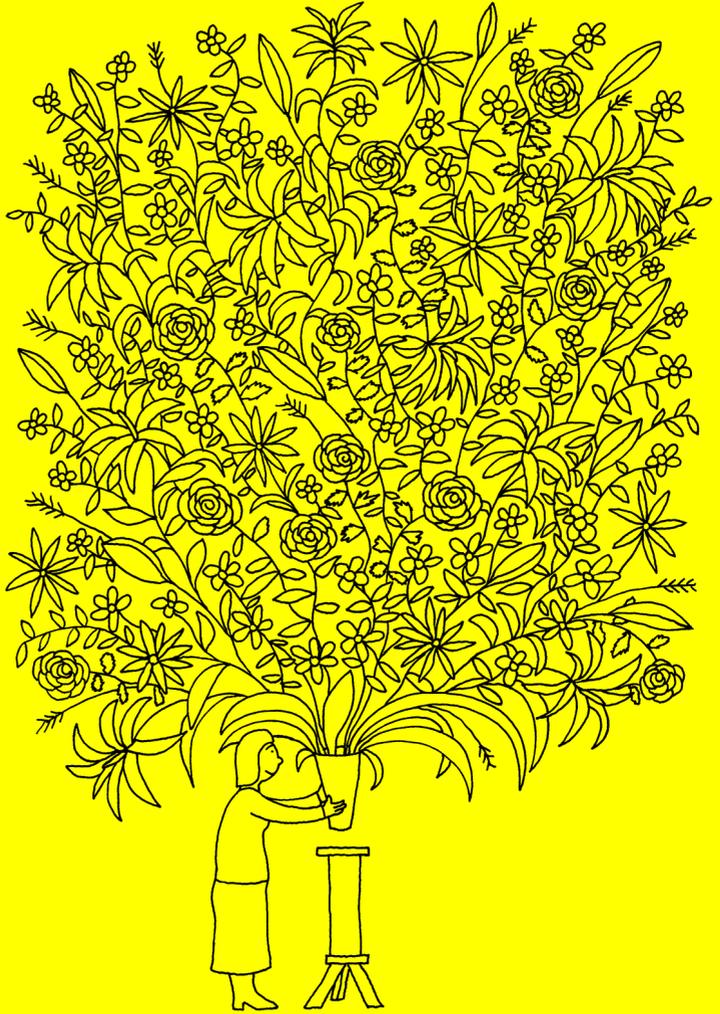


# St Helen's Magazine

February 2023

50p

FLOWER ARRANGING



CartoonChurch.com

St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Parish Directory

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

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SAFEGUARDING	Elizabeth Smith	07941 935887
SERVERS	Eileen Barradel	838029
SOUND SYSTEM	Simon Starkey	415718
STREET PASTORS CONTACT	Chris Lewis	07828 463368

## St Helen's Church contact details:

Parish office: ♦sthelensashby@gmail.com

♦01530 411607

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

♦Opening times Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm

♦ Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch

♦ Instagram:

♦ Twitter: @sthelensashby

♦ Website: www.sthelensashby.net

## Giving

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

## Editor Writes ...

I realise when I contemplate big numbers that I don't have any intuitive sense of how much bigger say one billion is than one million. So, I have to pin it down – when the latest chancellor is talking about millions and billions of pounds I try to make it concrete - my way to do this is to remember that a million seconds is equal to eleven days, whilst a billion seconds is 31.5 years. Even then I'm not sure I can think of that many pounds.



If I struggle with the kind of large numbers that are everyday large numbers - how much more so do I struggle with preposterously large numbers? The naming of new units for really, really big quantities was discussed at the General Conference on Weights and Measures in Versailles last November, and experts decided to adopt four new prefixes with immediate effect. At the top end of the scale is ronna, which stands for a billion billion billion, and quetta, which is a thousand times larger still.

The Earth can now be said to weigh six ronnagrams, and Jupiter about two quettagrams. Remember that for the next pub quiz.

