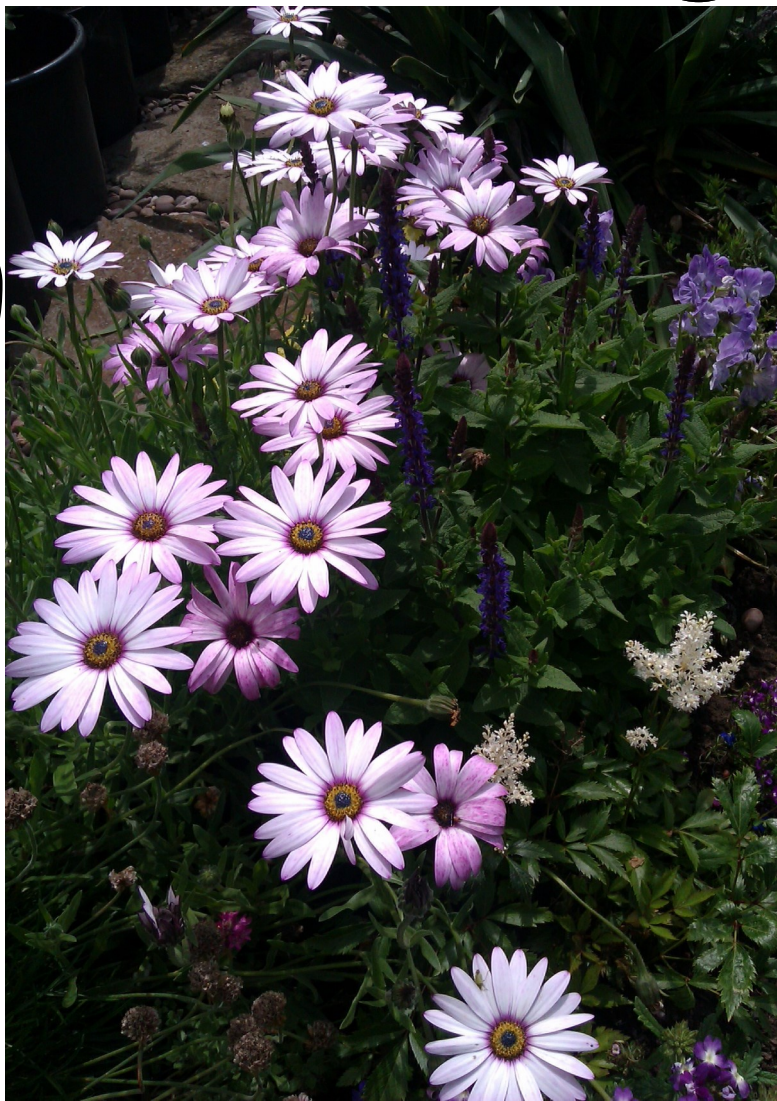


St Helen's Magazine

August 2022

50p



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

♦ Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch

♦ Instagram:

♦ Twitter: @sthelensashby

♦ Website: www.sthelensashby.net

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 ...

As I write this, bishops from the worldwide Anglican Communion have come together in London for the Lambeth conference, and sportsmen and women from all around the world are meeting for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. See how Mandy McIntosh is celebrating the games on page 13.



Archbishop Welby is welcoming 660 bishops from 165 countries for two weeks of prayer and reflection, fellowship and dialogue on church and world affairs; while the West Midlands is hosting 6,500 athletes and officials who will have travelled from 72 nations and territories for eleven days of sport. Tanzania is one of the countries which is part of both our Anglican Church family and of our Commonwealth family, and Adrienne has news from our 'cousins' there on page 24.

Andrew and I were lucky enough to be able to attend two sessions of the Rugby Sevens at the games, including the men's and women's finals on Sunday evening, 31st July. There happened to be another sporting final of national interest at the same time – a certain soccer game between England and Germany. During the evening the latest score was relayed to us over the arena's PA system. When the final result came through, the crowd roared, and then celebrated by using the torch app on their phones, standing and waving them in the air, whilst singing Football's Coming Home at full volume. This choir of tens of thousands included the South Africans sitting in front of us and the Scots who were behind us! There was something very special about being part of that crowd, diverse and yet united. We collaborated on some pretty impressive Mexican Waves too!

The rugby event was in Coventry so we took the opportunity of attending Evensong at the Cathedral before heading to the stadium. The psalm during the service was 107, and included the line about the redeemed being gathered 'out of the lands, from the east and from the west: from the north and from the south.' Gathering from all corners of the world is a thought echoed in Bishop Guli's prayer for Lambeth on page 23.

On page 26 Pat Stafford gives us news of other travellers to our land. And Reverend Margaret is issuing an invitation on page 9.

At the Olympics opening ceremony in London 2012 there were 7 billion pieces of biodegradable confetti, to represent each person in the world. That night in the Olympic Stadium there was a piece of confetti dedicated to me. And one dedicated to you too! Now there would need to be 7.96 billion. Over the page Elizabeth reminds us of the scale of God's omnipresence ...

Jill Chapman



Elizabeth Smith writes ...

July? How can it be July? (It's not - it's August)

When I started to write this, it was the last week of the school summer term and a significant point in the lives of so many children and young people. A time of endings and farewells - new horizons which are coming nearer. Laughter, joy, and tears of every kind, mixed with sadness, joy, regret, anxiety, happiness and sheer tiredness! Despite that, it is a time to pause and remember, that God is alongside all of this. He is the faithful parent watching 24/7 even though we often forget that fact and do not acknowledge his parental dedication to us. We will often find ourselves asking, especially in times of change and seeming turmoil "Is God here?" and "Where is God?" Scripture makes it clear that God is omnipresent; and so present everywhere. He is all-seeing-nothing is hidden from the eyes of God.

And it is July!

