



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 12th April, 2020

My dear Friends

Are you, like me, finding deep resonances between our current experiences, and the events of that first Holy Week? Like the first disciples, we are scattered, each to our own homes. Like the first disciples, we are trying to shelter from death. Like the first disciples, we wonder when salvation will come.

I am writing this on Good Friday morning, readying myself to follow Jesus to Golgotha, the 'place of the skull'. As I prepare, my news feed buzzes with chilling photographs from Hart Island, just offshore from New York, where the authorities are having to bury coffins in mass graves to cope with the city's death toll. As we look towards Golgotha and Hart Island our hearts break.

In *Ezekiel*, the prophet is led around a valley of dry bones; a place like Golgotha or Hart Island. Gasping horrified at

what he sees, the prophet is asked whether these dry bones can live. It is too much for the prophet's faith, this idea that so much death can be transformed into life, so he defers to God for the answer. God's answer is the rattle of bones as they reform skeletons; the sigh of sinews as they knit these bones together; the whisper of breath re-entering the re-formed lungs; the rapture of bodies as they stand and walk and dance and embrace again.

This Holy Week, as you are witness to so much death - the death of our Saviour, the deaths of those he died to save - look forward in faith to the resurrection of the dead, when the hearts of those buried on Hart Island which once beat for God will beat again and for all eternity.

We are living on Good Friday, but we are promised Easter. And therefore we have hope.

May God bless you,
Mary

NOTICES

Easter Sunday services

Our Holy Week services culminate today with:

- He is Risen! A communion service
- live on Facebook at 10.30am
- Children's 10 minute get together at 12 noon

Easter Egg Hunt

Local news organisation Ashby Nub News noticed our Easter egg hunt and have offered a £20 prize for the best design! (Photos to be sent to Jill at the virtual parish office please.)

Congregation member and the people of Ashby have been asked to colour in, draw, paint or decorate an egg shape, like the one below for example, and put the completed decorated eggs in front windows as prominently as possible, by Saturday morning.

On Easter Sunday local children can have an Ashby-wide Easter Egg Hunt when they are out on a walk as part of the permitted exercise during the Coronavirus restrictions.

Decorating the church for Easter Sunday

The Facebook page and website will be 'decorated' with photos of flower arrangements and Easter decorations, emailed to Jill Chapman at sthelenashby@gmail.com

Ashby Foodbank sends grateful thanks to everyone who has been supporting them.

This week they are running low on

- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned potatoes/packet mash
- Jam

There are boxes in the porches of both Holy Trinity Church and the Congregational Church and all of the Co-ops around Ashby have collection points.

Opening times in Ashby are:

Tuesday 9-10.30am

Wednesday 9-10.30am

Friday 2-3.30pm

& at Measham:

Friday 9- 10am

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The bereaved:

◆ Please pray for the family and friends of anyone known to you who is bereaved at this time.

The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

◆ Tia Rose Brownlow

◆ Val Dawson

◆ Margaret Stalker

...& others known to you

In love, we remember those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, and pray for their families and friends:

◆ Ida Ellen Drabble

◆ Ena Kathleen Mitchell

◆ Catherine Robertson Wilson

◆ Sarah Ann Wilson

◆ Frederick Ashley

◆ Kathleen Boughton

◆ St Helen's Prayer Chain requests:

Judith Lewis on 01530 564204

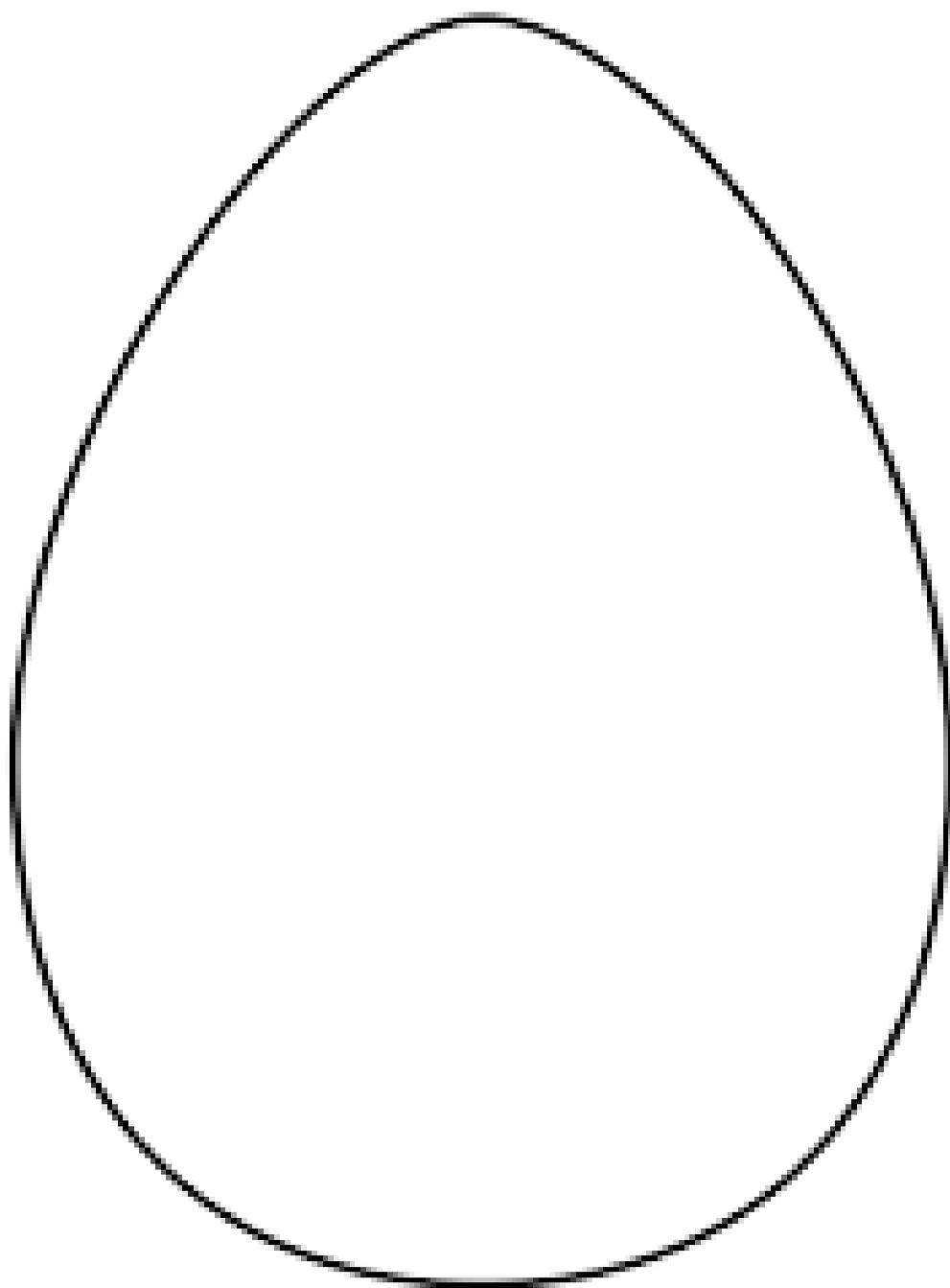
or email jchjcl@gmail.com

◆ Notice Sheet Prayer requests:

To Jill Chapman at the virtual parish office

on 07725 519453

sthelenashby@gmail.com



Contact Details

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