At the bottom end is ronto, meaning a billionth of a billionth of a billionth, and quecto, which is a thousand times smaller than that. An electron weighs about a rontogram, and a single bit of data stored on a mobile phone adds about 10 quectograms to its mass. Meanwhile, my understanding of such things can be measured in quecto-insey-wincey-teeny-weeny micro-tads.

Allegedly, some of the suggested names which didn't make it included bronto and hella, not because of their jokiness but because the chosen prefixes start with the only two letters left in the alphabet that are not already used in measurement. Thus bronto was eliminated because b is already used for bytes and hella because h is for hecto. Thankfully this decision process didn't include input from the British public, so we haven't ended up with any units called Bytey McByte-face.

Over the page Elizabeth Smith has been counting the days, pennies are being counted in the Ashby Workhouse on page 16, whilst the MU are hoping to be counting their subs - see page 19. Asylum Seekers are counting the costs of decisions not in their own hands on page 21, and AYFC are counting blessings on page 13.

*Jill Chapman*

A decorative graphic consisting of three solid black circles of different sizes, arranged in a small cluster.

# Elizabeth Smith Writes ...



## Hello February (Goodbye January)

It is interesting the different ways we view aspects of our lives which are common to us all, whoever we are and wherever in this world we live. Since 1582 the Gregorian calendar has been adopted with twelve months for each year. This is universal and the greater majority of countries begin each new year with January. The church year, as we know, begins in December (Advent).

January has always been a special month for me, being the month within which my birthday falls. As a child it was a month of expectation, with the agony of waiting ... and having to get through the weeks that led up to my birth date. Now – it always seems to creep up on me unaware and I often view it as a “mixed blessing”

January for many people is a month of laboured waiting, not for a birthday, that was the *wait* in December – with the expectation of Christmas, and the expectation of the birth of Jesus. The waiting for many people in January is for it to be over!

People will often remark that January seems a very long month and appears to have more days in it than other months of 31 days. It seems a struggle. We are all aware of the struggles in the world this January and the struggles of people all around us. And our individual struggles.

Despite all this, there is hope! The birds are beginning to sing, the days are getting longer, and the sun is showing its face and bringing new light.

I have been reminded of the hymn by John Keble “New every morning is the love ...” which was inspired by Lamentations 3: 22-23.



“Because of the LORD’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning”

See If you can take some of this into February

***New mercies, each returning day,  
Hover around us while we pray;  
New perils past, new sins forgiven,  
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.***

Welcome to February and I hope it brings with it new light - new hope and the promise of God's unconditional compassions that never fail.

**Liz Smith**

## And 3 Years on ...

In the centre pages of the magazine where I endeavour, with varied amounts of success, to include a full list of dates and times of services and information on other events in the church diary, there is a significant change this month - the asterisks next to some of the services are missing as is the explanation:



\* - denotes services at St Helen's which are streamed live to Facebook, on the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page, and later on the website - [www.sthelensashby.net](http://www.sthelensashby.net)

We first began live-streaming services almost as soon as the first Covid19 lockdown was introduced in March 2020. On 17<sup>th</sup> March, the Archbishop of Canterbury announced that all public worship would be suspended. Revd Mary and our Worship Team immediately set up a pattern of worship: Every morning Prayer for the Day was posted on the 'St Helen's Church Ashby de la Zouch' Facebook page at around 8am, and every evening Night Prayer (Compline) was streamed live on Facebook at 9pm; and Wednesday and



Sunday services were streamed live on Facebook, not from church but from contributors homes (or gardens.) Recordings of all services were made available on the St Helen's website, as were orders of service which were also emailed out from the 'virtual' Parish office.

And it worked! One of the biggest challenges was how those within the congregation without computers could take part, but people soon buddied up to allow wider participation. And music was made possible by four members of the choir working hard every week recording themselves singing hymns, psalms, communion settings and anthems etc, to be cleverly melded into a unified sound. Over time what we did evolved, services moving to the Flagstaff Facebook page, and sometimes including some clever stuff on Zoom. We even managed a full nine-lessons-and-carols carol service video.

When church re-opened there were still on-line participants who appreciated the inclusion that live-streaming allowed them, and our PCC should be congratulated on how carefully and empathetically they have addressed the decision to cease live-streaming.