July for me arrived somehow before I expected it. It seemed to, not so much



to sneak up – but **BE**

The year always has its moods and phases; like the moon it waxes and wanes – ups and downs as we progress through the months and the seasons. Part of my feeling of July arriving before I was aware may be to do with the seasons and rhythm of life. I think very much for us all, and indeed the world over, the seasons of so many people's lives have been so disordered and disrupted over the past couple of years. It has caused a confusion – greater perhaps than many of us have ever experienced before. As Christian people we should know that it is all in God's plan. If, however, you're like me, it is fine on the good days when I know it, and believe it, and do have trust in God - but how deep is that trust? God is omnipresent but do I truly, in my heart, remember and believe that?

You may, like me, at times still think that you can do things almost behind God's back - and ignore Proverbs 15 :3 "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." The translation provided by the Message Bible of this verse puts it in these words, "God doesn't miss a thing....." —Time to remember - God is Creator of all.

Remembering that God is our Creator and creator of all can help us to lessen the 'scary-ness' of our often chaotic and constantly changing world. If we can accept and remember that God is matchless in power, unconquerable, and always wins. God, is all-knowing, all-loving and holds us securely in His hand.



So, maybe (as now I have arrived in August) start each day by reminding ourselves of this amazing truth, and even better if we can, share it with others. Let's remember that our omnipotent God is **all knowing** and also **all loving** and will provide us with comfort when we need it - if we let him!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.

Liz Smith



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In the Bag!

When our daughter was little there used to be a game called “In the bag” where you had to put your hand into a drawstring bag, have a feel round, and guess what you found.

Just shortly after St Helen’s re-opened (over a year ago now) and as part of an All Age Service, Liz put up a drawstring bag on the notice board for your ideas. Ideas for our future mission and ministry in showing God’s love to the people of Ashby and beyond. And I say “*future*” i.e. not re-inventing or restoring the past (however comfortable that might be). And I say “*to the people of Ashby and beyond*” i.e. out there, not just in here.



Sadly, whenever I put my hand in the bag, which I do regularly, it’s quite empty! I simply cannot believe that in a whole year, and with an electoral roll of over 130 people, that God has not spoken to anyone except those on our ministry team who are grappling with this. Make no mistake, God is never silent! He has plans for us! It’s only us who unconsciously don’t take the time to hear him, or consciously block out what we do hear.

We have to get used to the idea of “every member ministry” or what is sometimes called “the priesthood of all believers” and understand that leaving all the ministry and mission thinking and action to the select few is not, and probably never will be again, the way we can be church. Nor can we do everything and sometimes we are being asked to be the signpost rather than the destination.

So I urge you, as you slow down or take off for pastures new this summer holiday, let God speak to you about our/your mission and ministry to the people of Ashby and beyond. Call in at different churches on your summer adventures and see what others are doing in other places and ask God if that might be for us as well. Rest in a beautiful place and invite God to speak. Be observant to the needs of the world. If you are housebound for whatever reason, what is God calling you, as a disciple of Christ, to do to enable you to contribute to the whole? Let someone know and they can put that in the bag for you.

I shall have a look in that bag after the summer break and I hope and pray that it will be so filled with God’s words for our mission and ministry that, together, we have to reflect and pray about how to prioritise. Don’t let God down.

Rev. Margaret



The
**What's
On
Notice board**



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Mammatt, Music & Makaton

Monday 22nd August 9.30 - 11.30am

- £3 per child
- Fun, interactive workshops
- Primary age children
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one with music,
one with Makaton
 - What is Makaton?
 - What's the link??
- In the church
- Refreshments available
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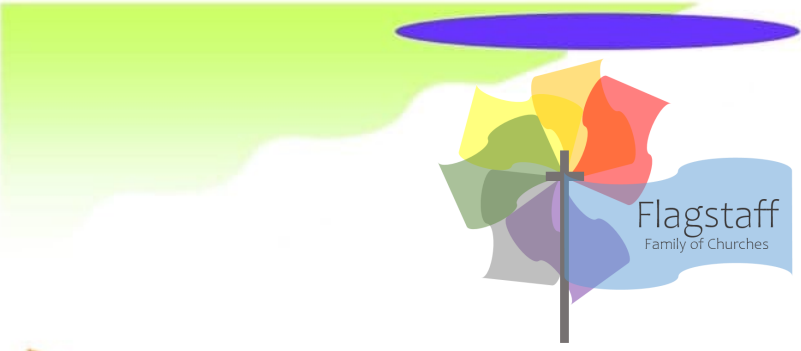


instagram.com/sthelensheritage



www.sthelensasby.net





A small group will gather in the Autumn to reflect on Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants in the light of Holy Scripture. If you are interested in this "One off" group please contact Revd. Margaret.
margaret@ajacques.plus.com

Pop Lyrics Ordination Exam

One of the people I follow on Twitter describes himself not only as a canon lawyer but also an 'Honorary Registrar of the Diocese of Twitter.' He asked recently:

Right Twitter. We're going to set a new General Ordination Exam solely through the medium of pop song lyrics. Just because.

Here's one to kick you off: Contemporary theology. "In this world, we're just beginnin' To understand the miracle of livin'". Discuss

Here are some of the suggestions of exam questions he received:

"Sisters are doing it for themselves". Discuss, with reference to a religious order of your choice.

"Hey sistas, soul sistas, betta get that dough, sistas". Should a church tax fund the contemplative religious life?

"The only one who could ever reach me Was the son of a preacher man". Does the church have a nepotism problem?

"Lay your hands on me, lay your hands on me, lay your hands on me All you got to do is Lay your hands on me, lay your hands on me, lay your hands on me, yeah" To what extent does Bon Jovi demonstrate an orthodox theology of Holy Orders?

If heaven is not, in fact, a halfpipe, what shape is it?

"Sorry seems to be the hardest word" Discuss, with particular reference to the alternative forms of Confession in Common Worship.

