

Do You Want To Fast This Lent?

- * *Fast from hurting words and say kind words.*
- * *Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.*
- * *Fast from anger and be filled with patience.*
- * *Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.*
- * *Fast from worries and have trust in God.*
- * *Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.*
- * *Fast from pressures and be prayerful.*
- * *Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.*
- * *Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.*
- * *Fast from grudges and be reconciled.*
- * *Fast from words; be silent and listen.*

St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Parish Directory

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

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♦01530 411607

♦Community Heritage Building, 4 Church Yard, South St, LE65 1AA

♦Opening times Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm

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

Giving

You can make donations to the work of St Helen's via our website - <https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

Editor Writes ...

We recently visited Alnwick on a trip up to the North East. Harry Hotspur was everywhere – as well as a suitably imposing statue there was also Hotspur Gin, a number of shops named Hotspur, Hotspur Lettings, an alley called White Hart Lane (as in the home ground of London soccer team Tottenham Hotspurs) and Harry's Bar where, intriguingly, soup of the day was ... Whisky. I suppose the croutons would be ice cubes?



Hotspur got his nickname because he wore spurs on his boots so his horse would run quicker. I'm not sure that our Queen, lover of horses that she is, would approve. The beginning of February saw the seventieth anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's accession to the throne, and the beginning of celebrations of her Platinum Jubilee Year, honouring her service to the nation. Do you wonder how many trees the Queen must have planted in all those years? You can find out on page 21, and discover an innovative way we can all mark the occasion, and do something good for the environment too. Doing our little bit to help the planet is also the theme of the Lent Calendar on page 18.

As well as innumerable photos of the Queen planting trees, her seventy years are full of pictures of her enjoying horses, be it as a rider for fun or formally for the ceremonial Trooping the Colour (side-saddle!) or as an owner and breeder of racehorses.

It seems very appropriate that racehorses, like Her Majesty, have an 'official birthday' in addition to their actual date of birth. In fact all racehorses share the same birthday - In the Southern Hemisphere it's August 1st, whilst in the Northern Hemisphere the shared birthday is January 1st. This makes it easier to keep track of a horse's age for racing and breeding purposes.

How historians might appreciate such a system. Julie Starkey's interesting research into former vicars of St Helen's continues on page 12, where she manages to create a fascinating picture of a former incumbent despite the evidence being hard to come by. Also digging into archives for us is Wendy Freer, who tells of a Queen who visited Ashby on page 22.

If the Archbishop of Canterbury's statements and media appearances at the beginning of the month were about the Queen's Jubilee, sadly, by the end of February, they were about Russia waging war on Ukraine. You can read the Archbishops' statement on page 4 and their prayer on page 5.

Jill Chapman

Pastoral letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written a pastoral letter to the clergy and people of the Church of England, calling on them to pray for peace in Ukraine.



24 February

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.
John 14.27

Many of us will have troubled hearts as we watch with horror the attack by Russia on Ukraine. As we have already said, this attack is an act of evil, imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long. The attack by one nation on a free, democratic country has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions and condemnation.

We lament with the people of Ukraine, and we pray for the innocent, the frightened and those who have lost loved ones, homes, and family.

We continue to call for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces as well as wide-ranging efforts to ensure peace, stability and security.

These events remind us powerfully that peace is precious and it is fragile. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper and he leaves them his peace. This is not a mere greeting, but rather something deep and abiding. This peace is something that only Jesus gives; for it is a gratuitous gift, a way of living, something to be received for the gift of peace is the gift of Jesus himself. That is why the Lord is able to offer reassurance to our hearts, why those who receive the gift of the peace of Jesus Christ at the deepest of levels should not be afraid.

Peace, therefore, is so much more than the absence of war. It is a gift, and it is also a decision, a gift that must be received. It is a choice we make that shapes the way we live well alongside each other. It characterises our relationship with God. It comes into being by seeking justice.

In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again

turn to the Lord and receive God's gift of peace, work for God's justice, know God's reconciliation and love, and choose paths not of hatred or destruction, of violence or retribution, but God's way of justice, mercy and peace.

As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world.

We pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too.

You can find liturgical resources on the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-andresources/praying-peace-world>

However and whenever you pray, pray that the world may choose peace, and be assured of our prayers for you.

With every blessing,



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen
Cottrell
Archbishop of York

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

*Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

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Praying for the Blessing of Peace for Kyiv



This is the church building where the Anglican community of Christ Church Kyiv meet on Sunday afternoons.

It is within the Diocese in Europe - geographically by far the largest diocese of the Church of England, with almost 300 congregations in over 40 countries across Europe. As well as Kyiv, it includes Moscow in Russia.

English churches and congregations have been established on the European continent since before the Reformation. The Diocese in Europe was created in 1980, combining the Diocese of Gibraltar in the south with the chaplaincies in the north under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Fulham on behalf of the Bishop of London. The cathedral remains in Gibraltar,

with pro-cathedrals in Malta and Brussels. The diocesan office is in London

Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, is the chief pastor of the Diocese in Europe, and he lives and works in Brussels. This was his message on February 25th:

On Thursday, we all awoke to some deeply distressing events - the sickening sights and sounds of war.

War is horrible. It injures, destroys and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe. The people in our little church in Kyiv are at the centre of this crisis. Some have fled the city by car whilst others are still there. These are people, our brothers and sisters. We are very concerned for their well-being and safety.

