

WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Hello and welcome to March's parish magazine, As I write this short introduction, it is clear that spring is in the air. What a relief! Soon there will be more warmth, more light, and less de-icing of the car.

It is always an encouragement to me when there are plenty of articles to feature in the magazine, and this month I actually had to add in a few more pages to accommodate them all. What a great testament to the marvellous community we have amongst Ashby's Churches and the Flagstaff family. I hope you are also encouraged and challenged in equal measure by what you read this month.

As usual, details of all our Sunday and mid-week services are included for the month, as well as the many services and events on in Holy week. We would love for you to join us as we journey towards Easter.

With blessings for the month ahead,

Emily

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



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

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FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM

As I write, we are two weeks into the season of Lent – a word that actually comes from the word ‘lengthen’ and is a time when we see the days growing longer. There are signs of Spring developing and the long nights of winter are gradually shortening, giving way to more daylight and the chance to appreciate the beauty of God’s creation even more.



In the Flagstaff Team of churches, we are looking at the Rule of Benedict and studying a book by Esther de Waal entitled ‘Seeking God – the Rule of Benedict’ in which she introduces us to a 6th Century Rule of Life written by Benedict to guide a community of monks in their daily living. Although written initially for a community of monks, the Rule is also followed and lived out by ordinary people living everyday lives, and some of the themes of that rule are listening, obedience, change, stability, fidelity, hospitality, renewal – themes which apply as much to us in our 21st century world as they did all those hundreds of years ago. On the back cover of Esther de Waal’s book we read, ‘Whatever our circumstances, the practical and down to earth realism of St Benedict will help us to find a balance of body, mind and spirit, and enable us to become more fully human, more full of energy as we journey on the way that will bring us to God.’

Lent is an important time to reflect on our discipleship – how we worship, how we pray, how we read the Bible – and, in our hectic world and lives, developing some kind of Rule of Life has become really important for



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

many people. That is simply developing a set of principles and practices which we build into the rhythm of our daily lives, helping us to deepen our relationship with God and to serve him more faithfully. It is not meant to be restrictive but rather to give us freedom and is a means by which we might serve God and live more effectively for him. That may mean developing a daily habit of prayer and Bible study, enabling us to become more conscious of God's presence in our lives. It may include a regular pattern of receiving Holy Communion or of taking time every now and again for a retreat. It is a means of providing a structure for our spiritual journey to enable us to draw closer to God and his purposes for us so that we might serve him more effectively.

However we have chosen to use this Lent, my prayer is that we, both individually and together as a group of churches, may grow in our discipleship and, as we journey to the Cross, may appreciate and experience even more deeply the rich blessings God pours on us.

**With my prayers,
Sue**

PAUSE FOR PAWS

'Pause for Paws' our new outreach starting on Saturday mornings after Easter where we will be running a cafe and engaging with the many dog walkers and their dogs that regularly frequent our churchyard.

If you would like to know more and volunteer to help out one Saturday morning for a couple of hours please get in touch with either Liz Smith (07941 935887) or Chris Lewis (07828 463368) to find out more.



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT... PRIOR PARK?

Continuing our look at the many and varied things God does within our church, we hear from Sue Brown about a valuable ministry which brings the community together.

I have a soft spot for Prior Park, the retirement complex at the end of Warwick Way. My Mum lived there for the last six years of her life and loved it.

The two managers, Joy and Debbie, who have worked there for a total of 63 years love it, too. Perhaps I really

ought to say that they love the residents who live in the 91 dwellings that make up this warm and welcoming community, built and maintained by East Midlands Housing. Older readers may recall when Phase 1 comprising 51 bungalows was built in 1989 and Phase 2 five years later. (Prior to that, the Phase 1 residents looked out over allotments and a field with a friendly horse.)



The community has, of course, changed a good deal over the years, as older residents have moved into care homes or have died, but the atmosphere has stayed the same. New residents are welcomed and quickly feel at home, whether it's at the twice-weekly coffee mornings, the outings, the cinema afternoons in the large community centre, special lunches at Christmas, pancakes together on Shrove Tuesday, or the quizzes or bingo



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afternoons, not to mention the regular exercise classes, craft sessions and the occasional concert. There's always plenty happening at Prior Park!

