://sthelensashby.net)







**JP SPRINGTHORPE & C<sup>o</sup>**

## Funeral Directors

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

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

**Under the personal supervision of John Springthorpe**

*Quotations given*

**Telephone: 01530 417310 anytime**



## St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

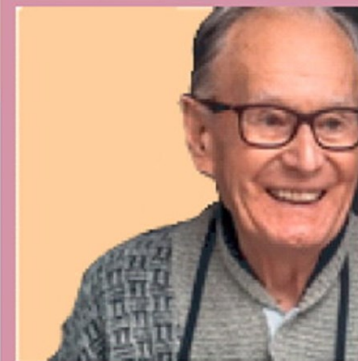
Every  
Friday

# HEART WARMING SPACE

2 pm  
to  
4 pm



Tea  
Cake  
Chat



No  
Charge

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



[facebook.com/stheleasheritage](https://facebook.com/stheleasheritage)



[instagram.com/stheleasheritage](https://instagram.com/stheleasheritage)



[www.stheleasashby.net](http://www.stheleasashby.net)





St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

On the first Saturday of every month:

# Pause for Paws



Drop in on  
1st Saturday of the month  
between 10:15 & 12:15  
at St Helen's church  
(west door of the church)  
Refreshments will be provided

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AA



[Facebook.com/sthelensheritage](https://www.facebook.com/sthelensheritage)



[instagram.com/sthelensheritage](https://www.instagram.com/sthelensheritage)



[www.sthelensashby.net](http://www.sthelensashby.net)



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