

# St Helen's Magazine

March 2021



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

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(The dialling code for these numbers is 01530 except where stated)

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- St Helen's Heritage Ashby de la Zouch
- ♦ Twitter: @sthelensashby
- ♦ Website: sthelensashby.net
- ♦ Flagstaff Team: www.flagstaff.org.uk

## Editor Writes ...



I am a lot more interested in brewing these days than I ever thought I would be as a non-beer drinker. That's because my nephew, having studied architecture at university, now makes his living brewing his own beer from a microbrewery in York. This means that his creativity is expressed with hops and other flavourings, rather than with glass and steel, bricks and concrete. Oh, and in the designs on the cans. And in his beer's name – Another Beer. He says it's the most asked for beer in the world – 'Shall we have another beer?'

If you're fascinated by beer (!) you can watch a film of Another Beer being brewed on their Facebook page, along with quite interesting facts - piled one on top of the other the cans of beer sold would stand almost three times as high as the Shard - and an infographic of the pints they've sold. Find an infographic which brings home a shocking and sad statistic on page 20.

Brewers seem to be very clever with their beer names. I came across one recently called Faith, Hops and Charity. It's the slogan of a micro brewery which has been set up in the crypt of a church. At St Mary's in Primrose Hill in north London they are producing up to 300 bottles each week of tipples such as Holy Smoke, Crypt, and St Arnold — the patron saint of brewers. I couldn't find a St Arnold prayer, but on page 7 we turn to a different saint for a prayer most pertinent to these times.

When St Mary's asked their Bishop to back the idea he had two conditions - that he had the first pint that was brewed, and that they also make non-alcoholic drinks. The money they raise goes to fund the youth work they do, keeping young people away from gang culture. Read this month's update on all the good work our own Ashby Youth For Christ do for our town's young people on page 22, and there's a poster advertising their latest group, for eleven to seventeen year olds on-line, on page 6.

When I sought out my nephew's company on various social media, try as I might I couldn't find a map of all the bars and restaurants stocking his beer. See why this might be a disappointment to Mary, over the page!

*Jill Chapman* •



# Revd Mary Writes ...

Dear Friends

I love maps. Even as I write that I can hear my friend Karen sniggering in my mind's ear (is there a mind's ear as well as a mind's eye?). When we're not in the midst of a global pandemic, Karen and I go on walking holidays every year and I am in charge of the map. Apparently, several times a day, as I check on our route, I can be heard to whisper 'I love maps!' - cue the sniggering!

In 2011 Karen and I walked Wainwright's Coast to Coast together. It was the holiday of a lifetime; for us, a great achievement. *And* - and this was of course a highlight - we needed no fewer than TEN OS maps to navigate the route. (I love maps. Have I mentioned that yet?) One day, walking from Kirkby Stephen to Keld, the fog descended. Other walkers loomed out of the mist, their backpacks making them look like mutant turtles, walking on their hind legs. The magnificent views we were promised disappeared. We couldn't see the way ahead. It was a slog. (But Keld was half-way and when we arrived, much to Karen's embarrassment, I produced pre-laminated signs saying 'Half-Way' and made her hold them for a photo shoot. You don't know Karen but pray for her - being my friend is not always easy!)

I've been reminded a bit about that day on the Coast to Coast walk this week as, together with the rest of the nation, I've been trying to digest the Prime Minister's 'road-map' out of lock-down. I am grateful, of course, for those who have worked so hard to plan for our safe-emergence from the pandemic; I am thankful for signs of hope; I will look out for the landmarks as I journey on (a picnic on a bench with a friend, a beer in a pub garden, a few more guests at a wedding). But - there is still so much that is unknown that it is as if we are walking in fog, and the road ahead still seems so very long. (By the way if, in Ashby, on an actually foggy day you are alarmed by a Yeti emerging from the fog and coming towards you, don't panic- it'll be me, waiting for my 12<sup>th</sup> April haircut.)