In the face of military action and aggression, we feel powerless. What can we do? One thing that we can all do is pray. We can pray in solidarity with those most affected. We can pray that God will, even now, overrule in the hearts and minds of those with power and authority. We can pray that the victims will be few and that the innocent will be protected. We can pray that peace will come through justice and not through the infliction of the will of a stronger party on a weaker. And, I can assure you, that our little community in Kyiv is deeply appreciative of your prayers.

The psalmist writes; "The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace (Psalm 29:11)". So, we pray:

God of strength and peace, send your blessing on the people of Ukraine. Sustain them in their struggles, hold them in their fear, protect them from all danger and be for them the hope they desire. For Jesus Christs sake, Amen.

Chris Lewis

Counsellor / Psychotherapist

Chris's Therapeutic Counselling

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Pop in and see us at

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Tel 01530 413055 e mail: enquiries@villair.com



**The
What's
On
Notice board**

*Please send any articles,
jokes, book reviews,
photos etc to
jill.chapman12@btopenwo
rld.com*

Thanks



March Shopping List

- Longlife Milk semi or full fat
- Tinned vegetables
- Squash
- Longlife fruit juice
- Longlife Sponge puddings
- Tinned rice pudding
- Instant coffee
- Tinned fruit
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste

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

Thank you to everyone for your continued support

**An Evening of Song with
Off the Record**



Friday 18 March 2022

7pm

at

St Helen's Church, Ashby de la Zouch

Entry by donation

Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Coleorton

Off the Record is a 4-piece acoustic band which performs songs from the 1920's to the 2000s

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I No Longer Pray For Peace

On the edge of war, one foot already in,
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn
to tenderheartedness,
and evil intentions will turn
to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed
will be snatched out of harm's way,
and the whole world will be
astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the "God talk"
will take bones,
and stand up and shed
its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might
sit down together and share
its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,
but then I've always applauded the holy fools
who never seem to give up on
the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God.....
that we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

Ann Weems

Peter Cowper c1706-1782

Vicar 1729-1782

Peter Cowper was vicar of St Helen's Church for 53 years. He came from a family of minor gentry in Chester, who owned a house in Bridge Street (photo) and a property in nearby Overleigh. Their ancestor, Thomas Cowper, arrived in Chester in 1498 and the property at Overleigh was purchased in 1660. A new house was built of brick from the nearby brick fields.



The Cowper house at 12 Bridge Street, Chester. Built for Thomas Cowper in 1664. Now a shop.

*Photo from Wikimedia Commons.
Photographer: Peter I Vardy.*

Peter Cowper was the 6th of 9 children of Rev John Cowper (1671-1718) and his wife Catherine Sherwin (d. 1727). Catherine was the daughter of William Sherwin, beadle of divinity and bailiff of Oxford University. Rev John Cowper was a graduate of Brasenose College, Oxford, became chaplain to William Stanley, the 9th Earl of Derby and was vicar of Middlewich, Cheshire, from 1702-1718.

Peter's elder brother William became a respected doctor in Chester and in 1754 was elected mayor. William was an antiquary and was responsible for preserving many valuable manuscript collections in the town.

Peter Cowper was born around 1706. Like his father, he was a student of Brasenose College, Oxford, graduating with a BA in 1728. He was instituted vicar of St Helen's in June 1729, his Patron being Theophilus, the 9th Earl of Huntingdon.

Few records remain of Peter Cowper's time in Ashby but it is known that the period of 1731-1783, which roughly coincides with his tenure of the living, was the richest period for giving books to the Ashby Parish Library. In 1730, just a year after his arrival, Cowper built a library building in the vicarage garden, with a slate plaque in Latin containing the name of Thomas Bate (the instigator of the library) over the threshold. By 1852, when the books were returned to the vicarage building itself, the library may have contained up to 1200 books. Many books in the library contain the inscription, "the gift of P Cowper."¹

In 1750, Peter Cowper was appointed Rector of Sutton cum Duckmanton,

just to the south east of Chesterfield. He held this post until 1773. It's hard to imagine how this role was compatible with his position in Ashby as the parishes are 42 miles apart, which would have been a good day's journey on horseback. It's also apparent from the contents of the Parish Register that Cowper was presiding over all marriages in Ashby, which would give him little time to travel such a distance on a regular basis. It seems likely that a resident Curate would have looked after the day to day spiritual health of Sutton cum Duckmanton.

Looking at the St Helen's registers, it is clear that the hand which writes them changes from around September 1772. The marriage registers, written in much more detail than baptisms and deaths, indicate that the new hand is that of John Prior, the curate. Peter Cowper's writing does not appear in any of the registers after the end of August 1772. Is it possible that Cowper was too ill or infirm after August 1772 to carry out his duties in Ashby? This could also explain why he resigned his post at Sutton cum Duckmanton in April 1773.



Slate plaque from Cowper's building for the Bate Library.

Dated MDCCXXX (1730)

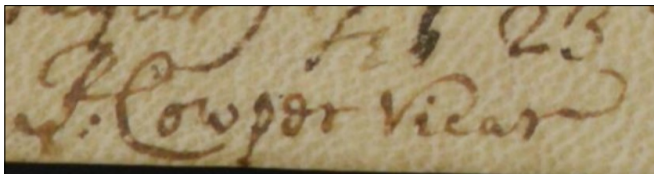
Another detail in the life of Peter Cowper was his appointment as domestic chaplain to Laurence, 4th Earl Ferrers, in September 1745, a post he held until Ferrers' death by hanging in 1760. The 4th Earl Ferrers was the notorious Laurence Shirley, the last peer to be hanged in England, having been found guilty of murdering his steward, John Johnson. A chaplain was present at his hanging, but it wasn't Cowper, it was a Mr Humphries. Nevertheless, Cowper, as his personal chaplain, should have known the man well, though he is not mentioned in the extensive and well documented statements of respected local doctor, Thomas Kirkland, who attended the dying man.