Church History 1700-1900 "All around the world You've gotta spread the word Tell 'em what you've heard You know it's gonna be okay" Discuss.

"I wish it could be Christmas every day" To what extent is this desire manifested in out of date parish church websites?

Ecclesiastical Law: "I hope you don't mind that I put down in words how wonderful life is now you're in the World". Conduct a GDPR audit on a Gospel of your choice.

Parish Administration: "Throw your hands in the air like your just don't care" How best to get people to volunteer for Deanery Synod?

"And I'd love to say I do Give everything to you But I can never not be true So I say I think I'd better leave right now Before I fall any deeper" To what extent was a Diocese's implementation of the Dennis Canon determinative in the success of TEC's recent litigation?

"When you believe in things That you don't understand Then you suffer" Is it a moral evil to make the Curate preach on Trinity Sunday every year? If so, who does it harm more?

"Now they're planning the crime of the century, well what would it be?" Discuss with reference to the 4th, 7th and 15th centuries. Give reasons for the filioque clause.

"You're gone as suddenly as you came to me Like nightfall followed dawn without a

day between You're gone and suddenly I can't see I'm in the shadow of you"
Discuss the significance of Mary M. being the 1st to see the risen Lord, & her subsequent overshadowing in church history

"All in all you're just another brick in the wall". Discuss the role of chancel repair liability in the modern Church, with reference to wider community relations.

"I wanna, (ha) I wanna, (ha) I wanna, (ha) I wanna, (ha) I wanna really, really, really wanna zigzag ah" Explain King David's motives with respect to Bathsheba and Uriah the Hittite.

"Damn, I wish I was your lover..." Discuss with reference to Song of Songs and the vocation of priesthood.

"If you see me walking down the street, Walk on by, walk on by"
To what extent does this excuse the behaviour of the Priest and the Levite?

Sacramental theology: "More than words / Is all you have to do to make it real". Discuss.

"I need a miracle, I need a miracle it's more than physical what I need to feel from you." Explain how to manage paying the parish share with dwindling funds.

"She tied you to a kitchen chair She broke your throne, and she cut your hair And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah" Explain with a 4-page genealogy why you've got David and Samson confused again.

"Do you believe in life after love?"

"Papa don't preach." Is there a retirement crisis in the clergy?

"Ooh, baby, do you know what that's worth? Ooh, heaven is a place on earth." Explain the concept of immanence.

"Don't go wasting your devotion/Lay all your love on me" — is singleness the most desirable state for the clergy?

"Gimme, gimme, gimme a man after midnight/ Won't somebody help me chase the shadows away?" — discuss with reference to Anglican deliverance practices.

"I still haven't found what I'm looking for." How do you explain the nature of a spiritual journey?

"I think I'd better leave right now." When is it right to excommunicate?

"The Long and Winding Road." How do you plan not to be late for a crematorium funeral?

"Do they know it's Christmas?" What role does the incarnation play in how we can "know" the divine?

"A little less conversation" Write an analysis of the Anglican Methodist covenant

"If loving you is wrong I don't want to be right." Discuss in relation to incumbent/ parishioner relations.

More next month.

Jill Chapman

Wanted by Restorer

Do you have ...

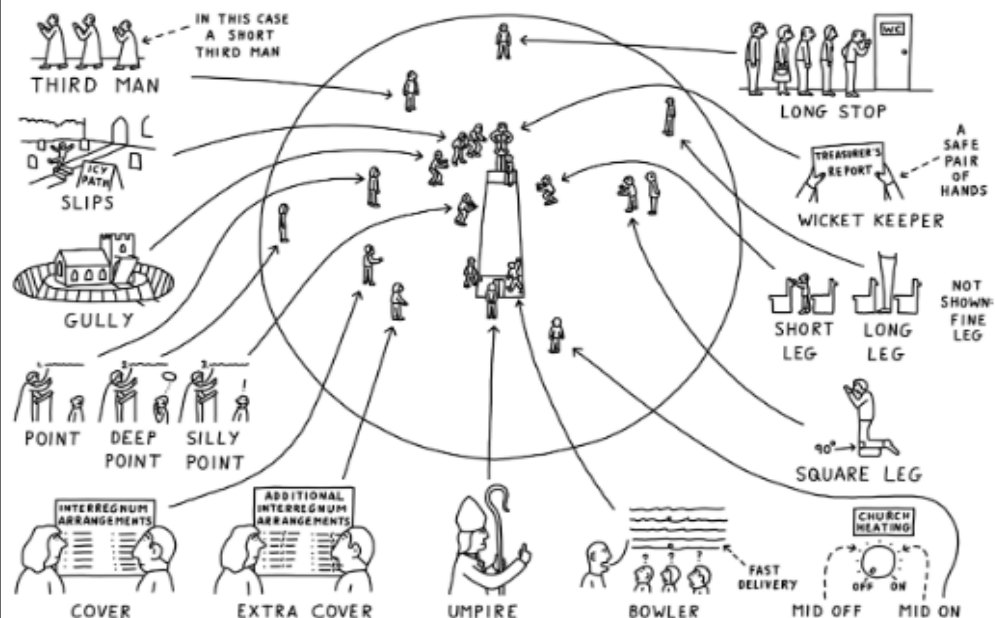
⇒ pre 1970s furniture, wood or woodworking tools?

- * Teak, mahogany, oak, pine etc.
- * Painted, broken or woodworm
- * Even charity shop rejects

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CRICKET

FIELDING POSITIONS, AND THEIR ECCLESIASTICAL EQUIVALENTS



Fair Trade

Ashby's fair trade shop, fair2all, has been inspired by the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games. fair2all's Bath Street window is bedecked with bunting and celebrates the many Commonwealth countries from where stock has come.



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August Gardening Tips

August is usually the hottest month of the year which makes watering essential. However, the month of July has “trumped” August, with record temperatures across the UK.