As we navigate these still uncertain times, as the way ahead is still unclear, we have another map to follow; this one not printed on carefully folded paper, or depicted on Government infographics, but a Map-Made-Flesh, Jesus Christ, who told us that he is 'the way, the truth and the life'. He is,



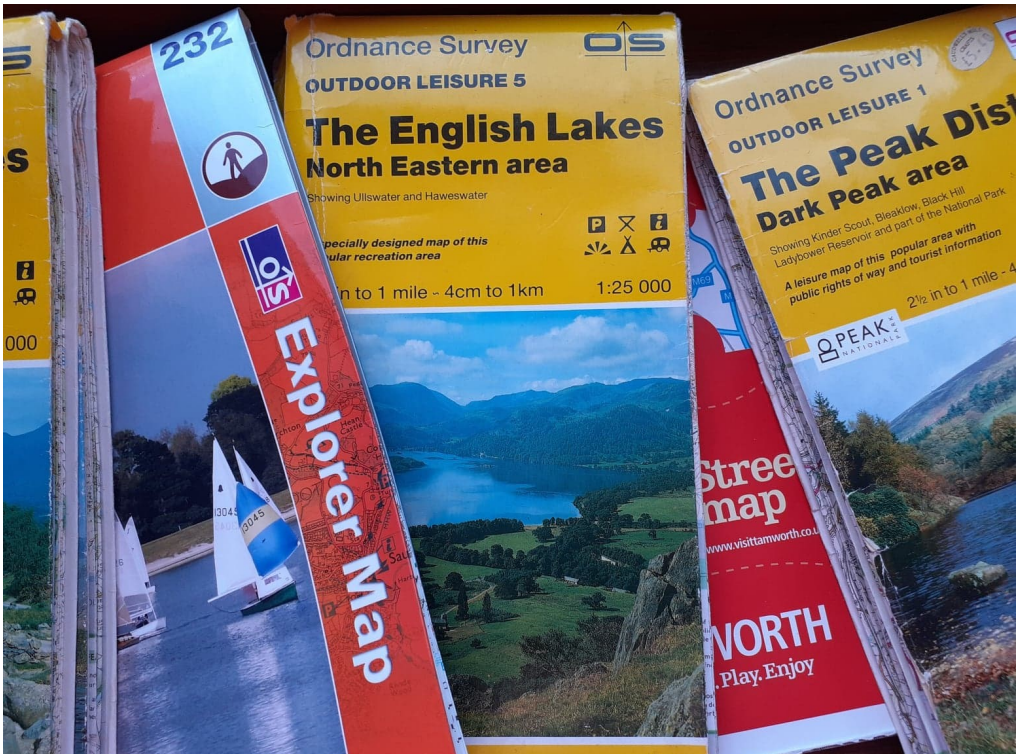
then, a kind of sherpa on our journey through life, carrying our baggage for us, trail blazing for us, encouraging us up steep slopes, feeding us, giving us shelter. We may not be able to see the way ahead clearly but we can put our trust in Jesus, the Map-Made-Flesh and follow him, remain in him. He is our map, our guide *and* our destination.

One final thought. At this time of year, in Lent, we follow the Map-Made-Flesh on his journey to the cross where we see all he gave for us, out of love for us. His journey is to inspire our journey; that even at this most difficult time when our every instinct might be for self-preservation, we are to lay down our lives in service of others.

Have a good Lent. Enjoy the journey. And if you have a moment, ask me about the young couple I visited to book a baptism whose living room was wallpapered in a large scale OS map of NW Leicestershire. (I love maps!)

With love

**Mary**



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## March Shopping List

- Instant mash potatoes
- Tinned potatoes
- Coffee
- Snacks such as instant noodles or cuppa soups
- Tinned vegetables
- Chocolate treats such as penguins/clubs
- Longlife Sponge puddings
- UHT Milk- semi skimmed or full fat
- Tinned rice pudding

At present we do not need tinned soup or dried pasta

Donations can be left in the boxes in the porches of Holy Trinity Church or the Congregational Church or in the boxes on the Co-ops in and around Ashby and at Sainsburys in Melbourne.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Watch, O Lord (St. Augustine)

**W**atch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,  
and give Your angels and saints charge over those who sleep.  
Tend Your sick ones, O Lord Christ.  
Rest Your weary ones.  
Bless Your dying ones.  
Soothe Your suffering ones.  
Pity Your afflicted ones.  
Shield Your joyous ones, and all for Your love's sake.  
Amen.

**Chris Lewis**

Counsellor / Psychotherapist

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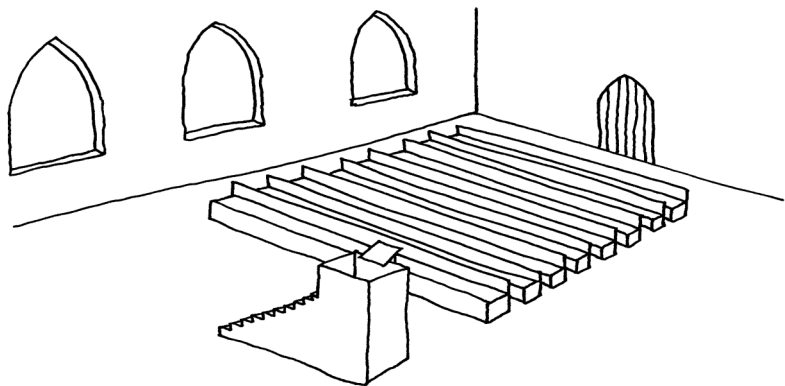
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# Fairtrade Stories