Cowper would also have known Selina Shirley (1707-1791), Laurence's cousin and the wife of Cowper's patron, the 9th Earl Huntingdon. In fact, they were almost exact contemporaries, born within a year of each other. By the late 1740s, after her husband's death, Selina was living at Ashby Place, a house which stood adjacent to St Helen's Church, where the Manor House now stands. There, she received visits from prominent Methodists such as the Wesleys and George Whitefield and in May 1750 there was a

riot outside Ashby Place when Whitefield preached. Selina was aware that people in Ashby were antagonistic towards the Hastings family at that time. It could have been due to the rents on their farms and properties, but Selina was convinced that it was her 'identification with the despised Methodists that angered the people in this strongly Royalist area.'² Public anger was still rumbling on in July 1750. 'As a loyal member of the Church of England she wished above everything else to see the Church reformed from within. ...no services were held in the Methodist preaching houses during the stated times of the parish church services.'³

Despite all this activity surrounding the widow of his patron, just a matter of yards from his church and vicarage, Cowper is not mentioned in any contemporary descriptions of the period, even though it is very well documented.

It's tempting to assume that he was an ineffective vicar of Ashby, as none of his contemporaries seems to have had anything to say about him. Perhaps he spent his life absorbed in his books? In contrast, his curate John Prior, who became vicar after Cowper's death, took a prominent and active role in local life.

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in brown ink on aged, yellowed paper. The signature reads 'J. Cowper Vicar' in a cursive script. Above the signature, the date 'Feb 23' is partially visible.

Signature from St Helen's Parish Register

Cowper never married.

He died in 1782 and was buried at St Peter's Church in Chester. Even the entry in the church burial register for October 21st 1782 describes him at second hand. It reads, 'Peter, son of John Cowper vicker of Middlewich.'

Julie Starkey
January 2022

¹The Ashby de la Zouch Parish Library is housed in the Special Collections of the University of Nottingham.

²Selina Countess of Huntingdon by Faith Cook. Published by the Banner of Truth Trust. 2001. P105.

³Selina Countess of Huntingdon by Faith Cook. Published by the Banner of Truth Trust. 2001. P135.

When two or three are gathered in my name, I will be in the midst of them ...

Morning Prayer on a Saturday morning at 9:30am in the Hastings Chapel has long been a feature of our church life. It was sadly temporarily suspended during the various Lockdowns. Once the church building was allowed to re-open for private prayer, Revd. Mary and Revd. Stewart prayed with and for us on Saturday mornings without fail.

Open and corporate prayer that we enjoy must not be taken for granted, especially when so many of our brothers and sisters in many parts of the world are still persecuted for this same privilege. The time spent together in prayer, in the tranquility of the Hastings Chapel is life-giving, and life-sustaining, giving us an opportunity to give thanks for all that has gone before during the week, ask for strength and guidance for the present and be sensitive to what God has installed for us in the future.

It would be wonderful if you are able to find 30-45 minutes of your time on any Saturday to join us in church in this unique privilege that Jesus has given to us.

May God bless you

Eileen Coombs

Because We Hunkered Down

These bleak and freezing seasons may mean grace
When they are memory. In time to come
When we speak truth, then they will have their place,
Telling the story of our journey home,
Through dark December and stark January
With all its disappointments, through the murk
And dreariness of frozen February,
When even breathing seemed unwelcome work.

Because through all of these we held together,
Because we shunned the impulse to let go,
Because we hunkered down through our dark weather,
And trusted to the soil beneath the snow,
Slowly, slowly, turning a cold key,
Spring will unlock our hearts and set us free.

Malcolm Guite

Our Worship on Sundays in March

Week	8.30am	10.30am	pm
1 6 th March First Sunday of Lent	Staunton Morning Prayer	St Helen's All Age Worthington Morning Worship	6.00pm St Helen's Evensong 6.00pm Isley Walton Holy Communion
2 13 th March Second Sunday of Lent		St Helen's Holy Communion Coleorton Holy Communion	12.30pm Village Baptisms if required
3 20 th March Third Sunday of Lent	Staunton Holy Communion	St Helen's Morning Prayer Breedon Holy Communion	
4 27 th March Mothering Sunday		St Helen's Holy Communion	12.30pm St Helen's Baptisms 3.30pm Coleorton Messy Church



Regular Sunday & Wednesday services at St Helen's are streamed live to Facebook, on the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page. In addition, you can catch up with services which have been live-streamed later, on the St Helen's Church website. - <https://www.sthelensashby.net/>

Other Services

- Wednesdays - Holy Communion - 10.30am
 - * 1st Wednesday - Holy Communion in church
 - * 2nd Wednesday - Holy Communion at Prior Park Community Centre
 - * 3rd Wednesday- service of the word in church
- Saturdays - Parish Prayers - 9.30am in church (Hastings chapel)

From the Albums ...

A big well done to Annabel who was awarded this year's annual Kendal Chorister Award - very much deserved.



God is already here. He already knows

A bedtime prayer:

Loving God we thank you that we don't need to ask you to be with us - you are already here.

We thank you that we don't need to ask you to watch over us - you can't take your eyes from us.

We thank you that we don't need to ask you to bless us - you are our Father, you love us and work only for our good.