If you ask Joy and Debbie, they will tell you that the secret of growing old gracefully is largely through involvement with others. "The community becomes more valuable as people get older and become less mobile." Isolation and loneliness - often the by-product of ageing - are common among the elderly. "You know where we are if you need us," is the oft-repeated message from them. Someone to listen, someone to care, someone to fight their corner if needed....Joy and Debbie do a lot of that, as well as all the administrative tasks and liaison with families that are part and parcel of their daily routine.

My Mum was not the only person to benefit from the monthly Communion service which a previous St Helen's rector initiated and which has continued for many years. The residents, many of whom have been regular churchgoers but because of mobility or other issues can no longer get along to church, love to gather for Communion once a month on a Wednesday morning. The service draws together not only Prior Parkers from different denominational backgrounds, but members of St Helen's and other churches in the Flagstaff family. There's plenty of time afterwards to chat and to catch up on news. Maybe this is a gathering you would enjoy? There is such a lot to be learned from getting to know Ashby's older residents and it does them good, too, to meet people from outside their immediate circle.

The same is true of 'Tea-Time', another St Helen's initiative, spearheaded by Eileen Coombs and involving bakers and tea-makers from our ranks, as well as those who claim no culinary skills (like me!) but really enjoy the conversations over cakes.

I recommend the heart-warming experience of getting to know the Prior Park folk and joining in the two main activities in which members of St Helen's are involved.

Sue Brown

HOW JOINING A QUIZ NIGHT CAN HELP CHURCHES TO BRING TRANSFORMATION

Where Kamona lives in Bangladesh, hunger has reached an alarming level, made worse by the climate crisis and the sharp rise in food prices globally. With Tearfund's support Kamona's local church helped her overcome extreme poverty.

At Ashby Baptist Church on Saturday 9th March at 6.00pm we are holding a Big Quiz Night with Jacket Potatoes and Cakes to raise money for Tearfund's Lent Appeal. Come along, ask a friend, bring a cake, join a team, give what you can and enjoy the evening as we raise money to empower the local church to transform the lives of people in their community.



Kamona's Story

'In my family, I have a husband, who is a farmer. He supports the family by farming. It's not enough, but we have to manage somehow. We don't have any land of our own. We lease land from others and grow rice. I have four children, one son and three daughters.

The pastor at Kamona's local church could see that her family needed support, and gave them a fishing net and weighing device. 'When I joined the Bible study group and shared my sorrow that I haven't got a habitable house or any land they discussed my problem and [Tearfund partner Baptist Aid] arranged for me to receive this fishing net through the Baptist Church.'

'I believe I got this help from God and he was kind to me. Since then I somehow manage to survive by catching fish with this net.'

Come to the Big Quiz Night on 9th March and help enable local churches to transform the lives of mothers like Kamona: A great way to celebrate Mothers all over our world just before Mother's Day on Sunday 10th March.

To book email mandymcintosh2000@yahoo.co.uk

Mandy McIntosh

THE ALPHABET PRAYER

Author Unknown, submitted by Pam Watson

'Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged with man. Now the story goes, a little shepherd boy was watching his sheep one Sunday morning and he heard the bells of the church ringing. And watching the people walk along the pasture where he was, he happened to think to himself, "I would like to communicate with God! But, what can I say to God?"

He had never learned a prayer. So, on bended knee, he began to recite the alphabet. Repeating this prayer several times, a man passing by, heard the boy's voice and peered through the bushes. He saw the young boy kneeling with folded hands, eyes closed, repeating the alphabet.

He interrupted the boy. "What are you doing, my little one?" he asked. The boy replied, "I was praying sir." The man seemed surprised and said, "But why are you reciting the alphabet?"

The boy explained, "I don't know any prayers, sir. But I want God to take care of me, and to help me care for my sheep. And so I thought, if I said all I knew, He would put the letters together into words, and He would know all that I want and should say!"

The man smiled and said, "Bless your heart, God will!" And he went on to church knowing full well that he had heard the finest sermon he could possibly hear that day. Maybe if we thought like little children and let God put together the letters, what we should want, and what we should say, things would probably work out a lot better than planned!!