August is traditionally holiday time for most UK Citizens. You may have to enlist the help of Friends and Family to look after your garden whilst away. Our grand-daughter and family came down from Nottingham 4 times to water our Garden when we were away over the last two weeks, which was a “Godsend”.

If you are lucky enough to have a Wisteria then keep pruning to control growth and size, and improve the flowering display. Remove the whippy side shoots to about 20cms (8ins) from their base. This is about 5 leaves from the main stem.

As usual, keep dead heading flowering plants regularly. The easiest way is to just pinch out the faded blooms with finger and thumb.

Don't forget to top up ponds and birdbaths regularly and water fruit and veg plants daily if possible.

Prune all summer flowering shrubs such as climbing hydrangeas once the blooms have finished.

Cut back herbs now to encourage a new flush of tasty leaves that you can harvest before winter.



The vegetable garden comes into its own in August with plenty of produce to harvest. Feed and water sweetcorn, peppers, cucumber, aubergine and tomato plants with tomato feed regularly. Pinch out the top of tomato plants to concentrate the growth into the already-formed fruit. Try to leave 4-5 trusses of fruit per plant.

The tips of runner beans should be pinched out once they reach the top of their support system. Harvest Spring-sown carrots and beetroot if needed though they can be left in the soil to keep growing. Continue to harvest second-early potatoes for use in salads whilst starting to harvest main-crop

potatoes once the leaves have turned yellow and died back. Lift and dry onions, shallots and garlic once the foliage has flopped over and turned yellow. Check for cabbage-white butterfly eggs under your brassica leaves and remove them. Finally, keep harvesting courgettes before they become too big!

In the greenhouse check plants daily if possible and water them if the soil is dry. Open vents and doors on warm days – almost every day this year! Finally try hanging sticky traps to catch flying pests.

Lawns will look brown after so much sunshine but don't be tempted to fertilise as this will encourage new growth which is easily damaged by autumn weather.

In the fruit garden prune back blackcurrant bushes after harvesting. Your raspberries, cherries, plums, peaches, nectarines and apricots should all be ripe this month with early varieties of apples ready at the beginning of next month.

There are many other jobs in the garden to do in August. Try to use water butts to collect your garden water if possible. Turn over the compost in your bins on a monthly basis.

August is a great month to cast a critical eye over your planting and then decide what you would like to change for next year. Make rough sketches or video your borders/veg garden to help. Think about extra bulbs you would like to see blooming in the Spring as now is the time to order for Autumn planting.

Finally, do not forget there are important matters happening at this time in the UK, such as, the Women's Football Euros and the Commonwealth Athletics Games in Birmingham.

Good Luck to All Our UK Competitors!

Alan Cross



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The Red House

In recent times, there have been a few large houses which used to exist in Ashby, but considered too big for modern families, have been demolished and replaced with several smaller houses or even a whole new road. One quite well-known example would be Highfield House on Moira Road. It was built by John Johnson, manager of the Leicestershire Banking Company shortly before 1841 and became the Highfields Hotel in 1947. It was demolished in 1971 and replaced by Tower Gardens.

Hill House once stood nearby, opposite Hill Street. This house dated back to the first part of the 19th-century and apart from one photograph in the collection at Ashby Museum, the only information I have about it is derived from the Census. In 1841 it was inhabited by the surgeon Thomas Cantrell. By 1861, his widow Anna Marie was living elsewhere in Kilwardby Street and Hill House was occupied by John Davys, a 69 year wine merchant. He was still there ten years later and his name is remembered today, carved above the entrance to one of the courts in Market Street. Other occupants followed in subsequent census years but I do not know when the house was demolished, although it was still there in 1939 when it was the home of Olive Askew.

A more recently built house, and probably less well-known, was The Red House. This stood on Upper Packington Road, next to the railway line. When it was demolished in the 1960s it was replaced by St Michael's Close.

The O/S map shows that there was nothing built there in 1881 or 1901, but the census returns refer to a seemingly large house known as St Michael's House, which seems to have stood on or near the same site and presumably gave its name to St Michael's Close. The Red House was built in the 1920s and the O/S map of 1920/25 shows it clearly marked as The Red House. It belonged to The Red Bank Manufacturing Company, brick makers, and that would appear to be the origin of its name. In the 1950s and 60s it was the home of Ernest Saunders, a manager with the Red Bank Company, and his family.

One of his sons became a friend of ours some years ago and he gave me copies of photographs of the house interior and some old cine film of the grounds. These can be seen on the Facebook page "Old Photos of Ashby de la Zouch" and the photographs have been given to Ashby Museum.

A short while ago, I came across the estate agent's brochure, produced when the house was sold in the late 1960s. It states that the house stood in approximately four acres of land.

The ground floor consisted of two hallways, a large lounge (20ft.x17ft.) and even larger dining room (22ft.9ins.x20ft. 10ins.) an additional smaller sitting room, a kitchen, scullery, butler's pantry, utility room, larder, cloakroom and WC.

Upstairs there were eight bedrooms, three of which were on the second floor. There was no such thing as "en-suite" in those days, but the master bedroom did have its own dressing room. There were two bathrooms, a separate WC and a separate shower room, as well as what was described as a linen room – probably

what we would call an airing cupboard, but perhaps it was an actual room and not just a cupboard.

The grounds were extensive and there was a large number of outbuildings. Mr Ernest Saunders himself built the greenhouses, but there were also three garages, stabling for four horses together with a harness room and store, boiler rooms, potting sheds, coal store and wash house. The Polish gardener, Michael, had his own cottage and died only three years ago. His cottage was still standing at that time but has now been demolished. There were also two tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Our friend was able to share some of his memories of living in the house as a boy and young man. The family Chow-chow dog, Kim, used to take himself for a walk quite often and the police would ring the house to say he was walking down Market Street. The daughter of Dr Alison, Head of Ashby Grammar School, had a horse in the field next to Mount Walk which would regularly break out and make "pock marks" on the Red House lawn.