**Jill Chapman**



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

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## How the Light Comes by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes.  
What I know  
is that it is more ancient  
than imagining.

That it travels  
across an astounding expanse  
to reach us.

That it loves  
searching out what is hidden,  
what is lost,  
what is forgotten  
or in peril  
or in pain.

That it has a fondness  
for the body,  
for finding its way  
toward flesh,  
for tracing the edges  
of form,  
for shining forth  
through the eye,  
the hand,  
the heart.

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes,  
but that it does.  
That it will.

That it works its way  
into the deepest dark  
that enfolds you,  
though it may seem  
long ages in coming  
or arrive in a shape you did not fore-  
see.

And so  
may we this day  
turn ourselves toward it.  
May we lift our faces  
to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies  
to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open  
and open more  
and open still  
to the blessed light  
that comes.

"How the Light Comes" from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons* Jan Richardson. Used by permission. [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)

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Notice board



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## HERITAGE TALKS 2022 –23

Dr Rachel Askew

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

# Catholic Resistance & Subterfuge at Breedon

Rachel is the Heritage Officer at Breedon Priory Church, and will explore the church's 16th and 17th century monuments, and consider how the Shirley family were able to flaunt their Catholic faith in a fervently Protestant era

£3 including light refreshments  
Tickets on the door



Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch  
Website: [www.sthelensashby.net](http://www.sthelensashby.net)  
Email: [sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)



LOTTERY FUNDED



This half-term at St Helen's



## Discover Arts Award 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'

We are excited to offer this workshop for KS1 and KS2 children, based around Eric Carle's classic book, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and using recycled textiles.

There will be:

- A treasure hunt to find examples of different art forms.
- An opportunity to find out more about Eric Carle
- A workshop to create a picture of your own caterpillar/ butterfly

At the end of the workshop we will share our pictures and create a temporary display at St Helen's.

★ Every participant will receive a Discover Arts Award ★

The workshop is limited to 25 children, so book soon to avoid disappointment. All children need to attend for the entire workshop and we ask a parent/ carer to stay.

You can book/pay using the secure form on the website [www.sthelensashby.net/Articles/653792/Childrens\\_Hungry\\_Caterpillar.aspx](http://www.sthelensashby.net/Articles/653792/Childrens_Hungry_Caterpillar.aspx)



£6 per child, which includes a drink & biscuit  
& a certificate from Discover Arts

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am-12pm



Facebook.com/sthelensheritage



instagram.com/sthelensheritage



www.sthelensashby.net



Heritage Lottery Fund

## February Gardening Tips

A very cold end to January will certainly influence the outside jobs for February. The January Gardening Tips will continue into February with some new additions.

There are some jobs that can be done as the days become lighter and longer. Think about sowing early seeds under glass but with some heat and light. It is essential to create a warm environment for germination and for the early stages of the seedling's growth. Nowadays, few gardeners can afford the luxury of a heated greenhouse which means that the seed trays need to be brought into the porch, unheated conservatory and/or window sills. Place the seeds in a sealed propagator to create a warm atmosphere which will not dry out. Remove the lids once the seedlings are established. Obviously, keep the unsealed propagator frost free and turn them around regularly to get an even exposure to light.

Aubergines, Beetroot, Chillies, Garlic, Onions, Broad Beans, Lettuce, Rocket and Tomatoes can be started early. Popular garden plants including Antirrhinum, Calendula, Cornflower, French Marigolds, Nigella, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Scabious, Sweet Peas and Zinnia can also be started early. Leave more tender vegetable plants such as Courgette and Cucumber until later.

Strawberries are hardy perennials so they will look a bit tired at this time of year. This is a good time to remove the old brown foliage to encourage fresh growth and let in more light. For an early crop put them under a cloche in late February, but don't forget to water.

Most fruit trees are very hardy but, once they start



to grow, the buds are especially vulnerable to frost and will need protection.

Prune hardy evergreen hedges and remove overgrown deciduous hedges. Also, cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter and remove dead grass from evergreen grasses.