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW DIRECTOR(S) OF MUSIC.

Last month you may have read our tribute to Andrew as he retired as Director of music. I thought it seemed only right then, to introduce you to Caroline, our new Choral Director, and Anna, our Choral Assistant, who will together make up the Director of Music role.

First up, Anna Haines– Choral Assistant:

What will be the main part of your role?

My job to look after the Trebles, Junior Choir and to support Caroline in her work with the full choir.

Tell us a little bit about your musical history...

Music has always been such an important part of my life. I grew up in a musical household; most of you will know my Dad, Peter who plays the viola and my Mum was a soprano who was part of the choir at Clare College, Cambridge (she was the first woman to be admitted in 1972). I played the piano, flute and violin when I was at school and I was also encouraged to sing at the Methodist Chapel in Oakthorpe where my Great Uncle was the organist.

After I qualified as a teacher I took on the responsibility of looking after the Music curriculum at school and since my specialism from my degree was History I set out to gain my music qualifications. In 2011 I started singing lessons with Coral Gould MBE and it's fair to say I haven't stopped since! I now have my LTCL in classroom music teaching along with teaching and performing diplomas in Music Theatre.

Music at school keeps me very busy during term time but I do find time to sing in a small choir in Burton called Friday's Friends, continue my singing lessons with Zoe Turner and compete in the annual Burton Music Festival.

What are your hopes for the future of musical worship at St Helen's?

I hope to continue the choral tradition at St Helen's and to try to encourage

more young people to come try singing either in the Junior Choir or as a Treble.

Do you have a favourite hymn or anthem and why?

That's such a hard question as I have so many favourites depending on the time of year and how I'm feeling. However if I have to pick just one anthem I think I would have to pick John Rutter's "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." This will probably come as no surprise to the members of St Helen's choir as they know how much I love John Rutter's music!

The anthem itself is beautiful setting of the blessing and appears to be deceptively simple, but like all of Rutter's pieces there are moments of challenge within the 4 pages of music! I'm particularly fond of how Rutter emphasises the word 'shine' with crescendos and since I'm a soprano I adore the final amens that soar over the top before the anthem's peaceful ending.

And from Caroline Essex– Choral Director:

What is the main part of your role?

My main task is choosing the music for the choir to sing in services and liaising with the Ministry Team in planning congregational hymns and psalms. I am then responsible for rehearsing that music with the full choir on a Thursday evening and leading them in services.

Tell us a little bit about your musical history...

Thanks in particular to my dad, I was surrounded by music from birth; one of my earliest memories is standing on a chair singing The Angel Gabriel into a mirror! Throughout my schooldays and into university I sang in choirs and musical theatre groups and it was at university that I started formal singing lessons and also began conducting. I have continued singing in various groups, choirs and as a soloist ever since and this year marks the 30th anniversary of Note-Ability, the chamber choir I conduct. My day job is teaching singing to primary aged children. I joined St Helen's Choir about 20 years ago under Howard Marriott when my eldest daughter was a treble and am honoured to now be taking on the mantle of leading the choir from Andrew.

What are your hopes for the future of musical worship at St Helen's?

I think my overall hope would be for anyone who comes to worship at St Helen's to feel able to connect to and through the music. By balancing a maintenance of the high standard of choral tradition with the introduction of some of the wonderful new worship songs and hymns that are available, I hope everyone will find music to listen to that speaks to their hearts and music to sing that they can sing from their hearts.

What is your favourite hymn or anthem and why?

That is an impossible question to answer as there are so many! However, I have always had a soft spot for the wonderful and dramatic anthem 'Blessed be the God and Father' and as a teenager my favourite hymn was no 11 (in the books we used back then) 'Alleluia sing to Jesus', the words of which my younger sister wrote out for me when I went to university.

The Chorister's prayer:

Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple.

Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts,

And what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen



FROM THE CHOIR

On Sunday 25th February, the annual Kendall award was presented to Annabel and William Fraser. Congratulations to them both!