## SUGAR

Fairtrade certification in sugar cane focuses on small-scale producers and there are currently 55,227 sugar cane farmers in 19 countries participating in Fairtrade. The main economic provision of Fairtrade Standards in sugar is the Fairtrade Premium of \$60 per tonne of sugar (\$80 per tonne for certified organic sugar) in addition to the negotiated price.

This is used for projects ranging from improving farming techniques to investing in schools – helping thousands of farmers and their families in countries from Belize to Zambia to take control of their own lives and destinies and improving their communities and their environment. For more information see - <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/farmers-and-workers/sugar/>

## COFFEE

As you sip your first Coffee of the day it's amazing to think 125 million people in our world depend on the coffee we drink to earn a living. Coffee growing's never been easy but unpredictable weather is making it harder - that's where Fairtrade's Climate Academy come in - it gives coffee farmers the opportunity to share knowledge and experience to help each other. For more information see <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/.../the-fairtrade-coffee.../>

## TEA

The harvest of Kenyan Tea farmers is getting less due to change in rainfall; 'it comes all at once washing away soil and crops'. The growers who supply fairtrade tea can be helped by the fairtrade premium (a percentage of the price we pay for fairtrade tea that is used to benefit the producers)

In Kenya the fairtrade premium is used to provide them with training and young trees that can be planted to prevent soil erosion and act as a windbreak For more information see Meet Patrick Kaberia at <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose.../storytelling-tent/>

## WINE

Have you discovered the Co-op.s range of fairtrade wine? In 2001 they were the first retailer to launch an own brand fairtrade wine in partnership with Traidcraft - the Co-op Chilean Carmenere, which is 'soft, yet rich, with a berry mocha richness.' Unusually for Chile, many of the small vineyards that grow the fruit for this wine are owned by women.

Fairtrade Fact: The money from Fairtrade sales has helped pay tuition fees and bursaries so that the children of the vineyard workers can go to University or college. For many, they are the first generation of their family to do so. For more information see <https://www.coop.co.uk/our.../fairtrade/fairtrade-wine>

**Mandy McIntosh**



## The Ashby Election Riots of 1865 Part 2

Last month you read about the alarming riots that took place in our town on polling day, July 24<sup>th</sup> 1865. All three candidates, Charles Frewen, Lord John Manners and Edward Hartopp, were Conservatives, so you might wonder what could have caused such a violent reaction. In fact, Frewen had stood as an Independent Conservative and held views, particularly on religious matters, which differed considerably from those of the other two.

Manners was born in 1818 at Belvoir Castle, the son of the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Rutland and later became the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke himself after the death of both his father and then his brother. Edward Hartopp was born at Dalby Hall, near Melton Mowbray in 1808. Although Manners showed considerable sympathy for the hardships suffered in the industrial towns, both he and Hartopp adhered to traditional values and views on the supremacy of the aristocracy and the established church.

Charles Frewen was born in 1813 in Birmingham but grew up at Cole Overton Hall in Leicestershire. He became a large landowner in Leicestershire and Sussex. He sat as an MP for East Sussex from 1846 to 1857 but then suffered a number of electoral defeats when he stood as a candidate for North Leicestershire.

Frewen was once described by *The Times* as a man of “extreme Protestant notions” and his electoral rallying cry in 1857 had been “no Popery!” This was in complete contrast to the High Church stance of Lord Manners. In an electoral speech at Melton Mowbray, Manners claimed that Frewen had accused him of being “unsound in religion” and claimed that “the Established Church would not be safe in his hands.”

Frewen also believed that the electoral system was corrupt and in a letter to *The Times* in March 1858, he claimed that Manners’ agents coerced whole villages and tenant farmers into voting for him, threatening them with eviction if they did not. He claimed that large parts of the population, including women, were denied the vote and that this was also unfair. Despite the following he had among the working classes, he was never successful in gaining a Parliamentary seat for North Leicestershire. The riots in Ashby were followed by similar disturbances in Shepshed during polling for the General Election of 1868.

