



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 2nd August, 2020

Dear Friends

Well, after eighteen weeks away, last Sunday afternoon we made it back into St Helen's church for an act of public worship, which we also streamed live online.

I'm really grateful for your feedback. I know that the sound on the live-stream was difficult for some of you - but really clear for others. And I know that the picture went in and out of focus a bit. There may be things we can do about the picture clarity - and we'll work on that over the next few weeks. What a learning curve this is for all of us! (I was talking to a wedding couple on Zoom last night and found myself talking techie-Zoom-speak to them which would have been all Greek to me just a few months ago. How fast we have had to learn new skills!)

Despite the wrinkles which need to be ironed out it felt so important - completely *right* - to me that we should be able to worship together in church *and* at home. That's something we need to hold on to in the months to come. We're online for the long-haul, as long as it meets a need. And, on Sunday, it seemed to - we had 29 people in church, and 26 'screens' watching us - so 30+ worshipping with us online. A good start!

I hope you have had the chance to see the video Andy took from behind the congregation on Sunday. We hope this gives you a sense of how the congregation were seated at a safe social distance. I hope that it might encourage those of you who are able to 'come and see.' We were really pleased with how the measures we'd put in place worked in practice. We are confident that we have been rigorous in planning for people's safety. 'Protecting the most vulnerable' (a strand of our Coronavirus Charter) remains at the front and centre of our thinking.

Wearing face coverings in church, which the Church of England 'strongly advises' is also part of this protection of the most vulnerable. These are particularly important when moving around the church. We don't want anyone to become anxious or to feel unwell because they are wearing a mask, though. If you need to take it off when you are seated, please do. And if you have an exemption from wearing a mask, please be confident to come to church without one, knowing that we understand.

For all that - the techie bits, the face coverings, the risk assessment - there was something special about being in church, whilst still being 'with' those at home. For me, as the service leader, it was, especially moving, to hear the

congregational responses to the liturgy after months of hearing just Mum's response. I think that came over well online too - this audible confirmation of what we have always known: that, together, we worship the living God.

This week's 4pm service is *Book of Common Prayer* Evensong. If you are able, why not come along to this Flagstaff Family service? Why not come and see? Your safety - and the worship of God - are our priorities. On your sofa, or on a pew, you are welcome!

With love

Revd Mary

Services back in church

To book a place at a 4pm Evening Prayer service on Sundays, contact Jill Chapman on sthelensashby@gmail.com email or on 07725 519453 by 6pm on Saturday.

Today's will be a Book of Common Prayer evening service (with cantor) – it will be live-streamed on Facebook.

If you would like to see last Sunday's evening service it is on the St Helen's Church website at https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/338385/Online_Services_and.aspx

There is also a snippet of film showing the congregation, which gives an idea of what social distancing in church looks like. It's on the Recent Events page of the website. Click on this link https://www.sthelensashby.net/Articles/584523/We_are_open.aspx

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Please pray for those who have had to cancel their 2020 wedding, and for those who are going ahead, especially for the couple marrying today

◆ Hayley and Ben

And those for whom we are reading wedding banns at our 4pm service:

◆ Maisie and Fred

◆ Sally and Lee

The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

◆ Tia Rose Brownlow

◆ Val Dawson

◆ Margaret Stalker

◆ Carole Youles

...& others known to you

The bereaved:

Please pray for 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

◆ Joe Shaw

◆ Eileen Hammerton

and for the families awaiting the funerals of loved ones.

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

◆ Elizabeth May Kernan

◆ Ronald Arthur Wagstaff

◆ Ethel Marlow

◆ Eric Hunt

◆ Eric Charles Ward

◆ Charles Hudders

◆ Ada Lucy Charlesworth

◆ Edwin Clive Castell

◆ Thomas Brooks

◆ Ronald Edward Hampson

◆ Annie Elizabeth Holden

NOTICES

They Raced!

'The Race to To End Homelessness' took place on Wednesday (29th) - A big thank you to Elizabeth Smith for organising our participation and to Lynne Munro, Susan Boardman-Weston, Beryl Stephens, Eileen Coombs and Margaret Worrall for joining her. What a brilliant effort everyone. There are a few photos in our August magazine.

The fundraising page is:

<https://racetoendhomelessness.everydayhero.com/uk/elizabeth-smith>

Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Foodbank.

Their latest appeal is for

- sponge puddings/cake bars,
- tinned custard,
- instant noodles/pasta,
- chocolate treats
- Shaving foam and razors
- Deodorant

Donations can be left in the porch at Holy Trinity, in the box outside the Congregational Church, and the Co-ops around Ashby.

Facemasks in church

An enormous thank you to Carol Eyley who has made 80 masks for us at St Helen's, meaning we have a supply for anyone who arrives at the church building without a mask of their own, and which they can take away with them when they leave.

Giving

Monetary giving is possible via our website

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/> The 'Giving' page is on the drop down menu on the 'Church Life' tab.

Next Men's Breakfast

is at 9:00am on Saturday 8th August by ZOOM.

The speaker is Andrew Barson, the Local Area Coordinator (Public Health) Leicester Council. The talk is "Babies and Bath Water - Keeping the Positives from Periods of Crisis"

The speakers for subsequent meetings are:

12th September - Commodore Michael Phillips on his Canal Barge.

10th October - Andy Smith (St Helen's Reader) on Lord Nelson.

Please contact Geoff Richman on geoff.richman@btinternet.com if you'd like the password to gain access on 8th. And also if you have any ideas or suggestions for him for speakers in 2021.

Diocese of Leicester Holiday Club

For this summer's on-line holiday activity 5-11 year olds are invited to join an elite team of spies!

Hosted on line at 10am, 10th to 14th August, there will be games, challenges, workouts, stories, jokes, songs and crafts, and opportunities take part by posting live comments, sending in photos and taking part in activities via Zoom breakout sessions.

The online security for this club will be necessarily high, so in order to join you will need to pre-register your interest by July 31st by completing an on line application form. At

www.htl.church/club

Readings for Weekend Compline on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd Aug:

- Saturday: Ezekiel 24.15-end OR James 1.12-end
- Sunday: 1 Kings 10.1-13 OR Acts 13.1-13

◆ **St Helen's Prayer Chain**

requests:

Judith Lewis on 01530 564204

or email jchjcl@gmail.com

◆ **Notice Sheet Prayer requests:**

To Jill Chapman on 07725 519453

or sthelensashby@gmail.com

Contact Details

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◆ St Helen's website:

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>

◆ Flagstaff Team website:

www.flagstaff.org.uk

◆ Facebook:

St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch

◆ Twitter:

[@sthelensashby](https://twitter.com/sthelensashby)