Thank you that all our longings are already known by you and held by you. Amen

Mary Gregory

My little

BITS OF GOOD

#FAST4EARTH



CARBON FAST FOR LENT

What is the “My Little Bit of Good” Fast?

Stemming from a quote from the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, “Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” the Green Anglicans organisation has been thinking about how, through Lent, as well as being on our individual journeys, we might perform little actions in our everyday lives, which, when added together, could make a significant impact.



GREEN ANGLICANS



ANGLICAN ALLIANCE

Development - Relief - Advocacy



MONDAY

TUESDAY

7

8

CONSUMERISM

Did you know?

The real impact of bargain clothes

#meatfreemonday

It's the last Straw

Stop using Styrofoam, straws, single use plastic bags, plastic cutlery

14

15

ENERGY/TRAVEL

Find out more!

All about Hydrogen

#meatfreemonday

Switch it off!

Commit to switching off devices

21

22

WATER

Find out more!

What is groundwater?

#meatfreemonday

World Water Day

Morning or evening prayer

28

29

FOOD

Find out more!

How to start a herb garden

#meatfreemonday

Dignity for waste pickers

Make a plan on how you deal with food waste. Separate it from recyclables

4

5

NATURE

Find out more!

Research indigenous/alien plants in your area

#meatfreemonday

Plant a celebration tree

For next birthday or anniversary plant a tree at home or at church

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
MARCH 2	3	4	5	6
Ash Wednesday Prayer of confession	Plastic pledge Commit to reduce plastic usage	Food pledge Commit to reduce food wastage and to be good stewards when shopping	Transport and energy pledge Commit to reducing your carbon footprint	Responsible consumption Sell your possessions, and give to the needy Luke 12:33-34 (SDG 12)
9	10	11	12	13
Eco gifts Plan presents for kids – avoid plastic toys and gift them with an experience	Packaging? Is it recycleable or biodegradable? Check the packaging before purchase	Shop challenge! Take action and challenge your local store <i>(eg stop using plastic bags, stop selling food in Styrofoam etc)</i>	Give away day! Go through your closets and give away all unused clothing	Clean energy Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God Psalms 20:7 (SDG 7)
16	17	18	19	20
The more the merrier! Make arrangements to use public transport, lift club or cycle	Power down! Turn down temperature on your thermostat/ use cold water for washing machine	Games night! Invite friends around for board games. Turn off electronics #fish4friday	Be the change! Say no to new oil and gas explorations. Sign a petition or join a protest	Clean water For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks and streams Deut 8:7 (SDG 6)
23	24	25	26	27
Water wisely Avoid the hosepipe (carwash /watering) and water early morning or evening	Just say no! Say no to the single use plastic bottle. Buy a reusable one	20 Litre challenge Can you survive on 20 litres per person per day? #fish4friday	Pick it up! Walk through your community and pick up litter. Prevent waste from ending up in stormwater	Zero hunger Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless Isaiah 58:7 (SDG 2)
30	31	APRIL 1	2	3
Bring your own bag Make a plan to avoid fruit and veg in thin plastic (take your own small bags)	Yummy vegetarian day Make and share your favourite vegetarian recipe	Support your local vendor Source your fruit and veg locally #fish4friday	Sharing is caring Create gift packages of the food in your cupboard that you won't eat before the best before date	Life on land The mountains and hills will burst into song before you Isaiah 55:12 (SDG15)
6	7	8	9	10
Share the beauty Take photos of nature this week and post with hashtag #godscreation	Movie day Watch a nature documentary/movie this week with family or friends	Green gifts Buy some native plants/succulents and grow them to give as presents #fish4friday	Sunrise, sunset Plan a devotion or picnic during sunset or sunrise	Palm Sunday Put a palm or other branch on your door

God of rescue and restoration,
You are my 'ever-present help in
times of trouble' (Ps. 46:1).

The worries of this world seem
overwhelming, so today I trust in
You and ask, 'Lord, teach me
to pray.' (Lk. 11:1)



Lectio 365

Pray the Bible, every day

LENT

ACTIVITIES THAT ARE FROWNED UPON

EDUCATIONAL
LEAFLETS

FREE
SAMPLES



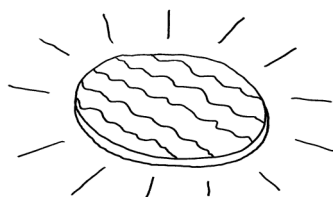
PARISH BREWERY TRIPS



FOUL LANGUAGE ANYWHERE IN THE DEANERY



HAVING TOO MUCH FUN



CHOCOLATE BISCUITS AFTER THE 10 A.M.

The Queen's Green Canopy



The Queen's Green Canopy campaign was launched in May 2021. In a special video message at the time, the Archbishop of Canterbury and faith leaders from the Buddhist Society, the Interfaith Council for Wales, Al-Khoei Foundation, Nishkam Centre, the Church of Scotland, the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, the Hindu Council UK, the Moravian Church of Northern Ireland, and the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board, encouraged people across the United Kingdom to Plant a Tree for the Jubilee!

During her 70 year reign it is thought Her Majesty will have planted more than 1,500 trees. The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) will aim to mark the Platinum Jubilee by 'joining up' these trees by inviting everyone, be it as individuals, groups, communities, schools, charities or businesses, to plant considerable numbers of new trees throughout the country, to create a network of individual or specimen trees, tree avenues, copses and woodlands. As of January 2022, approximately 60,000 trees had already been planted for the campaign.



