



## St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Notices for 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

My dear friends

Mum and I, unable, as T S Eliot said, to bear too much reality, are spending free evenings watching comedy box sets. We've worked our way through the brilliant *Twenty-Two* and are now embarking on its sister-series, *W1A*, with the still-beleaguered Hugh Bonneville as leading man. And when we've watched that? - I might introduce Mum to - appropriately enough - *Motherland*.

If you can cope with the language - some of which is, shall we just say, 'direct' - then I recommend it to you. It tells the story of a group of adults, school-gate friends, who cope with the competing demands of parenthood, partnership, work and life with varying degrees of success. It's very funny - and very reassuring for anyone who has struggled to live up to the idea that women can have it all and do it all without getting a single hair out of place.

This week, I've been thinking about a particular episode of *Motherland*, or rather about its *title* - 'No Mum left behind' - a kind of motherland mantra that we're all in this together, we've got each others backs (*insert other cliches here*).

'No Mum left behind.' Why did this occur to me? - because, following the Prime Minister's statement on Sunday evening, I'm in the very early stages of wondering how we will return to our church buildings for public worship. It

seems that July is the earliest date for this - and even that might be pushed back if there is another spike in the pandemic. There will be lots of restrictions imposed on us, including maintaining social distancing in the building and being unable to sing hymns. That's going to be really challenging for us.

But that's not my concern here. This is: that whenever we can go back into our church buildings, not all of us will be able to be there: some will still be shielding due to underlying health conditions, others' age might suggest that returning to a group of mixed households will be unwise, others still will continue to be housebound, as they have been for years. What then, will being back in church be like, I have wondered, if a number of us can't be there?

'No Mum left behind' - no church family member left behind. This really matters. This so important to me - to us - that no-one is left behind when we are able to be back in church; that no-one feels excluded; that no-one feels forgotten. It's important to God, too; to Jesus who, as a picture of God's love, tells us about the shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to go after the one which isn't in the sheepfold, which *has* been left behind. That one takes priority. Nothing else can happen until that one is included.

No-one left behind. I don't know, yet,

what this principle will mean in practice: I don't know whether we'll live-stream services from church; or offer a mixed economy of services from church and some streamed from home; or have the church open for private prayer but continue to meet corporately online. Deciding how we do church so that no-one is left behind will take careful consideration with churchwardens, and others; attentive listening to God; prayer, wisdom. But this letter is to flag to you that this is on my radar and I take the question extremely seriously: no-one left behind.

With much love

Mary

### **Ascension Day Service**

Our Flagstaff Family Ascension Day Service will be live-streamed on Facebook on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. It will be Holy Communion, and there will be no Compline/Night Prayer that evening.

An Order of Service will be sent out by email to the usual recipients of St Helen's Parish Office emails, and will also be available on the St Helen's Church website. Please contact Jill at the 'Parish Office' (currently a camper van on her drive) if you know anyone else who would like an emailed copy, or a hard copy posted.

As well as being live-streamed on the St Helen's Church Facebook page, the service will be available afterwards on both the St Helen's website and on Holy Trinity's website.

Please 'signpost' to this live service anyone you know who you think might appreciate the opportunity to join together with their Flagstaff Family.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

#### **The bereaved:**

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

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

- ◆ Sheelagh Judge
- ◆ Roy Hodges
- ◆ Mykola Kuzyszyn
- ◆ Hazel Farmer
- ◆ David Robert Smith
- ◆ Dorothy Wragg
- ◆ Marie Bowman
- ◆ Bill Woodward
- ◆ Olive Pointon
- ◆ Sheila Wood
- ◆ Henry Tagg
- ◆ June Stapleton

And for the families awaiting the funerals of loved ones:

- ◆ Judith Graves 18<sup>th</sup> May
- ◆ Ann Wheatley 18<sup>th</sup> May

#### **The sick, disabled or housebound:**

Pray for ...

- ◆ Tia Rose Brownlow
  - ◆ Val Dawson
  - ◆ Margaret Stalker
  - ◆ Carole Youles
- ...& others known to you

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

- ◆ Rosslyn Richard Parkin
- ◆ Rosemary Burnett
- ◆ Maurice Watson Capewell
- ◆ Marjorie Susan Treharne

## NOTICES

### **Ashby Youth for Christ Update**

Once again, I am writing to thank you for your continuing prayers and support during this difficult and challenging time, during which our lives have been changed and we continue to adapt to a new and different way of living.

I watched with interest the Prime Minister's statement yesterday evening regarding the easing of lock-down, and am waiting to see what further information is released during the next days. As I write, the details regarding the way forward are still very unclear.

Our Ashby Youth for Christ staff are furloughed at present and it is likely that this will be extended until the end of June. I will be consulting with the trustees shortly as we learn more about the lock-down easing from HM Government.

I am certain our exceptionally gifted and valued team members are seeing this time as a sabbatical and a blessing, enabling them to look after their own family's wellbeing, home schooling, and to catch up on tasks which may have been on a waiting list for a considerable time.

It is also an opportunity to think about how our work might be taken forward as we wait for government guidance on schools reopening, the possibility/impossibility of access to schools, group meetings and social distancing rules.

I am also aware that British Youth for Christ are producing online resources which will be available to help our staff reconnect with young people and change their lives by getting to know Jesus.

The way forward could well be very different, with exciting new challenges

and a different and more digital future, but it will happen.

I read these adapted words in a recent Thought for Today from Youth for Christ, I have them on my desk and read them often-

"that while we take seriously the matters of today, we must trust in God who holds the future in His hand, Keep giving things in prayer instead of worrying about them, its often in the darkest and most challenging places that we know that He is with us. He will never let you down and will never let you go."

I ask you to join me in praying for the well-being of our staff and their families, the young people that we care so deeply about, and the way forward to a new normal.

May I also ask if you are able to, please continue to support us financial so that we are well placed when we are finally able to get back to work.

My continued thanks for your support and prayers

Noreen Mewies

Chair of AYFC Trustees

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

### **Christian Aid Week**

If you have missed any of this week's Prayer For The Days for Christian Aid week, they can be found on the 'What's Coming Up' page of our website, along with the e-envelope [https://www.sthelensashby.net/Group/s/335533/Whats\\_coming\\_up.aspx](https://www.sthelensashby.net/Group/s/335533/Whats_coming_up.aspx)

### **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.

◆ **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

**Contact Details**

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