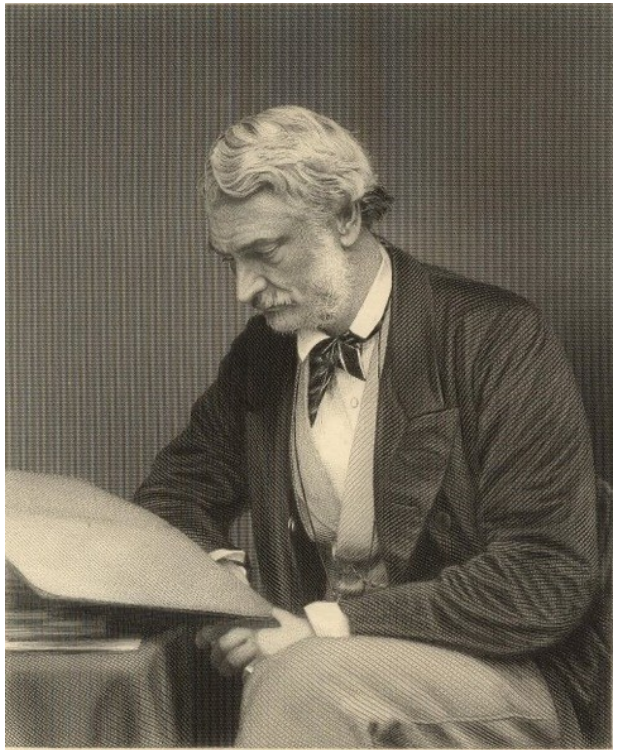
What of the rioters of Ashby? What became of them? Quite a few were arrested and appeared before magistrates in Ashby the following morning. First up was John Clarke of Ashby who was charged with assaulting a Police Inspector. He at first pleaded guilty but then claimed that he had been in a bowling alley when the police came to him and he “stood in his own defence”. He was remanded until the following day. On hearing this he said “Then I am at liberty?” to which the Chairman replied “Liberty! No, we

don't set such chaps as you at liberty, you may depend on it."

James Harper appeared and Sergeant John Neale described how a stone thrown by one of the rioters had pierced his helmet and penetrated his forehead which bled a great deal. He said that he had apprehended Harper in an entry opposite the Town Hall with a stone in his hand and twelve more in his pocket. He was also remanded and the magistrate remarked, "You had your day yesterday and we will have ours today".

Four other prisoners are mentioned in the report, including Matthew Spencer who had taken part in the assault on Mr Greasley. Witnesses said that as Greasley was coming down the road to the polling station a crowd of rioters gathered round him. He took shelter in Mr Wright's shop and when he tried to escape through the back door, Spencer pushed him into Elliott's stone yard, struck him twice about the head, got hold of him by the collar and shook him violently. He knocked Greasley's hat off and slapped across the face. At this point in the proceedings, the prisoner laughed and the Chairman of the magistrates said "You need not laugh, for you will laugh on the other side of your face before we have done with you."

All the prisoners were remanded to appear again later in the week. Spencer, along with several others appeared in court at the Leicester Quarter Sessions on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1865. All except Spencer and one other pleaded guilty. Witnesses again described in detail the riot and especially the assault on Mr Greasley. At the end of the hearing, those that had pleaded guilty were sentenced to one week hard labour, Parker who had pleaded not guilty received four weeks hard labour and Spencer, who was said to be the ringleader got four months hard labour for the rioting and a further week for the assault on Mr Greasley.



**Wendy Freer**

# Our Worship



We worship together on-line via Facebook on the Flagstaff Family of Churches' page.

You can catch up with all our services later, on the St Helen's Church website ([www.sthelensashby.net](http://www.sthelensashby.net)), simply by clicking on the relevant date on the Online Services and Readings page, under the Church Life tab.

All the services we have had since the initial lockdown began in March 2020 are still available! Orders of service for the acts of worship, and a hymn sheet for each Sunday service, are available on the same website page.

## Service Pattern

### Wednesdays

10am Holy Communion (Live)

### Sundays

10.30am Holy Communion (Live)

### Saturdays

A simple time of prayer & Bible reading on Zoom at 9.30am for 45 mins.



The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86050040052?pwd=TDUrVEEdEbHFTVTh3MWxMQUw1VEZOUT09>

## Pandemic Anniversary Service

**M**othering Sunday last year was the first Sunday of the first lock-down; the first Sunday service we held online. Since then, so much has happened for us as a nation, as a global community, as the Flagstaff Family of Churches. We have experienced a tremendous amount of loss - and we have seen glimpses of grace, too; have traced God's blessings to us like light in the darkness.