In their message the faith leaders highlighted the benefits of trees and green spaces for communities and for mental health, and the importance of creating a legacy that will benefit future generations. The QGC campaign will focus on planting sustainably, and will seek to highlight the significant value of trees and woodlands as nature's simple but highly effective way to clean the air we breathe, slow the impact of climate change, create important wildlife habitats and improve our general health and wellbeing.

The QGC will also dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom, and will identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

On February 21st 2022 the Archbishop of Canterbury planted a fig tree at Lambeth Palace as part of the QGC. He was joined by the Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, who is the lead bishop for the Church of England on environmental issues.

Jill Chapman

A Right Royal Visit

As we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II this year, my article this month looks back 183 years to a visit to Ashby by Her Majesty Queen Adelaide.

As the wife of King William IV, Adelaide Amelia Louise Theresa Caroline, born 13 August 1792, was Queen of the United Kingdom and Hanover from 1830 until 1837 when her husband died of a heart attack after a long illness. Adelaide then became the Queen Dowager as the crown passed to Victoria. Adelaide also suffered from chronic illness and often moved her place of residence in an attempt to improve her health. She often stayed at the country houses of various British aristocrats, and in the autumn of 1839, she decided to visit Gopsal Hall, Shakerstone, the seat of Earl Howe. Richard William Penn Curzon-Howe, who was the first Earl Howe, was a particular friend of Queen Adelaide and had previously served as her Lord Chamberlain.

During her stay at Gopsal Hall (demolished in 1952), she visited various surrounding villages where, it was reported, the local people showed their loyalty and attachment to her to the highest degree. On Saturday 26th October 1839, it was the turn of Ashby to receive her.

At about 2 o'clock, Sir George Beaumont of Coleorton Hall rode into town at the head of a procession of his tenants, all mounted and decked with blue ribbons. They gathered on the Tamworth Road, where a procession of nearly 100 carriages formed belonging to the nobility and gentry of the area. There were also hundreds of horsemen and thousands of local people. Just before 3 o'clock, her Majesty's coach appeared, drawn by four beautiful horses, and went to the head of the procession, followed by the royal cortege. The acclamations of the people as the Queen passed by were said to have been deafening.

At the entrance to Mr Cantrell's grounds (Hill House in Wilfred Place) was an arch and crowns composed of dahlias, laurels and evergreens, mixed with azure flags and other ornaments.

The procession proceeded to "the church which is now building, nearly opposite the Royal Hotel" (presumably Our Lady of Lourdes), where the children of all the charity Schools, Church and Dissenting, with their teachers had assembled on a platform, holding banners. As the royal carriage approached, they burst into the national anthem.

The party moved slowly along Bath Street where all the houses of Rawdon Terrace were decorated with azure flags, bordered with white. In Market Street, the number, variety and beauty of the flags and other decorations displayed from the houses presented "a scene of beauty and splendour



QUEEN ADELAIDE'S VISIT TO ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH,

On Saturday, October 26th, 1839.

THE PROCESSION.

Ladies and Gentlemen in Carriages and on Horseback to meet
HER MAJESTY
on the Measham Road, by the Willesley Plantation,
at Two Clock :

To enter the Town through Mr. Cantrell's Grounds into the
Burton Road :

To halt opposite the New Church :

Then pass up the Market Street, through Lower Church Street, to the
Entrance to the Castle, when the Queen and Her Suite
will proceed to view the Ruins.

Her Majesty will afterwards go to the Ivanhoe Baths, by Rawdon Terrace
and the Royal Hotel.

No Carriages or Horses, except those in the Queen's Suite will on any account be admitted
into the Castle Grounds or Bath Grounds.

An Escort of Gentlemen on Horseback will attend Her Majesty
on Her return.

N.B.—BLUE FAVOURS WILL BE WORN.

W. & J. HEXTALL, PRINTERS.

which no language can describe.” The procession stopped in the middle of Market Street where the cheers of the people drowned out the bells of St Helens and the cannons which were firing a Royal salute.

The Queen passed the gates to St Helen’s which were decorated with evergreens and the inscription “God Bless Queen Adelaide”. Outside the Free Grammar School, a banner read “Honour to Adelaide, Friend to Education” and 120 cheering boys were assembled. She passed on through the gates of the Manor House, also decorated of course, where she was received by the Marquis and Marchioness of Hastings. The Marquis conducted her around the ruins of the castle and she then proceeded to the Royal Hotel and the Ivanhoe Baths. Both were decorated with flags and evergreens. Carpeting (no doubt red!) had been laid from the lawn to the Assembly Rooms where an elegant chair of state was placed in the centre. In the vestibule behind, “fruit etc. of the choicest description” was set out.

It was said that the Queen ‘looked well’ so perhaps did not need to partake of any of the treatments at the Baths. She was “most simply attired” with a superb plume of feathers of the bird of paradise in her bonnet.

It had been expected that the Queen would make an address to the town but she declined to do so. Several families were presented to her, however. She expressed her delight with the way in which she had been received and then departed back to Gopsal, escorted to the edge of town by the same cavalcade that had escorted her in.

No sooner had she departed than word came that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, with the Princess Augusta and Princess Mary, were travelling from Chatsworth to join the Queen at Gopsal. They also passed through Ashby amid loud cheers and alighted at The Royal Hotel to change the horses. They expressed admiration for the beautiful scenery and the respect that had been shown to the Queen and then departed amidst the loudest cheers of an immense multitude.

“Thus ended the day,” wrote the Bucks Herald “replete with every gratification, and long, long will the remembrance of it be cherished by the inhabitants of this loyal little town.”

