



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 28th February, 2021

Welcome!

We are so delighted to welcome to our church family Anna Kirstin Blatherwick, third child to Sam and Caroline, and little sister to Ruth and James. We can't wait to meet you, Anna!

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Dear Friends

This coming Monday marks another milestone in this pandemic, as all over the country children and young people go back to school.

Teachers, teaching assistants and support staff have never left, of course - throughout this pandemic, they have been working hard to welcome in school key worker children, and those with additional needs and, in this last lock-down, teach children at home online too. When all of this is over I hope that we can find a way of honouring everyone who works in school. They have been often unseen, all too often criticised and sometimes even abused in the media, but we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. In fact, perhaps we shouldn't wait for the end of the pandemic. Why don't we say 'Thank you' now? - even if we don't have children or grandchildren in school, any of us can write an email or post a card to one or all of the schools in our Flagstaff Family.

And let's take a moment to remember how remarkable children have been; how resilient in the face of a situation that has had many of us adults feeling completely floored. They have done so well - and, I trust, will continue to do so. And yet there has been a lot in the press suggesting the very opposite lately - how disadvantaged this generation might be, how far behind. And so, a Tweet from the 'Secret Headteacher' caught my eye today -

Don't tell me I'm behind
Don't tell me I'll be held back forever.
Don't tell me I need longer at school.
Don't tell me I'm lost.
Tell me I can do it.
Tell me you'll help me.
Tell me you believe in me.
Tell me we'll do it together.
Yours sincerely
Children.

That's not to say, of course, that additional investment in education from the Government isn't needed. It is. And it's not to say that the assessment process for those who would have been taking exams this year doesn't need to be clarified. It does. It is just to say that alongside money, and algorithm-free assessments our children and young people need our support, our encouragement, our presence. Thank you for all you are doing to give them just that.

And those who have been ever-present? - parents. We salute you. And we pray for you rest and respite and a new routine and, in a school holiday soon, the chance to take a break, to change the scene.

On this milestone-Monday, please pray for children, young people, parents, and all school staff. Thank God for their mirroring of his own steadfastness. Pray for those who are exhausted and ask God to strengthen them.

And then, perhaps, thank a school!

Much love

Mary

NOTICES

Revd Mary's annual leave

Mary is on leave from Monday (1st) to Sunday (7th) inclusive. She won't be reading her emails during this week off, and her phone will be diverted to Stewart. If you see Mary out and about, please do talk to her about chocolate, cheese or champagne, but not about church!

Lent Course 2021

Do join us on Tuesday evening for the second session of our Lent Course (and no problem if you couldn't be at the first - you can still join us). It starts at 7.30pm and will finish before 9.00pm. This week, Judith Lewis and Stephen Brook will be leading us in thinking about being 'The Body of Christ'. Jill will email their sermons to us on Monday, so that we can reflect further on them.

World Day of Prayer 2021: 5th March

Due to the pandemic, there won't be an in-person World Day of Prayer in Ashby this year. Instead, you can pick up a service booklet from the plastic box outside Mary's front door and engage in the service at home.

Sunday 7th March

As usual on the first Sunday of the month, we will be worshipping together online as follows:

10.30am All Age worship

4.00pm Holy Communion (said service)

Do join us - everyone is welcome.

If you an experience of how the church has been like a family and a supportive community for you, let Andy Smith have the story of what it has meant, and continues to mean to you ahead of this service.

Send him your stories, or thoughts either:

◆By email

to mailformrsmith@changesmith.solutions

◆Or by writing a note and dropping it through the letter-box at 43 Tamworth Road.

Church 'out of bounds'

A reminder that there will be no access at all to church from 8th to 17th March whilst some asbestos is removed. If you are a key holder and need anything from church, please do so before 7th March.

Sunday March 14th: 6.30pm - pandemic anniversary service

A quiet reflective service, as we look back over the last year. This will be streamed live to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page.

Church of England by 'phone

For the Church of England's 24 hour free telephone line (for music, prayers, and worship services) ring **0800 804 8044**

Giving

A reminder you can make donations to the work of St Helen's via our website -

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

PRAYER

The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound.

The bereaved

Pray especially for the families and friends of anyone known to you who is recently bereaved, and for all families for whom the funerals of their loved ones have taken place during the pandemic.

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

- ◆ Joyce Arnold
- ◆ Anne Margaret Cartledge
- ◆ Margaret Mary Shaw
- ◆ Peter Douglas Thompson
- ◆ Cecil Edward Duncan Charlesworth
- ◆ Stanley Hoult
- ◆ Florence May Veitch
- ◆ Timothy Parkes
- ◆ Celeste Sue Pass

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be part of the 'Prayer Chain' and receive e-mails letting you know the names of those for whom prayers have been requested, email Judith Lewis on jchjcl@gmail.com and she will add you to her list of recipients.

Contact Details

- ◆ Revd Canon Mary Gregory:
revmarygregory@aol.co.uk
01530 564372
- ◆ Revd Rob Marsh:
ministry@family-marsh.uk
07557 536926
- ◆ Parish Office: Jill Chapman
sthelensashby@gmail.com
07725 519453
- ◆ Heritage:
sthelensheritage@gmail.com
07435 564236
- ◆ Lettings:
sthelenslettings@gmail.com
- ◆ St Helen's website:
<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>
- ◆ Flagstaff Team website:
www.flagstaff.org.uk
- ◆ Facebook:
-The Flagstaff Family of Churches
-St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
- ◆ Twitter: @sthelensashby

- ◆ **St Helen's Prayer Chain:**
Judith Lewis on 01530 564204
or email jchjcl@gmail.com
- ◆ **Notice Sheet Prayer requests:**
Jill Chapman on 07725 519453
or sthelensashby@gmail.com