We have realised that it will be important to mark this anniversary, and on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm we will hold 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.

# Lent 2021 - Sermon Series & Lent Course

## Sundays Sermons & Team Talk Tuesdays

During Lent we will be asking ourselves the questions, 'What is the church? What is it for?'

~Sundays –

Each week one of our preachers will take a different image for the church and explore it

~Tuesdays (Lent Course) –

Each following Tuesday from 7.30-9.00pm, we'll dig deeper into that topic together through Bible study, discussion, prayer and worship.

The sessions are:

- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb  
- The Bride of Christ - a worshipping community
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
- The Body of Christ - an active community
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March  
- The Family of Christ - a supportive community
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
- The Servant of Christ - a serving community
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
- The Herald of Christ - a proclaiming community

## All-Age-Worship

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Andy Smith will be leading the service and looking at the church as “The Family of Christ – a supportive community” Before then he would like to hear any stories about being one of the “Flagstaff Family”, what has happened, and what it has meant, and continues to mean to you.

Contact him by email -  
[mailformrsmith@changesmith.solutions](mailto:mailformrsmith@changesmith.solutions)



## Lent 2021 - Daily reflections

The recommended reading many of us are studying for Lent is 'At Home in Lent: an exploration of Lent through 46 objects' by Gordon Giles.

There is a reading for each day, inspired by an object from the home. In addition, photographs of these objects are being posted onto the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page, where they've been inspiring comment and discussion.

At the time of writing, these are the photographs and some of the questions which have appeared so far:

day 1 - the front door. Is the door of our life open to Jesus?

day 2 - the threshold. When Jesus crosses the threshold of our lives, he comes as companion AND as the one who sheds light on the hidden corners of our lives.

day 3 - the fireplace. 'Creator God, as we stare into the flame and remember that we are but dust and ashes, help us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.'

day 4 -the mobile phone. Jesus calls us to repentance and self-denial - and so to fullness of life. Will we take his call?

day 5 - the mirror. A journey towards holiness begins with taking a long hard look at ourselves in a 'spiritual mirror' and asking 'Who am I? Who does God see?'

day 6 - the key. The key to unlocking Lent is recognising who we are, who Jesus is, and what he can do for us. These things are summed up in the Jesus Prayer: 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

day 7 - the safe. Jesus asks us to focus on safeguarding, not material possessions, but spiritual treasures. What do you treasure? What do you need to 'sit light to'?

day 8 - hat

There used to be strict rules about hat wearing and worship. Now we have freedom to worship as we will. Thank God for that freedom, and pray for those whose worship is still constrained or even forbidden.

day 9 - baggage

We all carry so much emotional baggage - things from the past that weigh us down and hurt us. Jesus invites us to lay these burdens at his feet. What could we leave with him this Lent?

day 10 - the wardrobe

Jesus told us not to worry about clothing but our wardrobes overflow with clothes we never wear whilst others don't have enough. Could we do a wardrobe clear-out, ready for when the charity shops reopen, and bless others?

An unexpected bonus of our church family's ease with interacting together via our Facebook page is that, as well as engaging with an interesting Lent study individually, there has been an opportunity for us to discuss our thoughts with each other on the Facebook page. Here are two of the interesting comments from Day 1, for example:

'I have just read this text for today and it struck me that even when I am not expecting anyone or don't recognise the face at the physical door I still open it. Yet even when I know it's Jesus knocking on the door to my heart, I often ignore it or think "Not now, later..." '

and

'Not only is the handle of the door on the inside in Holman Hunt's famous painting referred to in today's reading from the Lent Book but it is a long unopened door, covered in weeds.'

**Jill Chapman**



The Light of the World, by William Holman Hunt



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers



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# Mothers' UNION

## Christian care for families

This year, as in 2020, Mothering Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, will be very different. Our members usually gather the day before to make small posies for children to give to their mothers and others in the congregation on Mothering Sunday, a small gesture which is much appreciated. At the time of writing, Covid restrictions are likely to mean that this is not possible.

However, central Mothers' Union has sent all members a 'Together at Home: Resources and Prayer Pack'. This has suggestions for personal or group use, to thank God for those people in our lives who have nurtured, cared for, and shown us the spirit of mothering. Do have a look at your pack, and perhaps use some of these resources to make Mothering Sunday a special day, if different to usual.

In addition, there is a prayer diary which can be used to unite us in 7 days of prayer from International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> to Mothering Sunday on the 14<sup>th</sup>, so members can come together to pray for women and girls worldwide.