The Red House was obviously quite a prestigious establishment and must have made a lovely home for the family, but times move on and there is not much call for butler's pantries in the Ashby of today!

Wendy Freer



Our Worship on Sundays in August

Week	8.30am	10.30am	pm
1 7 th August	Staunton Holy Communion	St Helen's All Age	6.00pm St Helen's * Evensong (said) Isley Walton Holy Communion
2 14 th August		St Helen's * Holy Communion	
3 21 st August	Staunton Morning Prayer	St Helen's * Morning Prayer— Word & Worship Breedon Holy Communion	3.30pm Coleorton Messy Church
4 28 th August		St Helen's * Holy Communion	



* - denotes services at St Helen's which are streamed live to Facebook, on the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page, and later on the website - www.sthelensashby.net

Other Regular Services:

- **Wednesdays - Holy Communion - 10.30am**
 - First Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion - in church
 - Second Wednesday of the month - Holy Communion - at Prior Park Community Centre
 - Third Wednesday of the month - Service of the Word - in church
- **Saturdays - Parish Prayers - 9.30am** in church (Hastings chapel or, if weather is fine, the Community Heritage Centre garden)

Regular activities:

Monday mornings, term time	– Little Fishes
First Tuesday of the month	– MU meeting 7pm - 9.30pm
Third Tuesday of the month	– MU branch meeting 10am - 12.30pm
Third Tuesday of the month	– PCC meeting 7 - 9.30pm
Fourth Tuesday of the month (October to March only)	– Heritage lectures 7pm - 9.30pm
First Wednesday of the month	– ‘We’re In Stitches’ Knit & natter 2 - 4pm
Thursdays	– Choir practice 6.30-8.30

"What Would Jesus Do?"

- Take naps
- Feed the hungry
- Draw in the sand
- Tell weird stories
- Eat with people far from God
- Make disciples
- Forgive enemies
- Prioritize prayer
- Scrutinize religious systems
- Stand with the marginalized
- Have breakfast on the beach
- Oppose corruption
- Proclaim good news
- Flip the occasional table



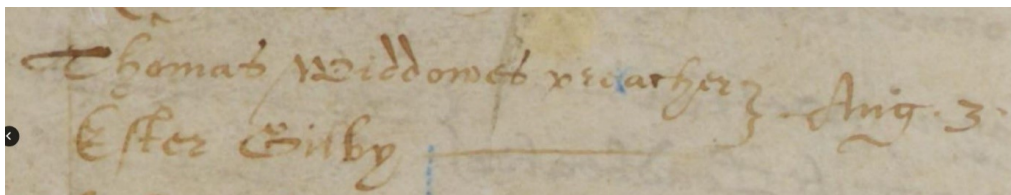
The latest in Julie Starkey's series where she searches for more information about previous incumbents at St Helen's:

Thomas Wyddowes

Vicar 1583-1593

Thomas Wyddowes entered Christ's College, Cambridge in May 1545, which suggests he was born in the late 1520s, before written church baptism records were kept. He was ordained priest in Coventry on 24th June 1562 and was in Ashby by 1567, when his name is recorded on the foundation deed, as one of the feoffees for Ashby Grammar School.

Wyddowes (whose name is variously spelled in records as 'Wyddowes,' 'Wydows,' and 'Widdowes') married Ester Gilby at St Helen's Church on 3rd

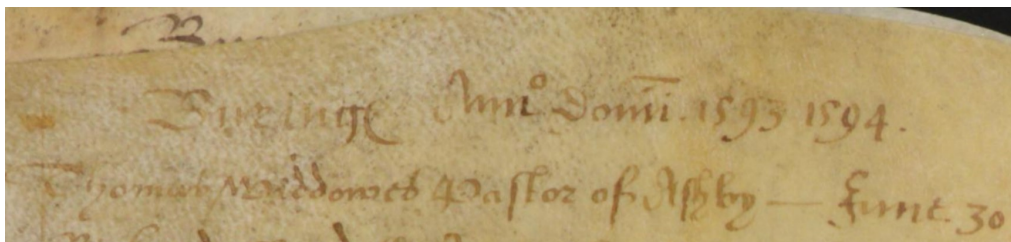


Record of Marriage of Thomas Wyddowes and Ester Gilby – 3rd August 1570

August 1570. He would have been around 40 years old. The marriage register describes him as '*Thomas Widdowes preacher.*' Ester was previous vicar Anthony Gilby's daughter.

Twin daughters, Martha and Mary, were baptised on 6th July 1571. A son, Thomas, was baptised on 22nd February 1572 and Mary was buried at the end of May – just ten months old. John was baptised in June 1575 and Daniell in November 1577. Nathaniel followed in 1579 and another daughter, also Mary, was born late in 1582. Susanna was baptised in December 1584.

Wyddowes was appointed vicar in 1583. It's possible that he worked as a schoolmaster or a lecturer in the church up until that time.



Wyddowes died in June 1593 and was buried at St Helen's on the last day

of the month, "Thomas Widdowes Pastor of Ashby." (excerpt from burial register above)

Wyddowes appears to have been a dependable man. The vicar of Packington, Henry Presbury, turned to him for advice over a disputed marriage. This dependability is also borne out in a letter to Arthur Hildersham, Wyddowes' successor as vicar, from Henry Hastings (the 3rd earl), who wrote:

Since that it hath pleased the Lord to call Thomas Wyddowes to his mercy, who was (in my opinion) both faithful, careful and diligent in his function according to his talent, I do wish with all my heart, the supply of that place to be such as that which good father Gilby and he by the good providence and mercy of God have planted in and about Ashby may be continued and increased. Therefore I choose to present you unto that pastoral charge of Ashby, which I trust by that time I have finished my long intended purpose, shall be a sufficient place for any learned preacher. And with this letter I send you my presentation to the vicarage with a letter to the bishop of Lincoln, who, I hope, will easily accept of you, with all honour. Yet let this be your care, to advance the glory of god by exercise of your ministry, which you shall do best when you are in the pastoral charge. I am forced to end. God ever direct you, and ever assist you will all necessary graces.