During their lives, Sydney and Beatrice Kendall valued loyalty and determination particularly in young people. They were always ready to encourage young people who tried their best.

In their memory, this award is made annually to a member of St Helen's choir who has amply demonstrated those qualities during the year.



St Helen's Community Heritage Centre
4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AA



HERITAGE TALKS 2023 –24

Lesley Rowe
Tuesday 26th March at
7.30pm

Puritanism in Leicestershire

We are pleased to welcome back Lesley Rowe, renowned expert on one of St Helen's Church's most famous sons, Arthur Hildersham.

Her talk will look at how he, along with Anthony Gilby and Ashby's 'puritan Earl,' Henry Hastings, shaped Leicestershire into a 'puritan county.'

Tickets on the door - £4 inc light refreshments



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OUR WORSHIP IN MARCH

	am	pm	Wednesday
1st Sunday 3rd March		3.30pm All-Age Worship 6.00pm Choral Evensong	1st Wednesday-6th Holy Communion 10.30am In Church
2nd Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday	10.30 am Holy Communion (with children's church)	6.00pm Flagstaff lent service at All Saints Isley Walton	2nd Wednesday- 13th Holy Communion 10.30am Prior Park Community centre
3rd Sunday 17th March	10.30 am Word & Worship	6.00pm Flagstaff lent service at St Matthew's, Worthington	3rd Wednesday-20th Service of the word 10.30am In church
4th Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday	10.30 am Holy Communion	3.30pm Messy Church St Helen's 6.00pm Service at St Helen's	4th Wednesday- 27th Holy Communion 10.30am In church
5th Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion		

Regular activities:

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY// MARCH

6PM LENT SERVICES CONTINUED...

- **3RD MARCH– LIVING THE RULE– CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST HELENS (GUEST PREACHER CANON SACHA SLAVIC, A BENEDICTINE OBLATE)**
- **10TH MARCH– CHANGE—HOLY COMMUNION AT ALL SAINTS ISLEY WALTON**
- **17TH MARCH– WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST– ST MATTHEWS, WORTHINGTON**

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

- **Palm Sunday 24th March-**
 - 8.30AM Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Ashby**
 - 10.30AM Holy Communion with the reading of the Passion, St Helen's**
 - 6PM Reflective service with music and readings**
- **Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th– 7.30PM Service of Compline (Night prayer) at St Matthew's Worthington**
- **Maundy Thursday 28th March-7.30PM Communion at St Helen's**
- **Good Friday 29th March**
 - 10AM Children's service at St Helen's**
 - 11AM Walk of witness, St Helen's war memorial**
 - 2-3PM Hour at the cross, Breedon Priory Church**
 - 7.30PM At the foot of the cross, St Helen's Ashby**
- **Saturday 30th March– 2-4PM Experience Easter at Breedon incl. Egg hunt and a short service**

GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

The first signs of Spring are here! Narcissus, Snowdrops and Crocuses are bringing much needed colour to the garden with Daffodils and Tulips to follow. The weather is getting warmer and the days longer so there is more time to spend in the garden. This March will be hectic following the floods and wind of January and February so that there are probably more jobs to do than normal. Even though it's getting warmer you have to keep an eye on the weather forecast as March is prone to sudden ground frosts that can damage less-hardy plants.

March is the time for finishing off the clearing of borders (Perennials and Ornamental Grasses) and starting off vegetable plot preparation as well as sowing seeds. It is officially the start of Spring

Later in the month, start a regime of deadheading Spring flowering bulbs as the flowers finish. Leave the foliage to die back naturally to feed the bulb for next year. Plant summer bulbs such as Dahlias, Lilies and also Snowdrops for next year.

Now is the time to start planting Onion and Garlic Sets in the newly prepared vegetable plot. Wait until the end of the month to start growing Broad Beans. Germinate Herbs indoors or in a greenhouse – even the most delicate ones such as Basil, Dill and Coriander can be planted. Start chitting potatoes as the first earlies can be planted from the middle to the end of the month. Finally, lift and divide perennials such as Hostas, Delphiniums and Lupins to ensure healthy and vigorous plants every year.