February is a good month to remove algae from paths and patios, especially if they start to become slippery. If we get snow, gently remove it from greenhouses and conservatories to prevent damage to the glass and allow good light penetration.

Finally, garden contractors are likely to be less busy before March and may therefore be available for major jobs such as paving, fence building and pond digging. If you are really handy then make a cold frame as they are becoming very expensive to buy. You can find out how to do this by Googling, "How to Make a Cold Frame Step by Step". There is also plenty of other guidance on YouTube.

Just a reminder about the ice out there! Wear suitable footwear and warm clothing at all times – BE SAFE!

Alan Cross



## Introducing Sew It Don't Throw It

**W**e've all got clothes that we don't wear – maybe because they need repairing, they don't fit well or we're just a bit fed up with them. Fast fashion means that more people are buying more clothes but wearing them less – leaving many garments languishing in cupboards and drawers, being thrown away, or donated to charity shops.

We're excited to launch a new St Helen's eco-project helping our local community to reduce the number of unworn garments and the amount of

textiles going into landfill.

We want to start to change the view that clothing is 'disposable' and encourage people to repair and alter so that items can be worn for longer and not add to household waste, to encourage people to reuse what they already have, and to recycle garments into something else.

This project has been made possible by funding from Leicestershire County Council through the Shires Environmental Grant Scheme which will enable

us to buy the equipment needed so that everyone can take part. It will initially run through the spring, summer and autumn of this year and will be delivered by three retired textile tutors.

They will be running a series of workshops including using a sewing machine, different types of mending, decorative repairs, alterations, refashioning garments, repurposing garments, making home furnishings and gifts, and making

fabrics from scraps - in fact just about anything that can be done with unwanted fabric. People can attend one, a few, or all of the sessions and they are free. A variety of skills and techniques will be taught that can be taken away to reuse and recycle garments in the future.

There'll be lots of things going on in





addition to the workshops – events, talks, and school holiday activities for families. The sessions will be fun and social and participants will become peer support networks encouraging each other to put the learning into practice. We're already aware of the wellbeing benefits of being creative so taking time out to make

things and to be with others can be good for you, while making a commitment to reuse and recycle and to encourage others to do the same will be good for our communities and the planet.



So how can you get involved?

- Please do get involved in the activities and workshops that are coming up – they are for everyone so tell your friends and neighbours too
- If there is a sewing skill you would like to learn then let us know
- Tell us about any unwanted textiles or sundries that you have – we might be able to use them
- Sign up to be a volunteer – we will need people to help with the workshops (setting up and clearing away the equipment, and supporting the workshop leader)
  - Help to promote the project
  - Help us to gather feedback and comments



To learn more come to the Sew It Don't Throw It Open Day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March or speak to Jill Chapman or me.

**Helen Smith**

Ashby Youth For Christ Registered Charity No: 1058434



**Ashby  
YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST**

**AGM 2023**

**W**e would like to invite our supporters to join us for our AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, at Ashby Methodist Church. We will be sharing news and stories about how we have seen God working in the lives of young people across Ashby over the last twelve months.

We would also like to take the time to thank those who support us faithfully, whether through prayer, volunteering, or financial giving.

The last twelve months have had many challenges however we have seen God moving throughout and believe that God has amazing plans for the work with young people in Ashby.

# Our Worship in February

Week	8.30am	10.30am	pm
Sunday <b>1</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>St Helen's</b> Holy Communion		<b>3.30pm</b> <b>St Helen's</b> All-Age Worship <b>6.00pm</b> <b>St Helen's</b> Evensong
Sunday <b>2</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb		<b>St Helen's</b> Holy Communion	<b>12.30pm</b> <b>St Helen's</b> Baptisms
Sunday <b>3</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb		<b>St Helen's</b> Morning Prayer- Word & Worship	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb			<b>7.30pm</b> <b>St Helen's</b> Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
Sunday <b>4</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb		<b>St Helen's</b> Holy Communion	