At York, hastily, 5 July 93.

Henry Huntingdon.

To the comfort of the poor widow I will take some care.

Ester Wyddowes was buried at St Helen's on 11th April 1601.

Julie Starkey
June 2022

Sources

Cambridge University Alumni 1261-1900

Clergy of the Church of England Database (available online)

Levi Fox: A Country Grammar School, page 5

St Helen's Church marriage register. August 1570. Accessed via Find My Past.

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Prayer Works

There was an upsetting news story a couple of weeks ago about a church in Tooting which had its bank accounts emptied of £138,000, practically all of the church's funds. It included their organ fund and the reserves for their roof project, expected to cost well over £120,000.

On July 20th, one of the church officers received a text message that purported to be from the NHS, informing them that they had been in contact with someone with Covid-19. The message instructed them to order a free test, and asked for bank details to pay for postage and packing.

After entering the details they realised that it might be a scam, and promptly cancelled their card. Their suspicion seemed to be confirmed when they then received a call from their bank, telling them that any accounts to which they had online access had been compromised.

But this call had actually been made by the criminals, who were posing as bank employees and using the information that they had gathered from the response to the earlier text message.

Concerned about the church's accounts, to which they had online access, the church officer contacted another member of the PCC so that they could authorise the steps that the scammers told them were necessary.

In reality, they were draining the church's various bank accounts.

A YouTube film showed the Rev Mae Christie announcing the news to her congregation, saying, 'Though they have stolen our money, they have not stolen our joy.' She asked for prayers for the church, for the bank to do the right thing, and for a change of heart for the perpetrators, that they would turn from their ungodly ways: 'Please do pray for the people that did the scam, I fundamentally believe that they're missing something in their lives.'

The good news is that all of the money has been paid back by its bank.

Prayer for the Lambeth Conference

This prayer was shared by Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford, as part of the Lambeth Conference prayer journey:

Lord of all, as we thank you for the family of the Anglican Communion, we pray that in our wonderful diversity we may each know ourselves created in your image and loved by you.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

St Helen's Mothers Union have a break from their morning meetings in July and August. Therefore, I am going to write a little more of our links with the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania. Wapi Wapi is in that Diocese and they are our St Helen's worldwide link. We have now heard from Agnes Saidi who is our contact from them. She has written a little for us about a joyful and colourful celebration for St Margaritha, held on the 24th July. As we know the African services are always a joy to hear with wonderful harmonies - this one was no exception.

Agnes has sent a couple of photos, and they show that the MU all have beautiful dresses in blue and white. The dress material has the MU emblem, the cross, writing and other signs and would be easily recognised on visits they make.



Agnes also advised that the President of Tanzania MU, Joyce Haji, is going to be present at the 15th Lambeth Conference - it is normally every 10 years, but obviously Covid-19 meant that the 2020 conference was postponed. However, MU shared with the conference planning teams, how an

idea 'Global conversations' could be set up, and Zoom meetings to support Groups of Bishop's spouses meeting across different provinces was initiated. New friendships were built, and prayers said. So in 2022, the in-person conference will be a time to meet the person from zoom.

Mariam Amalus is another MU member and leader of Vicoba group in



- Masasi. During the Covid-19 pandemic she, along with colleagues, was
- invited to join the MU MasAsi's training. (Church and community
- Mobilisation Process). They learned the real risks that Covid-19 and Long
- Covid posed, about at risk populations, new variants, hand washing,
- social distancing and the importance of vaccination. Mariam was then
- able to train her own household and talk to members in her group and
- community about vaccinations. She explained that as a Christian, who
- speak the truth, people in the community would believe them as the
- community sees Christians as trustworthy people. A totally different view
- of Mother's Union than in Ashby de la Zouch.

Adrienne Sedgman



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From the Albums -



Our Archaeology Day went well with 17 children attending, plus some toddlers who really enjoyed the digging - it generated smiles all round as they went home with their bag of discovered "treasures." Fun was had with the dressing-up clothes and making faces with the iron filings and the toddlers in particular loved the garden path slope!

Elizabeth Smith

Update from Loughborough Town of Sanctuary

At Loughborough Town of Sanctuary, we continue to meet and greet asylum seekers who, although they don't live in Loughborough, have to travel from the surrounding cities in order to report weekly at the 'East Midlands Immigration Enforcement Reporting Centre.' Your recent help has been much appreciated, but of course, the need for hats, scarves and gloves is currently somewhat reduced! However, the need for a smile, a friendly chat and a hot meal persists of course! We also offer a voucher to help people buy basic toiletries as well as information sheets to help people from different cities get the advice and support they might need from the right expert sources.

I usually volunteer on the same day each week, so I have got to know some of our asylum seekers quite well. We hear of some harrowing experiences but also some heart-warming and hopeful ones. There is very little we can do to change what seems to me to be a grossly inefficient and very harsh system and I expressed this frustration recently to one of our 'regulars'.

His reply was: 'Well, what you guys do might seem small to you, but to us, it's huge!'

I like to think then, that what we currently do is worthwhile - but we have recently widened our remit, as we hope to help some of the newly arrived 80 or so asylum seekers who are now accommodated in the local area. We're not yet sure of their immigration status and at present, they are not required to report at the Immigration Centre, but some of them have found their way to us outside the Centre, to have a bit of a chat with the volunteers (often via Google Translate!)



