



## St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Notices for 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Friends

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced that the country would proceed with Stage 2 of the road-map out of Covid-19 restrictions. Stage 2, as you know, means the opening up of non-essential retail, hairdressers (hooray!) and outdoor hospitality (cheers!).

Our PCCs have also decided that Stage 2 will mean a return to worship in our church buildings, for those who feel able to do so.

Let me emphasise, right at the beginning of this letter, that we will continue to live-stream worship from St Helen's so that those who cannot be with us in person remain a full and honoured part of our worshipping community. For me, this has been one of the gifts of the pandemic: to realise (and why didn't we before?) that we can offer streamed worship to people in their own homes. We may, in time, need to work out how to do this in a less 'Heath Robinson' way, but our commitment to do so is for the long-term.

Our first Sunday back in any of our buildings will be 18<sup>th</sup> April, when we will resume the 10.30am/ 4.00pm pattern we followed last time we were able to be in church. This will be a 'holding pattern' over the summer, with a view to introducing something more permanent in the autumn.

There are several reasons for not defaulting to our pre-pandemic service

pattern now:

1. We do not have the same number of ministers available to us now as we did pre-pandemic. David Watson very sadly has died, John Dawson has moved away, and another of our ministers is continuing to shield due to her vulnerability to the virus.

2. We do not know how much longer we will have Stewart Betts with us, as he is coming to the end of his curacy, and beginning to look for parishes of his own.

3. Over the summer, our hard-working ministers, lay and ordained, will want to take holidays, and to catch up with family members they haven't seen for months. I am encouraging them to do that as a priority.

4. Many congregation members will be away too so it makes sense to not offer too many services.

So, for now, our monthly pattern will be:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: 10.30am St Helens  
(although this may continue exclusively online, at least for now)  
4.00pm Isley Walton

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: 10.30am St Helen's,  
4.00pm Coleorton

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: 10.30am St Helen's,  
4.00pm Staunton Harold

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 10.30am St Helen's,  
4.00pm Breedon

***Please note that both Isley Walton and Staunton Harold have building works which means that we cannot hold physical services there***

**yet. Staunton Harold's first service is therefore likely to be 16<sup>th</sup> May, and Isley Walton's 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

You can be assured that rigorous social distancing measures will be in place in all of our buildings, and that worshipers will be asked to wear masks and to sanitise their hands. And there's a really good development - whilst we can't sing as a congregation indoors - we can sing outdoors and when the weather is in our favour we'll sing our final hymn outside!

**To book in for any of these services, please**

**email [sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)**

To be clear, for April the services are:

18<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30am St Helen's

21<sup>st</sup> April: 10am St Helen's

25<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30am St Helen's  
4.00pm Breedon

28<sup>th</sup> April: 10am St Helen's

Please do let me know if you have any queries or concerns, and I will do my very best to respond to them.

With love

Revd Mary

## **THANK YOU**

**Working parties: thank you!**

Thank you to the lifters and shifters, the dusters and polishers, who took part in working parties this week to get St Helen's building ready to reopen. Great team effort!

**Thanks from Jill, Andrew and family**

A huge, heartfelt thank you to the many, at St Helen's and in the Flagstaff Family, who have prayed for us and supported us in so many loving ways through the time of Jill's Mum's illness and subsequently.

## **NOTICES & NEWS**

**Culture Recovery Grant: success!**

St Helen's Church has been awarded a grant of £21,000 from the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help us reopen our heritage activities in a Covid safe way. Our grant is part of nearly £400 million that has been awarded to thousands of cultural organisations across the country.

Online heritage activities have continued through the pandemic. Plans are being made to restart in-person events in a safe way once that is permitted. The grant will boost these plans in significant ways, including the following:

- ◆ Additional staff time to prepare both buildings to be used safely
- ◆ Professional fees for local heritage professionals to design and deliver events
- ◆ Equipment and learning materials, plus publicity and promotion costs
- ◆ Training for volunteers to deliver Covid safe events

Many congratulations to Sharn Stinson, Helen Smith, Susan Boardman Weston and John Backman who worked hard to put this bid together.

**Community Heritage Centre Garden**

Work on our Community Heritage Centre garden has resumed, and will progress over coming days. This is really exciting to us and, when complete, will be a valuable outside space for us to use as we begin to return to in-person services, events and activities.

Many thanks to Andrew Chapman and to Sharn Stinson for progressing this.

## Churchwarden and PCC elections

At our APCM on 18<sup>th</sup> May we will, as ever, elect two churchwardens (both of our current wardens are standing for election, but other nominations can be made) and, on this occasion, three PCC members.