## Our usual pattern for services:

- Sundays
  - First Sunday of the month -  
8.30am Holy Communion  
3.30pm All-Age  
6pm Choral Evensong
  - Second & Fourth Sundays of the month -  
10.30am Holy Communion
  - Third Sunday of the month -  
10.30am Service of the Word
- Wednesdays - Holy Communion - 10.30am
  - First Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion - in church
  - Second Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion -  
at Prior Park Community Centre
  - Third Wednesday of the month - Service of the Word - in church
- Saturdays - Parish Prayers - 9.30am in church (Hastings chapel)

## Regular activities:

Monday mornings, term time

Mondays

First Tuesday of the month

Third Tuesday of the month

Third Tuesday of the month

Fourth Tuesday of the month

(October to March only)

First Wednesday of the month

Thursdays

– Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am

– Monday Group - 8pm

– MU meeting 7pm - 9.30pm

– MU branch meeting 10am - 12.30pm

– PCC meeting 7 - 9.30pm

– Heritage lectures 7pm - 9.30pm

– ‘We’re In Stitches’ Knit & natter 2 - 4pm

– Choir practice 6.30-8.30

## February Diary

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	2 - 4pm	‘We’re in Stitches’ knit & natter group
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	3.30pm	Eco group
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Mothers Union meeting
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	5pm	Priest Room Gang
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30—noon	Half Term children’s activity: see page 9
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	Mother’s Union Pancake Lunch
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	EAT - Events & Activities Team meeting
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Heritage Talk

## God’s Will For You Pie Chart

**ALWAYS**  
CONTINUALLY  
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

- WHEN YOU SHOULD BE JOYFUL
- WHEN YOU SHOULD PRAY
- WHEN YOU SHOULD GIVE THANKS

## A story from the archives of Ashby Workhouse

It would have been a cold day in late November 1838 when Elizabeth Moon stumbled out into the streets of her home village, Snarestone, determined to find Mr Usherwood, the Relieving Officer, to ask for help. Her husband had deserted her and she had a new baby son, James, to feed, so she was hopeful that the Parish would grant her “outdoor relief”, some bread and a little money to see her family through the next few days. She knew of other women in similar straits who had been helped in this way, but she was to be disappointed. Mr Usherwood could only offer her “the house”, the dreaded workhouse in Ashby de la Zouch. Was Mr Usherwood a cruel, unfeeling man with no sympathy for the poor and wretched? Probably not, but he must have seen many cases like this and he would be under strict instructions not to allow parish relief lightly. Did he suspect that Elizabeth’s husband, James, had not in fact deserted her, but was hiding in their hovel or scouring the countryside looking for labouring work? Whatever his reasons, he was unable to offer any help other than the workhouse, and Elizabeth wanted none of that. She had entered the Ashby workhouse just a few days before, on 26<sup>th</sup> November, with her baby, and found it not to her liking. She had stuck it for two days and then left by her own request, determined not to go back. A hawker by trade, she would have to eke out a living as best she could through the bitter winter to come.

Unlike some of the regulars at the Ashby workhouse, Elizabeth was a determined woman and she did not trouble the Poor Law authorities again until the following winter. Desperate and pregnant, on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1839, she found herself with no alternative but to seek refuge in the workhouse. This time she was alone, no infant James accompanied her, and he was never mentioned again. Perhaps the intervening months had dimmed her memory of just how unpleasant it was in “the house”, but she was soon reminded. She stayed for a week and then asked to leave, deciding to face whatever the outside world and the bitter winter to come would throw at her. But she was heavily pregnant (apparently her husband was around somewhere then!) and she couldn’t hold out for long. After what must have been a mean and miserable Christmas, she came into the workhouse again on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Her daughter, Mary Ann, was born three days later.