Take Basim (I've changed his name) who comes down to chat with us most days. He's from Chad, one of the poorest and most corrupt countries in the world where crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping and human rights abuses are rife. He tells me the food is good at his accommodation and he never complains. He already speaks three languages but is desperate to learn English, so he brings his notebook every day with new vocabulary gleaned from the internet that he wants to practise. He's recently acquired a couple of children's books containing simple illustrated words to help him.

Unlike those refugees arriving from Ukraine, asylum seekers like Basim are not allowed to work and are only given a very small weekly cash allowance. So, we are currently meeting with various agencies to discover the best ways to help them - and formulating plans to do more. There will then be a public meeting in Loughborough on 4th October to talk about those plans and enlist the necessary support.

Perhaps that's when you might come in? I'll let you know what plans we make and how you might be able to help. In the meantime, I know many of us are having to look more carefully at our giving at the moment, but some people have asked how they can support us - so firstly, your prayers would be much appreciated for the outcome of our current investigations. If you do wish to contribute a little to our funds, we can promise you it will be well spent. £5 would pay for one of our Superdrug vouchers for example, but please don't buy the voucher yourself, as it's difficult to ascertain the amount covered without going into the shop. If you e mail or text me, I can give you the relevant payment details.

pat@destafford.co.uk 07791 335489

Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement! It really is appreciated!

Please do keep the date for the public meeting in your diary and watch this space!

Pat Stafford



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**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

Sk8ers

Hi, my name is Katie Johnson, and I've been working with AYFC for the last 5 years. For those of you who don't know me, I primarily oversee the Sk8ers youth club on a Monday night at the Baptist's church, and mentor young people in schools who are struggling, either due to mental health or behaviour, to remain in school or transition well to high school. I LOVE my job, I love the young people I'm sent to serve through this amazing organisation.

The beginning of July saw the last Sk8ers of term, and I have had an absolute blast this last school year. We have had 0 injuries and 0 incident forms filled out - a first for me! We have moved from lockdown to an open door policy, and have seen so many new young people join our youth club this year, a total of 51 in fact, we have even had to turn young people away because of surging numbers – on the final session of term we had another 8 new young people arrive at Sk8ers and a total of 25 young people come into the club within the first 20 minutes...and we had to close the doors. I never thought we would get there with Sk8ers. It used to be such a small group, I almost wondered if it would cease this year, as at the start of term we were seeing just 2-6 young people turn up each week, but since May we have seen new people joining every week!

Just one more volunteer would have meant another 5 young people could have come through the door; more finance could allow us as a team to maybe reach those we had to turn away.

Ashby Youth For Christ, like many charities, lost a lot funding or funding opportunities over the last 2 years, and that means reduced services available for our young people. It worries me that we might not have that young person coming to club each week, just to tell us they had a great week in school (like we pray for), or that they avoided conflict (better known as 'beef') with that child who was winding them up (as we've prayed for), or that they feel ready to return to the classroom after some time away due to their mental health (which we are praying for). All these answered prayers and more are what we see each week at our youth groups (Sk8ers is but one of them), but we need more volunteers and more regular financial gifts to keep it going

Please pray for AYFC, our Trustees and Director Helen, as they continue to steward our finances well - position us as a staff and volunteer team into the best places for our young people - and continue to seek new sustainable

regular funding

Thank YOU and all praise to God. Your prayers have sustained me and the team and these young people through one of the most difficult seasons - and we are ending on a high, including a bunch of young people who are already asking, why can't we meet in the summer!

Please can you continue to pray for our young people: "...the Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ." (Phil4:5-7)

Recently I heard of another of our Sk8ers permanently removed from mainstream school and a mother beside herself. Our young people really suffered during the pandemic although many people thought the pandemic wouldn't touch them - they had better survival rates, could learn from home, had family around them so were not lonely, and are so resilient. This year, we helped young people who were struggling to adjust to being back in their school environments; usually either because their behaviour or mental health had deteriorated or they had become so anxious about 'being outside.'

As for me, I am on a month Sabbatical from all of my roles, and take time to seek God, listen to His call again on my life and be renewed and refreshed for the next season. Please pray that this time leaves me feeling fully refreshed.

In Him,
Katie & The Sk8ers team

Rock Solid

Please join with me in thanking God for an enjoyable year during which a good number of young people have regularly heard the Gospel, had opportunities to invite their friends to hear the good news, grown in their experience of discipleship, developed supportive relationships, experienced grace and had a lot of fun. Thank you for your part in this. Without your prayers Rock Solid would be like a device on low charge; a match without coach, physio or fans; a climb without belayer...

Please go on praying for these young people over the summer. We will be meeting up with some of them through the adventurous outdoor activity trips we've arranged. Some of them will also be joining us on Blaithwaite at Castle Head - a CPAS Venture.

Please pray that these young people would become clearer in their minds

and hearts about the one who makes Rock Solid rock solid. Ask God to convict them of his majesty and love. Ask God to simplify in them a desire for him and a hatred of sin.

Please also ask God to send the right adults to serve young people on Friday evenings at Rock Solid.

Thank you
Vernon

Join us for a trip down the River Trent

As you know Ashby Youth for Christ holds an outdoor activity licence and use it to engage young people from across the area in getting outdoors, exploring the world we live in.

We would like to invite you to join us on 24th September in a day trip down the River Trent on stand

up paddleboards, we will be setting out from Swarkestone Bridge. No experience needed, and you don't have to stand on the boards. Children and young people welcome.

We have two options for booking: Either pay £20 per person deposit and then raise sponsor money for the centre, or pay £100 per person for the day. We are happy to create a just giving page for you to fundraise on.

If you would like to book please fill in this form, and make your selected payment. Your place will not be confirmed until this has been completed.

Please contact vernon.ayfc@gmail.com with any questions.



Football

You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land

where there is no water.