Please send nominations to Revd Mary at [revmarygregory@aol.co.uk](mailto:revmarygregory@aol.co.uk) giving the name of the person nominated, the role for which they are standing, and the names of the people proposing and seconding them.

## Electoral Roll 2021

If you would like to join our Electoral Roll at St Helen's, please email Eileen Coombs at [eileencoombbs@aol.com](mailto:eileencoombbs@aol.com)

The Diocesan Registrar has confirmed that online worship counts as habitual worship and so, if you have only worshipped with us online during the pandemic, you are still eligible – and most welcome – to join the roll.

Once the roll is closed two weeks before the meeting, if we are still not worshipping in our building at that time, the Electoral Roll will be available electronically, on request to [revmarygregory@aol.co.uk](mailto:revmarygregory@aol.co.uk)

## St Helen's APCM: change of date

Notice is given that the St Helen's APCM will now be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

## Everyday Spirituality

The Diocese are offering 'Everyday Spirituality' taster sessions to help people develop spiritual habits for everyday life. These are on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7-9pm and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 9.30-11.30am. To book email: [liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org](mailto:liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org)

## Living in Love and Faith: the follow-up, evenings at 7.30pm and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Those of us who completed the official Living in Love and Faith course, felt that we would like to do some follow up work, digging deeper into areas that the course only touched upon.

We now have a plan to do this, mainly on Zoom, on the following dates:

**21<sup>st</sup> April:** Women priests and bishops - how the Bible was used in the debates, and how decisions were made

*This session will open up for us the different ways in which the Bible are read, and will help us understand the decision-making process in the Church of England*

**12<sup>th</sup> May:** Bible passages on homosexuality (1)

*Together we will explore the Old Testament passages which mention homosexuality, and try and work out what they do - and don't - say.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> June:** Bible passages on homosexuality (2)

*Together we will explore the New Testament passages which mention homosexuality, and try and work out what they do - and don't - say.*

**26<sup>th</sup> June:** Responses to Living in Love and Faith

*We hope to meet in person for this Saturday session, outdoors if possible, to share our responses on the course and to offer feedback, as requested to the House of Bishops*

These dates are deliberately spread out to allow us reading and reflection time in between each session.

Please let Revd Mary know if you'd like to join in with these sessions, as there will be some pre-reading for us to share with you, and a Zoom link to send out.

## **Saturday morning prayers: 9.30am**

Please join us on Zoom for prayers this Saturday morning. This is an informal time, when we read a section of scripture together, and pray for the needs of our communities and the world.

### **Contact Details**

- ◆ Revd Canon Mary Gregory:  
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01530 564372
- ◆ Revd Stewart Betts  
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- ◆ Parish Office: Jill Chapman  
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- ◆ Lettings:  
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- ◆ St Helen's website:  
<http://www.sthelensashby.net/>
- ◆ Flagstaff Team website:  
[www.flagstaff.org.uk](http://www.flagstaff.org.uk)
- ◆ Facebook:  
-The Flagstaff Family of Churches  
-St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
- ◆ Twitter: @sthelensashby

## **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:**

- ◆ Ethel Williams
- ◆ Gordon Henry Hackett
- ◆ Edward Austin Jervis
- ◆ Vera Mary Gilkes
- ◆ Arthur Garratt
- ◆ Kay Frances Waring
- ◆ Lawrence Frederick Dennis
- ◆ Ronald Dennis
- ◆ Richard George Lander
- ◆ Thomas Michael Yates
- ◆ Elfyn Williams
- ◆ John Derrick Fair Grundy
- ◆ Mary Thompson Gibson
- ◆ John Reid Gibson
- ◆ Elizabeth Katherine Williscroft
- ◆ Mary Marlow
- ◆ Ernest Robert Eggington
- ◆ Colin John Fraser Scott
- ◆ Dennis King
- ◆ Thomas Arthur Sidney Forster
- ◆ Frederick Henry Chick
- ◆ John Lindon Hamlet
- ◆ Mary Georgina Harris
- ◆ Hilda Gilbert
- ◆ Gladys May Watson
- ◆ Doris Jeanette Tarleton
- ◆ Daisy Sarah Beresford Yates
- ◆ William Evans
- ◆ Constance Gladys Flint
- ◆ Roy Smith
- ◆ Albert Edmund Gilbert
- ◆ Ruby Wilhemina Smart
- ◆ Ida Ellen Drabble
- ◆ Ena Kathleen Mitchell
- ◆ Catherine Robertson Wilson
- ◆ Sarah Ann Wilson
- ◆ Frederick Ashley
- ◆ Kathleen Boughton