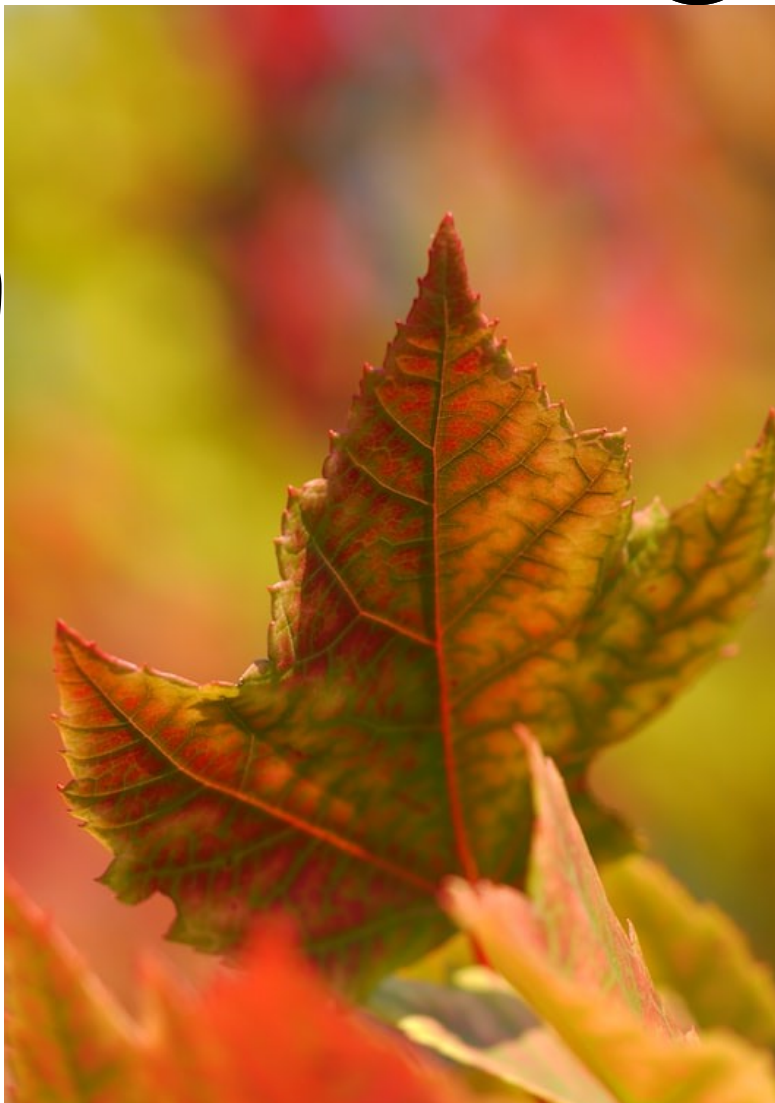


St Helen's Magazine

October 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 ...

I am feeling thankful (see page 23). One of the number of things I am feeling thankful for is having had the pleasure of editing this magazine for 11 years. Eleven years! My first issue was in November 2011. Looking back at that edition we were appealing for helpers for the flower festival planned for June 2012, being updated on the 'Cottage Project' as the early stages of the creation of our wonderful Heritage Centre were known, and fundraising for Ashby Street Pastors. The Ashby Street Pastors are still busy pastoring, and their latest get-together has a mention on page 8.



Also in the November 2011 magazine was 'Is Mission on Your Map?', an item which predated my tenure, and which a very faithful Sue Brown wrote until relatively recently. Other regulars were a 'From the Registers' section which Revd Brian Robertson provided each month, an article from Ashby Churches, and a 'Thought for the Month' from an anonymous source!

There was a 'From the Albums' page, which has continued, but is missing from this magazine because I failed to take photos of two very successful events held last month – Pimms & Hymns, and Peter Liddle's Heritage Talk on the discovery of a remarkable Roman villa in Rutland.

Mandy McIntosh was a regular contributor for many years, often providing not one but two articles each month. Tellingly, her article for November 2011 is about the Climate Justice Lobby, following the warmest October day on record. Are we eleven years worth more enlightened and active in trying to save the planet, I wonder?