Psalm 63:1 (NIV)

... wrote David in the desert of Judah. We have experienced some heat and aridity. Looking at an increasingly crispy garden and asked to refrain from using hose pipes etc I am already looking to the skies for signs of refreshment. As a nation we increasingly suffer from spiritual desiccation. How dry will things have to become before we call out to God for relief? There is plenty of looking for refreshment going on but in whom or what?

Hot weather is not ideal for football. Please pray I will be discerning and skilled in helping these young people recognise their dehydration and thirst. Pray I would also be like a tree planted by water - an advertisement for an invisible yet available source of water. Pray God's Spirit himself would sharpen their thirst and open their ears to hear Jesus offering a spring of water welling up to eternal life (cf John 4:14)

I have spoken to the footballers about King David's thirst for God during his desert time as a fugitive. Please pray that they will tend to their hearts' greatest need and that they will, to steal an advertising slogan, obey their thirst. Pray I will be an effective communicator of what the Bible prescribes as the way to drink the water of life. Pray they will submit to the Spirit's conviction and direction.

Thanks
Vernon

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Quotes for the Month

'Together, the task of the Lambeth Conference must be to shape a new vision for how the Anglican Communion engages with the world for the decade ahead. It requires deep listening, bold reimagining, and faithful prayer.'

Archbishop of Canterbury Facebook page, July 1st

'Now, I am usually a lectionary preacher ... this week I tried ...but all I could think about is, if there was ever a time for a good apocalypse it would maybe be now.'

Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, Fear & Breath an apocalyptic sermon, thecorners.substack, July 3rd

'The test of Christianity is not loving Jesus. It's loving Judas.'

Liberal Christians Facebook page, July 8th

'The language of vision and strategy risks ignoring the reality of frailty, brokenness, and sin ... missing the many blessings in that which is small and vulnerable and marginal.'

Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani quoted by Angela Tilby, Church Times, July 8th

'There is no official [Church of England] definition [of a woman], which reflects the fact that until fairly recently definitions of this kind were thought to be self-evident.'

Dr Robert Innes, Bishop in Europe, answering written question to General Synod, July 10th

'25 % of American Christians say every word of the Bible should be taken literally, while 16% say it's a book of legend and fables. 58% say it's the inspired Word of God, but not everything in it should be taken literally.'

Relevant Magazine, July 11th

'The [National Parliamentary] prayer breakfast was a powerful occasion. I was grateful to be there. But I wonder if some of us who prayed for integrity in public life also need to repent of any tendency we have had to value charisma over character in the list of qualities we seek in

leaders – across all spheres of life.’

Paul Woolley CEO of LICC, How a Prayer Meeting Made History, licc.org.uk, July 15th

‘This week saw a four-day fire on Salisbury Plain, and temperatures of 40C are forecast for next week. I’m not sure how much more the gods of metaphor can do to make the situation readable ... Let’s face it, they did pestilence for the past two years and got nowhere.’

Marina Hyde, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree, July 15th

‘All through the bible you see how God waits until people think they’ve got their image of God right, and then God changes the image.’

Revd. John Bell of the Iona Community, Nomad podcast episode 276, July 15th

‘I’m one of few people in my family who would ever unironically go into a church’

Actor Martin Freeman, The Guardian, July 16th

‘It was one of those silences like the one ... in a ‘facilitated conversation’ about Living in Love and Faith in which someone realises that others in the room think they are going to Hell but are too polite to say so...’

Helen King, A Synod Divided: York Minster on Sunday, Shared Conversations blog, July 16th

‘Martha’s got God in her front room. And she’s in the kitchen, cutting the crusts off sandwiches.’

Archdruid Eileen, Beaker Folk of Husbourne Crawley, July 17th

‘God is not the creator of closed minds... Law is not a substitute for grace or mercy ... Leave an open door for the Love of God... and welcome finds its way home.’

Sad Jesus Facebook page, July 23rd

‘I humbly beg forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous Peoples.’

Pope Francis on his penitential pilgrimage to Canada, July 25th

“agreeing to disagree” — appears to have become a mantra of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s tenure and embracing “good disagreement” a preeminent Anglican virtue that turns the fracturedness of the Anglican Communion from a bug into a feature.’

Barbara Gauthier, <https://anglicanmainstream.org>, July 25th

‘Uh-oh, the Greek Orthodox archbishop of America is a liberal’

Prof. Mark Silk, Religion News Service, July 26th

‘Unity is not uniformity. And God has created us with a wonderful and glorious diversity.’

Archbishop of York, BBC Radio 4 Prayer for the Day, July 26th

‘Fr Mattia Bernasconi, a priest of the Milan Archdiocese, publicly acknowledged in an interview ... that his liturgical choice to swap his vestments for swim trunks was “perhaps imprudent”

Courtney Mares, Mass on Inflatable Lounge Chair in Sea, catholicnewsagency.com, July 27th

‘In the gospels Jesus is asked 187 questions. He answers (maybe) 8 of them. He himself asks 307. Maybe faith isn’t about certainty, but learning to ask – and sit in the complexity of – good questions.’

Kevin Nye, Unfundamentalist Facebook page, July 28th

‘Every ten years, bishops from all over the global Anglican Communion meet up in Canterbury to argue about gay sex.’

Revd Giles Fraser, <https://unherd.com>, July 28th

‘Well, that could have gone better. The calm, carefully organised run-up to this week’s Lambeth Conference [with] lots of online prayer and bonding sessions, was temporarily disrupted by a re-appearance of the ghost of ‘98.’

Leader Comment: Bishops, Can You Not Talk About Sex, Please?, Church Times, July 29th

‘The ‘Lessons Learned Review’ on Anglican moral reasoning at Lambeth Conferences concludes that Anglicans do eventually work out that they do better if they adapt and evolve.’

Very Revd. Martyn Percy, Modern Church Faith in the World blog, modernchurch.org.uk, July 29th

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