General soil improvement is essential at this time of year. Ideally, we should mulch the surfaces with at least one inch of organic matter such as garden compost. This will trap moisture in the soil as well as suppress weeds. We are now only buying peat-free compost. When buying look for information on the packaging about how to use it and which plants it is suitable for. Also look for the Responsible Sourcing Scheme Logo on the packaging which will help you check the environmental rating of that particular compost mix.

As well as plants coming to life, so do the slugs and snails. They love to chew on new Herbaceous plants such as Hostas. We choose to use biological controls as we need to protect our many visiting hedgehogs.

Weeds will grow strongly this time of year so keep on top of them in your borders, vegetable plots and pots on your patios. Ensure you always get the

roots and only use a hoe in very dry soil conditions as weeds can re-root if the soil is moist.

Keep providing birds with fresh water and food. Clean paths, paving, patios and steps with a pressure washer. Finally consider using vinegar, with at least 5% Acetic Acid, to kill off patio weeds and moss. It is an environmentally friendly alternative and works extremely well.

If there are areas of your lawn that are in need of a cut, set the blades high and cut on a dry day.

Now is the time to consider cleaning and refurbishing your garden furniture. It is also a good time to be clearing out any outdoor buildings in preparation for the Spring and Summer months. If you have an outdoor pond continue to maintain it and remove any dead leaves etc.

Now is the time to consider any changes or additions you may want to carry out. It is worth visiting some local garden centres to gain some ideas. Also, they all tend to have cafes which is undoubtedly a bonus.

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MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church had a lovely time together last month, talking about lent and ending with a pancake race. The next one will be held on the 24th March in St Helen's heritage centre.

PRIEST ROOM GANG

PRG would like to thank everyone who has donated towards the cost of their upcoming trip to Amsterdam so far. We have been very touched by everyone's generosity.

Last month we kept busy, not only flipping pancakes, but also planning our next fundraising activities. These will be a bake sale on the **10th March** and a sponsored sleepover in the priest's room on the **6th April**. This will include an invitation to come and eat a 1940s meal with us, but more info on this to follow.



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ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Ashby Youth for Christ are working across the area to see young people's lives transformed by Jesus. We would love to be able to share with you on a regular basis what we are doing.

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



Thank you for all your prayers and support.

We recently began our Spring tour of local primary school assemblies. Thank God for these precious opportunities to lead schools in collective acts of worship. We will be talking about God's peace which we can know if we believe in him.

Shortly after the first Easter we find Jesus' followers believing but timid. Their minds were confused and uncertain. They were afraid of what Jesus' and their enemies might do to them. Jesus appears, reveals more of himself to them, clarifies their mission, gives them his peace 'And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:19-21)' - his very life to indwell them. At Easter we can celebrate not just Jesus' death and resurrection but also his gift to us of his peace bringing Spirit. With the aid of a softybag (Web search it) we will be thinking about an invisible gift with power to bring us God's peace which is beyond understanding.

Please pray that during these school assemblies God will meet those who are confused and anxious (all of us?) and gift us with the faith to believe and receive his peace bringing Spirit. Thank you.

Vernon Bayliss

NEWS FROM LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN OF SANCTUARY

Life continues to be 'interesting' at Loughborough Town of Sanctuary and as a team, we are all learning a great deal about the challenges of homelessness! We do what we can to help those now being given 'Leave to Remain' to navigate the complexities of accessing help and to find somewhere safe and warm to sleep, while they try to find both a job and a home.

God forbid that you will ever need this information, but I can now advise, for example, that if you wish to have access to a mattress on the floor in a large room with other vulnerable people at the Dawn Centre in Leicester, there are important rules to follow :

First, you need to position yourself *outside the railway station and hope to be picked up by the 'outreach team'*.

Not *'inside' the station concourse (it is important to emphasise) as that is considered to be 'indoors', meaning you are less likely to be deemed 'vulnerable'*.

Once on the Dawn Centre list, you will be able to access the homeless shelter from 9pm till 7 am every night and will be given warm bedding, and a roof over your head... but no food or privacy, of course. If you fall ill and accept the offer of a bed for the night from a friend, you will be deemed to be 'supported' and therefore will not be allowed back into the centre without - you've guessed it- sleeping outside the station again in order to be noticed and picked up by the outreach team.