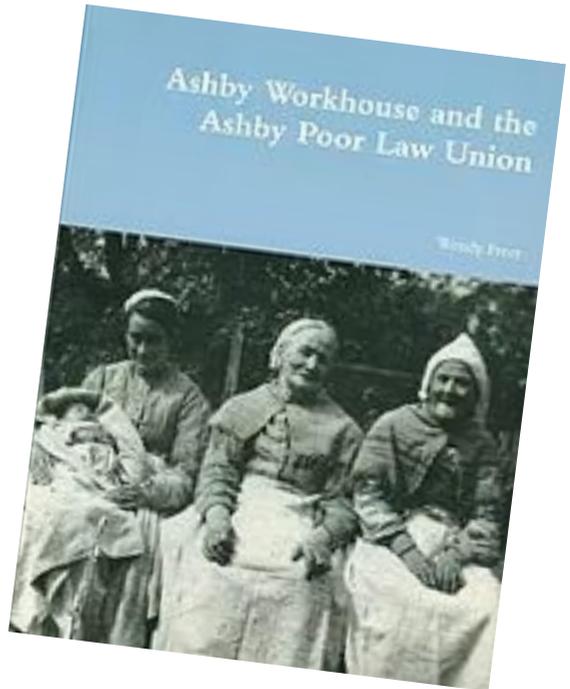
Elizabeth would probably have found quite a few familiar faces in the workhouse that January. Many of the poor and destitute of Ashby and the surrounding parishes came into the workhouse on a regular basis, stayed a few days or weeks and then left, only to return again when they could no longer manage on the outside. The day after the birth of her daughter, Bateman Sadington made one of his regular appearances. Described as a violent lunatic of “bad behaviour”, he probably wasn’t a very welcome sight either to the inmates or the staff. This 38 year old former servant from

Appleby was in and out of the workhouse every few days in those early months of 1840 until he was sent to the lunatic asylum in Leicester in April.

Elizabeth can't have had very great hopes that her new baby would survive. It looks very much as though her son had died before his first or second birthday and it was likely that the same would happen to Mary Ann. Single girls often came into the workhouse pregnant or with small babies. The children usually died within a very short time. But perhaps Mary Ann had inherited some of her mother's determination because she was more lucky than most. Having survived until 4<sup>th</sup> February 1840, her mother must have felt that she had a reasonable chance of making it in the outside world, and they both left the house that day at Elizabeth's request.

Elizabeth did not return to the workhouse. She probably returned to her husband, James, because we find all three of them living together in a Wood Yard in New Street, Burton upon Trent in 1841. The only other trace to be found in the available records is in the 1861 Census when James and Elizabeth were living in a lodging house in Chesterfield. James had found work as an ironstone labourer and Elizabeth had given birth to two more children, Margaret, then aged 18 and Thomas aged 14. Mary Ann was gone, perhaps married with a child of her own or dead, another victim of the harsh world of Victorian England in the mid 19th century.

This is just one of the many personal stories it is possible to piece together from the fragmentary records in the County Record Office. I spent many months researching the history of the Ashby Workhouse and the poor people of the town and surrounding parishes. The results of my research were published in a book in 2012, *Ashby de la Zouch Workhouse and the Ashby Poor Law Union*, which is still available in the Museum shop



**Wendy Freer**



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# Mothers' UNION

## Christian care for families

Our first MU monthly meeting for 2023 was our AGM on 17th January, the icy weather did lower the numbers attending, but it was lovely to see the members that were able to join us.

After our short service we commenced with the re-election of the Committee members. After many years as our Treasurer, Eileen Barradell is taking a well earned break & Lyn Price has taken over this role. We thanked Eileen for her long years of service, keeping our finances & donations on track, and we are pleased that Eileen is continuing on our committee.

Annual subscriptions, these are now due by the end of January, & please contact Lyn if you have any query. Eileen kindly sent all members an email, this advised the various ways to pay & included the bank account details for those

who wish to pay by bank transfer. Looking ahead to our February meetings, the evening group MU2, will meet on 7th February at 19.30 in the Heritage Centre & will have a Craft Evening.

21<sup>st</sup> February at noon, in the Heritage Centre the day group will again hold its Pancake Lunch. This is an open meeting for friends, relatives & the wider church community. The lunch consists of savoury & sweet pancakes. If you would like to join us please give your details to Eileen Barradell. This lunch is a fund raiser for St Helen's MU, so that we can continue to purchase and give a Bible to each Bride & Groom during the wedding service on their special day.