Wendy Freer



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

I'm Not Scared

We held our first Branch Meeting for 2022 on 15th February. It was a delight to welcome our MU members from both Morning & Evening groups, to hear Steph Whiten speak, her title "I'm not scared (just terrified)".



Several years ago, Steph was undergoing training as a Pastoral Assistant, part of this training was a week shadowing the Chaplaincy team at Burton Hospital, which also showed us how the Chaplain's planned day can be overturned in a matter of minutes, either an emergency enters the hospital, or a patient urgently needs the Chaplain for another reason.

Steph shared with us the privilege of spending time talking with the patients, as they shared their joys & sorrows, expectations & their life changing experiences with her. Plans, which for one very ill male patient it was the knowledge his fiancée, was planning their wedding day, to be held in the hospital. Another very special moment when Steph attended a service held for stillborn & miscarried babies. This service is a regular in the chapel & is a very moving experience for all those attending.

Ash Wednesday brought another service to be especially remembered. As patients & many staff, with wide ranging roles stood in the ward and received the ash cross on their foreheads & communion, before returning to their workload. Steph said it was another very moving service to be taking part in.

These memories gave all members an insight into the daily life of the hospital wards that Steph was able to experience, how important it is to listen, some patients happy with sharing prayer others just to talk.

Listening to Steph we all felt very profoundly that we were with her during this work experience in Burton Hospital during that week.

Adrienne Sedgman



Dr John Sentamu to succeed Dr Rowan Williams as Chair of Christian Aid

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York, is to be the next Chair of the board of international development agency Christian Aid.

Dr Sentamu – who has been outspoken on issues of poverty and justice in the UK and globally for many years - served as the Archbishop of York from 2005 until 2020. He was created by Her Majesty the Queen, Baron of Lindisfarne in the County of Northumberland and Masooli in the Republic of Uganda. He is a member of the UK Parliament, in the House of Lords. Born in Kampala, Uganda, Dr Sentamu will be the first person of African descent to take up the position of Chair in Christian Aid's 75-year history.

Dr Sentamu's appointment follows a thorough global external search led by Jennifer Cormack – chair of the organisation's nominations committee, which ended in formal approval by Christian Aid's board.

Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and previous Chair, stood down at Christian Aid's AGM in November, having served two full terms of office.

Announcing the appointment of Dr Sentamu, Christian Aid's CEO Amanda Khozi Mukwashi said: "This is wonderful news for Christian Aid. Dr Sentamu brings with him a passion and energy for global justice, a deep love of the Church and a profound theological understanding that will be able to speak into the crises of climate change, Covid, conflict and debt that are affecting the world's poorest communities. We look forward to welcoming him to the Christian Aid family.

"I want to express my immense gratitude to Dr Williams for his friendship and leadership. He has been an incredible Chair, bringing his inimitable wisdom, grace and prophetic voice to support Christian Aid's work and the communities we serve. We will miss him."

Commenting on the appointment, Dr Williams said: "It has been a profound privilege to serve as Chair of this wonderful organisation for the past eight years. Through that time, we have appointed an excellent new CEO, launched a new global strategy and weathered the storms of a global pandemic, while continuing to stand together with the world's poorest and most marginalised communities.

"Christian Aid's work is far from being done, and the next few years will mean we must stand even more firmly for the dignity, equality and justice of

all, needing the support of the Church and the British public more than ever, in light of cuts to aid and increasing national self-interest.

“I am delighted to be handing over the reins to Dr Sentamu at this pivotal time in the organisation’s history and convinced there are few people who will be able to lead and speak out with the moral voice that is needed for such a time as this. I will continue to support both him and the organisation in the ongoing fight to end global poverty.”

Commenting on his appointment, Dr Sentamu said: “It is a great surprise and a delight to be invited to be a trustee and to chair the Board of Christian Aid. My first involvement with Christian Aid was in 1980, during Christian Aid Week, when, as an Assistant Curate at St Andrew, Ham Common, and Prison Chaplain at Latchmere House Remand Centre, I knocked on doors and left Christian Aid envelopes. The staggering response from the long street where I lived, as well as the prison officers, convinced me that the appeal for ‘Life Before Death’ spoke to the generous hearts of my neighbours.



“In 2004 I visited Herat Province, in Western Afghanistan, to see and encourage Christian Aid workers there. They blew my mind and I rejoiced greatly to discover that they had favour with all the people; and that Christian Aid workers had remained there for well over 25 years!

“To chair the Christian Aid Board, which is deeply committed to eradicating injustice, disadvantage, increasing mutual accountability and its prophetic voice in addressing issues of poverty and power, is a great delight and challenge for me. Please pray for me.”

Christian Aid Prayer Diary

Christian Aid produces an on-line prayer diary to help its supporters to pray for Christian Aid’s work and partners around the world. It can be accessed on their website at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/faith-resources/prayer-diary>

Here is their prayer diary for March:

1 March - Pray for Ukraine

Pray for peace in Ukraine

2 March - Ash Wednesday

Walking humbly - pray for our first lent podcast to be helpful to many

3 March - Afghanistan

Continue to pray for peace and provisions in Afghanistan.

4 March - Engineering

Give thanks for engineering on this World Engineering for Sustainable Development Day

5 March - Christian Aid Week

Pray for those already preparing for Christian Aid Week

6 March - Lent lunches

Give thanks for all those holding a lent lunch to raise funds for Christian Aid.

7 March - Changemakers

Pray that the changemakers conference last month will have inspired and encouraged all who attended.

8 March - International Women's Day

Pray for justice and equality for women everywhere on this International Women's Day.

