



## St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Notices for 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

My dear Friends

At school my best friend was Liz Head. We sang in the choir together, went to Guides together and - look away now if you have a nervous disposition - cheated at cross country together. The cross country route across the muddy Lincolnshire fens began and ended on a bridge over a dyke just beyond the school field. So Liz and I sat it out on the bridge and then reinserted ourselves somewhere towards the tail end of the pack. (Don't tell the Bishop!)

Liz and I were not prepared 'to run with perseverance the race marked out for us' as the writer of Hebrews puts it (12.1) - we wanted a shortcut, the easy way out.

I'm writing this just after Dominic Raab has announced, as we knew he would, that the lockdown will continue for another three weeks. At least. I imagine that many of us are wondering whether we have the perseverance we will need for this. The novelty has worn off, after all, the garden is looking like the grounds of Buckingham Palace, the DIY is done. What now?

Now, we take a deep breath and keep on going. Now, we remind ourselves of the Coronavirus Charter that I preached about on 8

March - a lifetime ago, it seems - where the second commitment we made was that we would 'protect the most vulnerable'. We persevere for them, to protect them. Now, we make a discipline of finding the blessings of this time and counting them. And when all else fails there is chocolate/ gin (delete as applicable).

Sir Francis Drake is reputed to have prayed this prayer which we might want to adopt as our own, remembering, as he does, our Saviour Jesus Christ who was able, from the cross, to say 'It is finished' -

O Lord God,  
When thou givest to thy servants  
To endeavour any great matter,  
Grant us also to know that it is not  
the beginning,  
But the continuing of the same  
unto the end,  
Until it be thoroughly finished,  
which yieldeth the true glory;  
Through him, who for the finishing  
of thy work  
Laid down his life, our Redeemer,  
Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Keep on. Persevere. And as we run the race set before us, let's cheer one another on. We've got this.

With love, Mary

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### The bereaved:

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

Please pray especially for families for whom the funerals of their loved ones have taken place during this difficult time:

- ◆ Sheelagh Judge
- ◆ Roy Hodges
- ◆ Mykola Kuzyszyn
- ◆ Hazel Farmer

And for the families awaiting the funerals of loved ones:

- ◆ David Robert Smith 21<sup>st</sup> April
- ◆ Dorothy Wragg TBC
- ◆ Marie Bowman 24<sup>th</sup> April
- ◆ Bill Woodward 27<sup>th</sup> April
- ◆ Olive Pointon 28<sup>th</sup> April

### 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:

- ◆ Albert Charles Walford
- ◆ Karen Patricia Jones
- ◆ John Raymond Ward
- ◆ Mary Elizabeth Archer
- ◆ Gary Lacey
- ◆ Richard Alfred Bird
- ◆ Marjorie Lillian Lawlor
- ◆ Kenneth Henry Sharpe

#### ◆ St Helen's Prayer Chain requests:

Judith Lewis on 01530 564204  
or email [jchjcl@gmail.com](mailto:jchjcl@gmail.com)

#### ◆ Notice Sheet Prayer requests:

To Jill Chapman at the virtual parish office  
on 07725 519453  
[sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)

## NOTICES

### Decorating the church for Easter

Thank you to everyone who sent photos of flowers, of flower arrangements and of Easter celebrations past so that our Facebook page and website were 'decorated' for Easter.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to all those who, along with other residents of Ashby, put a picture of an Easter egg in their window for the children of the town to have an Easter egg hunt when out on their daily exercise.

### Christian Aid

The charity has been in touch via our Christian Aid rep Shân Dyer to say, 'The world's poorest countries have the weakest health systems, and many of the most vulnerable people will be exposed to this deadly virus. They will struggle to cope with any costs of healthcare, and the costs of being unable to earn a living while ill or quarantined.' They have launched a [Coronavirus Appeal](#) to help limit the impact on the communities they work with. Click on the link to find out more. Their other news is that **Christian Aid Week is NOT cancelled!** It will be a different experience, with in-person events, such as house-to-house collections and Big Brekkies not going ahead. Instead they are developing ways for joining together during May for fun and fellowship on-line, including daily quizzes. More information as we have it.

### Ashby Foodbank

If you would like to donate food and toiletries to Ashby Foodbank there are boxes in the porches of both Holy Trinity Church and the Congregational Church. Also, the Ashby Co-ops have collection points.

## Contact Details

◆ Rev'd Canon Mary Gregory:	revmarygregory@aol.co.uk	01530 564372
◆ Rev'd Stewart Betts:	stewart@flagstaff.org.uk	07919 890094
◆ Parish Office: Jill Chapman	sthelensashby@gmail.com	07725 519453
◆ Heritage:	sthelensheritage@gmail.com	07435 564236
◆ Lettings:	sthelenslettings@gmail.com	07392 409745
◆ Buildings Team:	sthelensbuildings@gmail	
◆ St Helen's website:	www.sthelensashby.net	
◆ Flagstaff Team website:	www.flagstaff.org.uk	
◆ Facebook:	St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch	
◆ Twitter:	@sthelensashby	