### A reflective prayer for Mothering Sunday

God of celebration,  
who rejoices with those who rejoice,  
we pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday  
is a time of thanksgiving and joy.



God of compassion,  
who weeps with those who weep,  
we pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday  
is a time of heartache and pain.

God of community,  
who calls the children to come to him,  
we thank you that your love abounds  
for families of every kind.

God of comfort,  
who gathers us as a hen gathers its chicks,  
we thank you that your love surrounds  
the disappointed and hurt.

God of every circumstance,  
we bring our thanks and praise  
that we belong to your family

as your beloved children. Amen.

**Beryl Stephens**



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# Make Them Count

I read in the Big Issue recently of an event held in Trafalgar Square on February 23rd - A touching tribute was made to each of the 976 people who lost their life while homeless in 2020, by placing a candle in recognition of a life lost too soon on the steps around Nelson's Column and St Martin-in-the-Fields church steps. There was also a social media campaign under the hashtag #MakeThemCount.

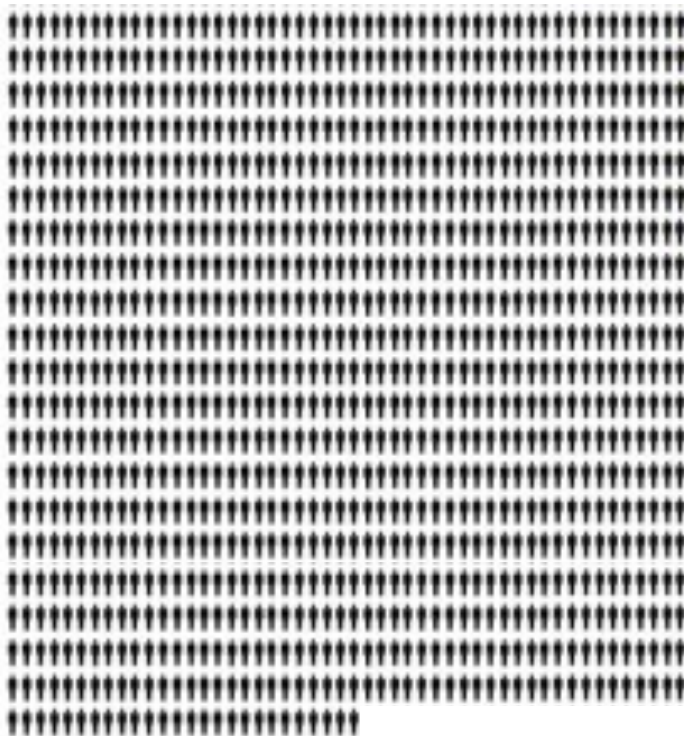
The event was organised by the Museum of Homelessness' Dying Homeless Project, which is a group of experts, frontline workers and journalists, including from The Big Issue. One of the Dying Homeless Project's main purposes is to remember with love and dignity every human behind the stark statistics, acknowledging that individuals are often forgotten or ignored during their lives and also in death. This project aims to remember and honour each one.

In addition they campaign for change, working with partners in local government, law and health to try to prevent further premature and preventable deaths. They are calling for changes such as improving multi-agency working to ensure no one falls through the cracks, and ensuring long-term funding is sufficient.

If this best estimate of 976 is correct, it means a person without a stable home died every nine hours in 2020. The true

figure could be higher as Birmingham, the UK's second largest city, and a third of London boroughs were not represented in the figures.

The scale of homelessness is a notoriously difficult thing to quantify. There are many different types of homelessness, for a start. It's not just rough sleeping — there are people trapped in temporary accommodation or



hostels and shelters. In addition there is hidden homelessness, often known as sofa surfing, which is virtually impossible to count. The charity Crisis has estimated that as many as 62 per cent of single homeless people do not show up on official figures. The Salvation Army has requested a more robust recording method for homelessness so that funding can be properly allocated. Homeless deaths have only been officially counted in recent years. To produce their figure the Office for National Statistics makes estimates by searching through death certificates to look for indications of homelessness. The Dying Homeless Project advocates a different approach, It is believed that Covid-19 accounted for only three per cent of deaths. 15 per cent were caused by alcohol abuse, 36 per cent by suicide. The average age of death was 43 years of age for men and just 39 years of age for women.

**Jill Chapman**

## **God's Children**

**D**uring my final years working for the Co-op in Scotland I had the privilege of being sent out to other stores, to help, to trouble shoot, to oversee projects or even train others! Can you imagine that?

Something that became fairly apparent was that although the shops would be different and the staff were different, often people played the same roles and I don't mean in terms of their job description, this was about characters.