9 March - Loss and Damage

Pray for our latest climate justice campaign to be effective.

10 March - Just Scripture

Give thanks for Davina's positive Just Scripture experience

11 March - Agriculture

Give thanks and pray for our Making Agriculture a Business programme in Zambia

12 March - Joined up

Give thanks for our joined up programme work between Myanmar, Nigeria and Zimbabwe

13 March - Nigeria

Continue to pray for our disaster risk reduction work in Nigeria

14 March - Mathematics

Give thanks for how Mathematics can help the world!

15 March - Policy

Give thanks and pray for the excellent work of our Policy team

16 March - Burkina Faso

Pray for our ongoing work in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso

17 March - Colombia

Pray for community resilience in Colombia

18 March - El Salvador

Pray for tax justice in El Salvador

19 March - India

Pray for the multi-faceted work in India

20 March - Ukraine

Continue to pray for peace in Ukraine

21 March - No discrimination

Pray for the eradication of racial discrimination on this International Day

22 March - Water

Pray for the day when everyone will have clean, fresh water to drink on this World Water Day!

23 March - Regular giving

Give thanks for the generosity of all who give regularly to Christian Aid.
Thank you if you are one of them.

24 March - Vigil

Pray for peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

25 March - Challenge

Pray for all those undertaking a fundraising challenge for Christian Aid - may they be blessed!

26 March - Breakfast

Give thanks for everyone who organises a Big Brekkie for Christian Aid's work

27 March - Schools

Give thanks for our wonderful schools work and pray for the team to be encouraged

28 March - Letters

Pray that the Letters for Creation project will engage many hearts and minds

29 March - Lent

Pray for all those who are listening to the Walking Humbly lent podcast to be re-energised on the journey to justice

30 March - Salt

Pray for the flourishing of the Salt network

31 March - Iraq

Pray for our partners making a difference in Iraq



Ashby
**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Football

At the beginning of February we were giving thanks that the lads were all still alive - after various attempts to park cars in trees and other similar exciting behaviour. Please pray that as they do the usual young male risk taking they would also be given discernment to know that all adventure is not equal. Some actions result in temporary financial setback and injuries that heal within a few moons. Other behaviours lead to futile thinking and darkening of the heart. Please pray they will know God's grace and mercy.

Over the years numbers of footballers attending our Wednesday session have risen and fallen. We are currently booming, and play 9 a-side which is just about the maximum capacity of the pitch we hire. Previously, when numbers topped sensible maxima we have been able to divide and play two games by making use of the adjacent unbooked pitch. This pitch is now booked so this option isn't available. Please pray we will receive wisdom to know how to manage our nice problem without causing ill feeling among the players.

Please pray for our young men who struggle with addictions of various kinds. These habits seem to be about self-medication, ways to numb their pain and dull their anxiety. Within these cages they can cope with suffering beyond their natural resourcefulness. Often, during their darkest times we don't see them. Recently one of these lads was practically dragged down to football by a concerned friend. He wasn't in a good way but seemed moved by this very crude act of love and with the reception he received. Please pray that this community of compassion would be sanctified by the Spirit of Jesus and that as they follow his teaching they would know his hope-bringing Father.

On the final Wednesday of the month, as we played football Storm Dudley was powerful and invisible. We watched trees dancing and birds hurtling across the sky. We thought about the powerful and invisible Spirit of God and how Jesus pointed out that those born of the Spirit are moved strangely and unpredictably. '... So it is with everyone born of the Spirit'. I briefly shared how odd and inexplicable it was that I, poor footballer and referee that I am, should be running a football session - except that I felt moved to be doing it. I also shared how much more fun I found being moved by the Spirit of Jesus and knowing the Father's pleasure in being moved - than doing sensible, understandable stuff all the time.

Thank you for your prayers for these young men. Please pray that God would continue to bless them with his unsettling, peace bringing, so close and yet invisible Holy Spirit; that they might become holy for him.

Vernon

Sk8ers

During one of our god spots, we thought we might play a game of emotions-Atriculate!

Sharing emotions well, is an important part of being human. Whether it's a hug, telling someone we love them, sending a birthday card etc etc...we all want be loved - and know it. So today's game is about how we recognise this emotion. The



teams will, in the first round first explain the work, and in the second round mime the word only. The idea being that the same emotions are in the pot... but which one is it? The Bible tells us; "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. We have used this verse so many times with the young people - this was a way to show them, that God shows us he loves us in many different ways - just like the game.

Please pray that the young people get a sense that God is showing us His love for us and them in so many different ways, each and every moment of the day. Pray that their eyes, ears and hearts are open to receiving that love.

Kate, Katie, Vernon, Eileen, Mike & Debbie

Rock Solid

The first Rock Solid of the month began in the aftermath of a fairly major falling-out between group members. At the beginning of the session we briefly chatted about this - not about the detail of the conflict but about the challenge that it presented to us as a group. Would we allow it to spoil the evening or could we focus on something / someone else and so be faithful to our purpose to serve each other and grow as disciples of Jesus? I was somewhat doubtful. I'm delighted to write that I was shown up to be low in faith. They bit bullets, swallowed pride, dug deep (can't think of anymore clichés) and so we had a very enjoyable and substantial evening. We returned to our study of Genesis 4, confessing to each other our struggles with anger, and we worshipped as we read God's own response to rejection (Isaiah 53). And we built towers from spaghetti.

Please continue for this group of lads that their frankness when it comes to

their inner and inter-personal conflicts would continue and that as we talk over these things we can know more and more of God's grace.