### Prayer:

Almighty Lord, thank you that we are joined together in unity through the love of Christ. Strengthen our bonds of worship and service that together we may share your love with those you bring into our lives. Amen



Adrienne Sedgman

Chris Lewis

Counsellor / Psychotherapist

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# Loughborough Town of Sanctuary update



Last time I wrote, I looked at the possibility that the 'regulars' at our English conversation sessions might be moved on at short notice and you will remember that Basim's (not his real name) persistence and resilience had earned him a place at Loughborough College.

Two weeks ago, we heard that he and his friends were to be moved within a few days to other cities and that their hotel was soon to house families – also subject to being moved on from elsewhere, with very little notice.

Some of Basim's friends have now been moved to Liverpool, but we were relieved to hear that he had been moved to Leicester. Asylum seekers at his stage of the process are not allowed to work in order to support themselves, but in addition to being housed and fed are given £8.24p per week for other living expenses. This wasn't enough to cover one return bus fare from Leicester - and Basim wanted to continue both his course at Loughborough College and his attendance at our English conversation sessions (on two different days). So our funds have helped out - and so far, Basim has been able to attend. He is seeking new opportunities in Leicester and we have been in touch with Leicester City of Sanctuary, so we hope they will be able to support him and his colleagues. Our friends at the Salvation Army are



also in touch with their counterparts in the relevant cities, who plan to welcome and support the new arrivals.

A good number of asylum seekers housed at the other hotel continue to work on their English with us, and we are now making preparations to support the new family arrivals. When those plans are properly formulated, I may be asking for your support in

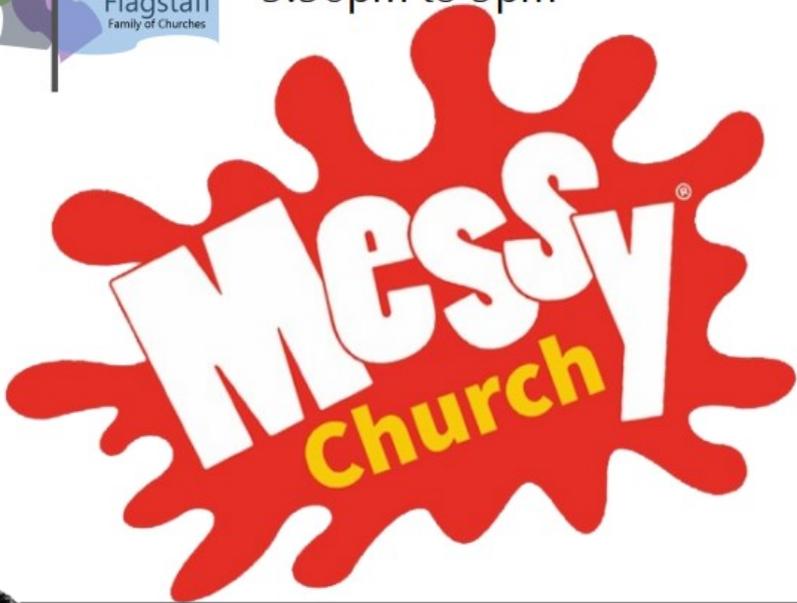
one way or another! So watch this space!!

Meanwhile, 'Meeting and greeting' asylum seekers at a different stage in the system at the immigration Centre continues, so your kindly donated hats, scarves and gloves continue to be appreciated! THANK YOU!

**Pat Stafford**



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month  
3.30pm to 5pm



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## From the Albums

We held a flower arranging workshop ...



... and Messy Church told the story of Joseph and his multi-coloured coat.



## A Sonnet for St. Valentine

by Malcolm Guite

**W**hy should this martyr be the saint of love?  
A quiet man of unexpected courage,  
A celibate who celebrated marriage,  
An ageing priest with nothing left to prove,  
He loved the young and made their plight his cause.  
He called for fruitfulness, not waste in wars,  
He found a sure foundation, stood his ground,  
And gave his life to guard the love he'd found.