I remember a friend and I reflecting that every shop had an 'Agnes' or a 'Hamish'. An Agnes may be the one who would like to keep her finger on the call for help bell pressed a little longer than necessary and then some. A Hamish may be the likeable lad who just seemed to have a clock that ran 5 minutes slow at starting time and 5 minutes fast for the end of his shift.

Something that I found recently on placement was that to some degree this also works with Churches!!! And it is not a necessarily a bad thing. I wonder if sometimes we are caught up with our own environments that we forget that we are part of a bigger picture, share similar challenges and struggle to make the most of common opportunities.

I was reflecting about what it really means to be a church, especially during Covid, but also in general and especially what a post-Covid church may look like. I was therefore thinking about models of church and how we may be united as the church but each have different ideas about being a church. Moreover, we can also have different tastes, the recent series on Desert Island Hymns showed the variety and diversity even in one area of our church communities.

I therefore, really commend the sermon series that began during lent to you,

it is an opportunity to approach some biblical perspectives about what being a church is all about. We are people asking these questions and they are helpful and healthy questions. Importantly though, I wonder if we should never lose sight of the 2 little words that often follow the word church, - OF GOD. Like I used tell some of the Co-op staff we are the public face of the society, as people of God we are the public face of the church of God, and of God.

Even at a personal level we are children of God, through Christ. It is our very identity. When we face issues, when life presents us with more downs than ups, we are still Children of God, nothing can change that desire that God has to draw us close as children.

So even if we are an Agnes or a Hamish or whatever, we are loved by God and those Agneses and Hamish's who may drive us up the wall are also loved and cherished by God. So as a church we may have to struggle on together, but never lose sight of the fact that as individuals and as a gathered body we are - 'Of God.'

**Stewart Betts**

Ashby Youth For Christ Registered Charity No: 1058434



**Ashby  
YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST**

Feb 4<sup>th</sup>

## **Frustration!**

This week's video short (less than 3 minutes) invites young people to focus on their frustration. I share my own frustration at not being able to get out enjoy the British mountains in the winter finery and ask them to share with us how Covid-19 lockdown is depriving them of the things that bring them pleasure and fulfilment. I also express gratitude. Jesus, without promising to make everything the way I'd like it to be, knows how I feel. He is a man of sorrow and familiar with suffering (Isaiah 53). This makes him easier to draw alongside and worship. It is delightful fellowship, however painful. Even on his throne he is visible as a lamb who was slain.

Please continue to pray that the yp with whom we share these videos would know that this is personal - they aren't one of a mass whom we serve out of professional obligation. Jesus is for them and cares for them uniquely. Please pray we would be able to help them know that they can connect with us, their fellow RS peeps and with God.

Thanks for your prayers.

**Vernon**

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>

## **Adoption?**

Many of the young people with whom we work have difficult or no relationships with their fathers. The systemic pain or paralysis arising from this unhappiness seems to have prevented their growth into spiritually and emotionally healthy young people. Some like the idea of Jesus being a good man, even a God man but are numb to the idea of God the Father. Or they might like the concept of a Father Christmas type father but lose interest at the idea of a father whose discipline is to be desired and submitted to.

Jesus has come to restore us to our Creator and invites us to be adopted by him. Please pray that these yp, who have no experience of a trustworthy father or a defensive heart towards even the idea of one, will be wooed by the Holy Spirit and convicted that God could be their loving, perfect and almighty Father. Pray they would be delivered from the Deceiver and believe and trust Jesus who says, 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me' (John 14:10).

Thanks for your prayers.

**Vernon**

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

## **Who am I when no one is watching?**

I've been reading the most beautiful book recently called 'Unseen' by Sara Hagerty. It's one of those books which a dear friend sent to me. I loved the cover instantly, but reading the blurb, I have to be honest, I couldn't see how this book was relevant to me. However I am a person who hates to let people down, so if I was given the book, I would read the book - and how blessed I have been.

The book has allowed me to fall in love with God's view of me, when I can't see or accept it. It reminded me that I am seen, loved, cherished. It got me thinking about the young people I am mentoring at the moment; I know they are struggling, their parents tell me so, yet on screen for 30 minutes a week, we giggle, chatter and craft our way through our time together, showing little of this vulnerability and struggle to each other. Yet, who are we when no one is watching?

In Psalm 139, we are told that God formed us in our mother's womb (v.13), and he is "...acquainted with all my ways.." (v.3), God knows us and sees us when all we have is tears, frustration and a longing for the days before and days to come. Who are we? We are His, and He sees us - always!