The bottom line is, there is an acute shortage of beds - and of course, very understandably, there have to be some criteria to follow. The staff at the centre are kind and impressively patient - but in the end, as one of them explained to me, they just have to 'become hardened to it' in order to protect their own mental health. Is this what we want for our country? Is this any way to treat the most vulnerable in our society? Or, for that matter, those who are trying to help them? Am I being naive in thinking there *must be a better way?*

These have been *Basim's recent experiences - and dare I say that he

is one of the lucky ones? At least he has one of us to advocate and sometimes intervene for him and try to



help him discover the rules of engagement in this newly challenging environment. As I write, we have just heard the outcome of a long and complex interview for Basim at Exaireo - a charity in Loughborough which tries to operate a longer term approach to supporting the homeless. One which, as you would expect from a Christian organisation, recognises that there are valued human beings at the centre of these situations who need to be part of a supportive community: a family, if you like.

We at Town of Sanctuary were invited to support him at the interview and it focussed on what Basim's vulnerabilities, needs and goals might be - whether he would engage with that 'family' and be able to make good use of a professional support worker who would meet with him each week and help him meet those goals. The news is that he does indeed meet their criteria and they will definitely be able to help him - but that he will have to wait a bit longer for a room in a shared house to be available. I have just messaged him to tell him that disappointing news. His reply? 'Don't worry - everything will be fine!'

What can I say?

Many prayers - (both Christian and Muslim!) have been offered to support his onward journey. Thank you so much for your part in that, and as I said last month ...

Keeeeeeep praying!

- in order to preserve his privacy, this is, of course, not Basim's real name.

Pat Stafford

IMPRESSIVE TOMBSTONES

I often walk through Ashby cemetery on my circular walks around Ashby and it is interesting to look at some of the gravestones and memorials. In the oldest section in particular, there are some very large and striking tombstones. I can't help but wonder who could be buried there and so I have been investigating.

The first one on my list is this (see photograph 1). It is inscribed to the memory of Jane Harvey Boden who died in October 1877. The stone says that she was in her 51st year but according to Census records she was born in Aldgate, London in 1820, making her 57. She had been married twice. John, whom she married in 1862, was her second husband and she appears to have had no children. In 1871 she was living in Station Terrace, Ashby with her husband John whose occupation was given as "income from property", although he had worked as a gas engineer. He was born in Staffordshire but gave various places in different census years for the actual place of birth. By 1841 he was living in Ashby with his parents and siblings. After the death of his wife, John lived alone in Ashby for some years but by 1901, he was living with a nephew in Heather where he died in the summer of that year, claiming to be 98!



(Boden)

The tombstone appears to have been designed to be engraved on all four sides but three of the sides are blank and Jane is the only one commemorated on it. John is not buried in Ashby cemetery. He may be buried in Heather. In 1901 he is almost certain not to have been cremated.

The second tombstone on my list is this one (see photograph 2). It commemorates George King and his wife Maria.



(King)

George King was born in Ashby and in the 1871 census was living with his father in the Cattle Market. He and his father were working as chimney sweeps. He married Maria and went to live in Burton on Trent, Station street, where they kept a public house. George died 30th April 1900 aged 49 and is described in the cemetery records as an innkeeper.

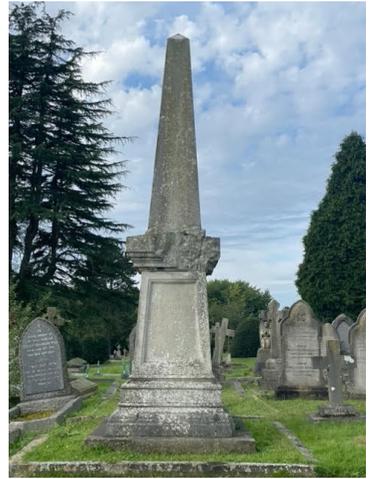
By the time of the 1901 Census, Maria was still living in Burton, The Anchor Inn in New Street and is described as a licenced victualler. She had a ten-year-old daughter with her, her only child. Also in the household was a domestic servant and an ostler, so the inn still seemed to be taking horses and carriages.