On several occasions Jesus' disciples appeared to have been more of a liability than an asset - when it came to his work. Or were they his work? Working with variably committed disciples can feel frustrating.

Please pray we would be skilled, discerning and patient as we seek to nurture followers of Jesus, would-be followers of Jesus, maybe followers of Jesus, confused followers of Jesus, former followers of Jesus, angry followers of Jesus, future followers of Jesus, frustrated followers of Jesus, doubting followers of Jesus ...

Please pray that we adults would become ever clearer in sharing Jesus' invitation to follow him - not be useful to him or be expert for him or be nice for him. And that we would become ever more wise and trusting followers of him.

Amazon Wish List

We have set up an Amazon Wish List as a team, where we have listed the things we would love (and often buy weekly/one off when needed) to run Sk8ers, Rock Solid and our other ministries. If you would like to browse the list, and feel you could purchase one of these items, please go to

www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3QYDP5TYJ6OQK?ref=wl_share

We really appreciate your support.

Quotes for the Month

'Actually, 'they' is a beautiful pronoun for God.'
Chloe Specht, Sojourners website, January 27th

'Part of the reason the Church of England's pulse is so weak at present is that Bishops are unhappy: mired in downsizing (whilst also being centrally cast and scripted to talk about nothing other than new growth, more congregations, etc.)'
Very Revd Prof Martyn Percy, modernchurch.org.uk, February 2nd

'Now is the fitting time to journey together: believers and all people of good will, together...All together, for it is essential to live in solidarity with one another. For this reason, I repeat, now is not a time for indifference: either we are brothers and sisters, or everything falls apart. This is not to be melodramatic; it is the truth!'
Pope Francis, statement on International Day of Human Fraternity, February 4th

'To me, the troubled, thoughtful and well-meaning foggiest of the C of E feels much more truthful, a much more comprehensible and sane reflection of how the human condition feels, than all those more dynamic philosophies. Other religions may have retained the fiery naivety of youth, but the Anglican church has the mild and tolerant befuddlement of experience, which is the closest thing to wisdom that I'll ever believe in.'
Comedian David Mitchell, Having a laugh in church? God forbid, The Guardian, February 6th

'It hit me today. "Praying for my enemies" might mean that my "enemies" are praying for me, too. And if that is the case, my enemy now becomes the one who blesses me.'
Rev Jes Kast, Twitter, February 7th

'I am saddened to discover, at least according to the 'Parish Pack' recently published by 'Save the Parish', that I have, like Belshazzar, been weighed in the balance and found wanting.'
Bishop Robert, www.gloucester.anglican.org, February 8th

'However long you have been a member of the General Synod you always have new experiences. Today we were treated to quite a long debate on the replacement of old boilers.'
Very Rev Andrew Nunn, Reflections From General Synod, February 9th

'No one in their right mind should want to be a bishop. It's a terrible, terrible job.'
Rev Giles Fraser, Unherd blog, February 10th

'The Archbishop of Canterbury faced persistent challenges, during General Synod Questions ... about the appointment process for the new Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments.'
The Church Times, February 10th

'Most tricky of all proved the Standing Order allowing Synod to 'adjourn' debate on one motion. That took place in the case of a multi-paragraph 'following motion' tabled against the simple 'take note' motion on the most recent update on safeguarding.'
Reader Helen King, General Synod: what felt most bizarre, shared-conversations.com, Feb 11

'Theologians and preachers make much of the concept of the servant leader, since that is what Christ called us all to be ... For seven decades [the Queen] has been the embodiment of the servant leader to us all.'
Paul Vallye, The Church Times, February 11th

'Screwfix thresholds are made to exclude elements. But the poor carpenter's threshold is not there to exclude any element. It is there to help you welcome and bless.'
Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes, sermon at his farewell service at Liverpool Cathedral, Feb 12

'It's hard to throw stones when you're busy washing feet.'
ProgressiveChristianity.org Facebook page, February 13th

'When Jesus taught about prayer its fundamental premise was about changing the person praying NOT about trying to change another person, the one you are praying for, however well-intentioned.'
Jeremy Marks, Banning Prayer?, Rediscovering the Middle Ground blog, February 15th

'What we really need in Kyiv is a long-term permanent Anglican priest, as we have not had one for 14 years.'
Christina Laschenko, churchwarden of Christ Church, Kyiv, Church Times, February 16th

'What I love about the Psalms is that they tell us there's absolutely nothing that we cannot say to God.'
Theologian and writer Paula Gooder interviewed on Premeir Christian Radio, February 17th

'Jesus urged his followers to be peacemakers, not simply peacelovers. This is an important distinction, because it is a call to action.'
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, speech in House of Lords, February 25th

'The Russian Orthodox church has bought into the mythology, which Putin is encouraging, that Russia and Ukraine belong together.'
Rt Rev. Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, Religion Media Centre podcast, Feb 25th

'At the heart of this post-Soviet revival of Christianity is ... Vladimir Putin. Many people don't appreciate the extent to which the invasion of Ukraine is a spiritual quest for him.'
Rev. Giles Fraser, LSE Religion and Global Society blog, February 25th

'Putin is not Messiah but really the AntiChrist of our current time.'
Ukrainian archbishop Yevstraty Zoria, interviewed on BBC Global News podcast, Feb 25th

'We see echoes of the early Church in the events of today in Ukraine. The one who has the political and military power (like the Roman Emperor or the Russian army) may appear to be victorious, but not in the eyes of posterity.'
Stephen Parsons, Surviving Church blog, February 28th

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