Please pray for our young people. Those who feel unseen, forgotten and don't yet know they are seen by the creator of the universe. They will never be alone, they just don't know it yet!

Psalm 138:3 promises "In the day I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul."

Please pray this out loud for our young people and out team this week.

We have plans to help young people know they are seen by Ashby and Swadlincote & District Youth For Christ through a new joint youth group called 'innit together' (more to follow another time). Please pray for these plans, that they are in God's heart and not just our own, and will be another way to bring the Good news relevantly to young people.

Thank you for praying for us and God bless you,

**Katie**

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## Quotes for the Month

'Like it or not, we don't get to make any of this 'worship thing' up.'

*Matt Redman, Premier Christianity February Magazine*

'Isn't grace the most beautiful word in the English language? Everything we do, we do in grace. So we never say to people, you can use this foodbank if you do an Alpha course ... We say to people, we love you, here is this.'

*Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Premier News, February 2<sup>nd</sup>*

'Captain Tom was the very best of us. His courage, compassion, resilience, hope and generosity have been an inspiration to millions - and an example to us all. Where he walked, a nation followed.'

*Archbishop of Canterbury Facebook page, February 2<sup>nd</sup>*

'When Covid struck, and those people turned to their churches for spiritual consolation, what did they find? Closed doors.'

*The Spectator, February 4<sup>th</sup>*

'I was amazed to read the ludicrous claim that the parish system is being dissolved like the monasteries.'

*William Nye, Sec General Archbishops' Council re Spectator article, churchofengland.org Feb 4*

'Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up.'

Unfundamentalist Facebook page, February 8<sup>th</sup>

'2000 years after Jesus' radical inclusion of women in his teaching and example, women are still unequal in many places – both in attitudes and practice ... we can make life better ... allowing both women and men to flourish and be all that God made them to be.'

*Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Sec General of Anglican Communion, www.anglicannews.org, Feb 9*

'If you've been following the media coverage of the Church of England over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, one question you might have seen is: 'Where is the C of E?' Let us offer an answer. We have been burying the dead, comforting the bereaved, feeding the hungry and praying for our nation. We have been doing this not as superheroes, but as human beings living through the same crisis as everyone else: grieving, home-schooling, worrying, getting sick, shielding, isolating, weeping.'

*Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, The Spectator, February 13<sup>th</sup>*

'When I got saved I believed that if my prayer was strong enough I would be set free immediately. For some people that is the case (and I'm jealous) but for most of us the way God works is to walk with us day after day, nudging us and strengthening us bit by bit.'

*Gary Cadge, Christian Misfit Community on Facebook, February 15<sup>th</sup>*

'Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.' - Mary Oliver

*ithub.com/ When Death Comes: An Oncology Nurse Finds Solace in Mary Oliver, February 18<sup>th</sup>*

'God is always available. Pray in your bed at midnight, and God will not say, I will listen to you tomorrow on your knees. Pray upon your knees, and God will not say, I will hear you at church on Sunday. Prayer is never out of season.'

*Phillip Yancey, A Time to Fear, philipyancey.com, February 20<sup>th</sup>*

""You're on mute." Has become part of our liturgy. "You're on mute." "And also with you."

*Revd Mary's sermon, Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup>*

'It's a film which absolutely connects with the journey of Lent. It's a story about temptation. And the story of redemption. It's about someone who loses their way, & finds their way back home'

*Revd Rachel Mann re Lent Course based on Elton John bio-pic Rocket Man, BBC R4, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>*

'I have been struck by how in this time of difficulty for our country, people have sought solace and hope in faith. It has been wonderful to see how churches have adapted to meet the needs of our communities.'

*Sir Kier Starmer, yourneighbour.org news release, February 24<sup>th</sup>*

'The Church has been there for all of us – it's been burying our dead, it's been comforting the bereaved, it's been feeding the poor and it's been praying for the nation.'

*Michael Gove MP, yourneighbour.org news release, February 24<sup>th</sup>*

'It's important not to become numb to the sheer scale of these numbers and lose sight of the reality that each death represents an individual person, loved by God and made in God's image & on this side of eternity, each one of these beloved children of God has left behind a real void.'

*Revd Adam Russell Taylor, The church must model lament for our grieving nation, Sojourners website, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>*

'One could be warlike, greedy, racist, selfish and vain in most of Christian history, and still believe that Jesus is one's 'personal Lord and Saviour'. The world has no time for such silliness any more. The suffering on Earth is too great.' – Richard Rohr

*Progressive Christianity.org Facebook page, February 27<sup>th</sup>*



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