Why should this martyr be our Valentine?  
Perhaps because he kept his covenant,  
Perhaps because, with prayer still resonant,  
He pledged the Bridegroom's love in holy wine,  
Perhaps because the echo of his name  
Can kindle love again to living flame.

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# Quotes for the Month

'Caring goes to the heart of what it means to be human. It is hard, but it can also be the most life-giving thing we ever do. It comes back to that essential lesson: we need each other.'  
*Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year message, ahead of CofE report on social care, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>*

'The angel told Joseph to flee to Egypt to save Jesus' life - and we see the Holy Family in each family fleeing Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia. God is present in those most marginalised.'  
*Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Falkland Islands, Twitter, January 1<sup>st</sup>*

'While we are waiting for God's intervention, God is waiting for our collaboration.'  
*John Dominic Crossan quoted by Progressive Christianity.org, January 2<sup>nd</sup>*

'For me, one of the most theologically damaging things humanity has done was in anthropomorphizing God.'  
*Revd Mark Sandlin, Facebook, January 5<sup>th</sup>*

'God is quite capable of speaking to the churches from outside them.'  
*Rt Revd Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester, open letter, [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/), Jan 9<sup>th</sup>*

'I can only hope you are wrong as often as I am ... so that you might know deeply this grace of God which makes all things new.'  
*Nadia Bolz-Weber from The Corners, January 9<sup>th</sup>*

'[It is] time to take action to address our shameful past.'  
*Archbishop Welby on Church Commissioners' slavery links report, BBC News, January 10<sup>th</sup>*

'Put on a little circle of plastic around your neck, & the person gets obliterated by the parson'  
*Revd Giles Fraser, My Prince Harry Moment, Unherd blog, January 12<sup>th</sup>*

'You cannot go forward for ordination ... if you don't go along with affirming two contradictory principles: that, one, women are fully accepted as priests; and, two, that it is all right to believe they are not.'  
*Revd Martine Osborne, The Guardian, January 14<sup>th</sup>*

'In the love we show in this world, in loving with tenderness, we will discover that every day and every thing bears with it a fragment of the mystery of God.'  
*Pope Francis, Twitter, January 16<sup>th</sup>*

'Synod is not a good place to be when the stakes are high.'  
*Revd Neil Patterson & Prof Helen King, Rediscovering the Middle Ground blog, January 21<sup>st</sup>*

'We are all to be made 'fishers of men' – and of women too of course – as we follow in the footsteps of the apostles. We won't catch many fish if we're too busy fighting each other on the shore.'  
*Fr Stephen Brown SSC's sermon, January 22<sup>nd</sup>*

'Step back. I have a mustard seed and I'm not afraid to use it.'  
*Sad Jesus Facebook page, January 23<sup>rd</sup>*

'Blessing a marriage which we will not celebrate puts the church in a position of theological nonsense.'  
*Revd Ruth Harley, Rediscovering the Middle Ground blog, January 24<sup>th</sup>*

'Stop looking for a perfect church, go worship a perfect God today with a congregation of flawed people who need grace as much as you do.'  
*Sad Jesus Facebook page, January 29<sup>th</sup>*

'Justin was keen for me to see that they are moving forward, but conceded that any progress, as I would see it, if it happens at all, will be glacial.' - Sandi Toksvig  
*Ed Thornton, Church Times, January 30<sup>th</sup>*

'Christianity should look more like questions in search for answers, not answers that aren't allowed to be questioned.'  
*Revd Mike Firbank, Swadlincote Minster Facebook page, January 30<sup>th</sup>*

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## St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre



### School Holiday Workshop - 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30 - 12

A 'Discover' Arts Award Workshop for KS1 and KS2 children, based around Eric Carle's classic book



### Heritage Lecture Series - Catholic Resistance & Subterfuge at Breedon

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

Looking at the Shirley monuments, & how a family could flaunt their Catholic faith in a Protestant era



### Spring Concert series - Galliarda Choir Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

English, French & Hispanic Baroque pieces from these first class proponents of traditional music



### Launch of repair, recycle & repurpose project Sew It Don't Throw It

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am to 3.30pm

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