In the 1911 census she was still living at the Anchor Inn in Burton with her daughter and two servants, one a "horsetler" and she was still described as a publican. Maria had been born in Leicester and lived most of her life in Burton, but when she died in Burton in 1922, aged 71, she chose to be buried in Ashby with her husband.

Further over in the cemetery is the first of two obelisks. The second one I will leave for another month, but the first is this one (see picture 3) and commemorates Samuel Love and his wife Sarah. Samuel Love was buried on the 7th September 1877, aged 57. The cemetery records describe him as an innkeeper and farmer. He is buried with his wife, Sarah, who died in 1887 aged 73.

Samuel was born in Stonesby, Leicestershire in 1820. He married Sarah Baker in Whitechapel, Middlesex in August 1850 and their daughter Constance was born in October 1850. In the 1851 census, Samuel was

shown as the hotel keeper of the Baths Hotel in Moira. By 1861, he had moved on to greater things and was the hotel keeper of the Queens Head in Ashby. He was still there in 1871, but was also farming 180 acres of land and employing 5 men and 2 boys. They appear to have had only one child, daughter Constance. She is not buried in Ashby. She married in 1875 and although she and her husband lived at Old Parks for some years, they eventually moved to Croydon and then to Essex where she died in 1919. Samuel and Sarah are the only Loves buried in Ashby cemetery and their obelisk is inscribed on two sides only.



(Love)

Wendy Freer

FAMOUS PHRASES

This well known and often repeated phrase is taken from Genesis chapter 1. In the 1611 version of the King James bible we read:

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

It means that humans possess qualities that reflect God's character and nature. It's mostly used as a comfort saying. It makes us feel big, and boosts our confidence. And if we're truly in the image of God, what could possibly go wrong? So I like this saying, but there may be a logical problem with it.

Namely, we first must have a clear idea of who God is. If we're sure of that, then we can compare and contrast humans with God. As no-one has met God, at least in my experience, it's a challenge to accurately describe anything about God.

So what we do instead is to list the best things we see in the people we know. Certainly we must not list any faults, bad habits, or evil behaviour.

Included will be love, generosity, humility, kindness, etc. In fact, all the virtues.

Then we say 'That's what God is like! I've a clear picture now.' Having consolidated that image in our minds, we then say, man is created in God's image. (Of course, today we must replace 'man' with 'humankind'.)

If that sounds flawed, indeed it is. I think it's called a circular argument.

So the question you must now be asking is, 'How does God describe himself?' Please forgive the pronoun, as it's unlikely God is either male or female, and probably not both.

We have a clue from the Burning Bush drama, recounted in Exodus chapter 3, where Moses hears the voice of God speaking out of the midst of a burning bush. When asked his name, God says 'I am who I am.' Obviously that self-description or self-naming is an enigma or a conundrum, because it's not really a name as we know it. So is God inviting Moses to ponder more deeply who he is?

In one respect, we are like God – we love to set up a puzzle for others, and we are rarely direct. All relationships are nuanced, containing light and dark, metaphorically speaking.

At this point, another question will have come to your mind: will not the Son of God give us a clear idea of God? Let's have a look in the Gospels.

Unfortunately, Jesus is very coy about his identity, but he does refer to God the Father as if he knows him well. Some of the parables of Jesus start with 'the kingdom of heaven is like ...' They are helpful because after hearing these stories, heaven and God do not seem so remote. In a mysterious way, we are drawn into the stories.

Possibly, the best way to get a grasp of God is to consider the life of Jesus – born in a stable, lived in relative poverty, marked by humility, died brutally and unjustly on a cross. If that is also the reality of God, we then ask, 'am I in the image of God?'

That's the hardest question you can ask yourself. Don't worry if your answer is 'no.' My answer is no, as well. Am sure God will be able to sort us out.

Richard Vann

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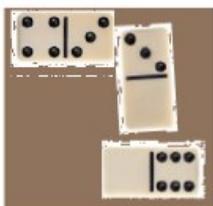
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