The Mother's Union page was there and still is. Hoorah! The mantle has now passed to Adrienne Sedgman, and her latest article is on page 12.

There was a 'Brian Robertson Writes' of course, and that is a strand which has continued throughout, and which the Mission and Ministry Team are taking turns to write in our current interregnum, for which I am most grateful.

Over the years contributors have come and gone, threads and strands have been introduced and faded away, and, truth to tell, I am creating quite a lot of content these days, rather than editing it. A good example is the update on the work of AYFC (on page 28). I used to receive an article, whereas now I am writing it based on each group's weekly emails.

Sadly I'm not sure this is sustainable, and there are a few options, including a slimmed down monthly magazine or a three-monthly magazine. Or maybe someone with vim and vigour is ready to become the magazine's next editor. If you're out there, please do let me know.

Jill Chapman



Andy Smith writes ...

Well, September was quite a month, wasn't it? A month which saw change in high places unlike anything we've seen before, changes which, combined with the consequences of Brexit, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and COVID make for deeply, deeply concerning times and the prospect of a long, hard, uncomfortable winter ahead.

What as people of faith, are we to make of it?

On September 8th, 2022, immediately following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles III acceded to the throne. The occasional "fountain-pen" incident apart, the consensus seems to be that His Majesty's reign started well, as he spoke warmly and lovingly of his mother and predecessor as sovereign, whilst negotiating a rigorous programme of official events and visiting the four corners of the realm. I've found it encouraging to hear His Majesty talk of the importance of his faith in God, like his mother. And like his mother, early indications are that he will place a sense of duty and service to all at the heart of his reign, a sense of continuity amongst the change. We must continue to hold him in our prayers.

If the consensus is that King Charles's accession has gone smoothly, sadly, the same cannot be said of the succession of Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng as Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, can it?

I'm not making a political point in observing that unlike our past and current Sovereigns' focus on duty and service to all, the Prime Minister's campaign for the leadership of the Conservative Party, and subsequent changes to Treasury policy, do not have at their focus the whole nation, represent too much change too quickly and therefore have brought great instability at the worst possible time.

So what, as people of faith, can we make of all this?

Two points come to mind:

- To remember, above all, that, thankfully the King we serve is utterly consistent and constant in his love for us, and the invitation, offered through his son, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" is there for us always. Whenever we are worried or troubled, irrespective of how great or small those troubles are, irrespective of their cause.

No matter how hard the coming months become, never, never forget that God loves you.

- But also, to remember that as his servants, as his people, we are called to serve.

“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8).

Over the coming months, there will inevitably be times we are inclined to draw the curtains, shut the door, pull on two extra sweaters and look after ourselves.

But no matter how hard we find this winter, there will be many, many people who will find it far harder. Please remember to look out for your neighbours, colleagues and strangers. Be ready to offer kind words and encouragement. Spare what you can for charities and organisations that serve the disadvantaged, whether that's money, time spent volunteering or materials.

And try to hold the Gospel message of hope in your hearts and to let that message of hope light your face, your words, and your actions.

In Christ,
Andy

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National Hedgerow Week

Following the success of the inaugural National Hedgerow Week in 2021, this year's National Hedgerow Week was scheduled to take place in September 2022. As a mark of respect for the passing of the late Queen Elizabeth II, it was postponed, and will now take place from 10th -17th October.

One of the partner organisations behind National Hedgerow Week is CPRE, previously known as 'The Campaign to Protect Rural England', but now called CPRE The Countryside Charity, of which Her Late Majesty was royal patron for 70 years.

During National Hedgerow Week, CPRE will be handing in to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs their petition of over 40,000 signatures asking the government to commit to planting thousands of miles of hedges all across the country, amounting to a 40% increase in hedgerows by 2050.

But, why so much emphasis on hedgerows? Here are some of the things hedgelink.org.uk think we might like to know about hedges:

- Hedges are brilliant at capturing carbon – annually, a new hedgerow can absorb the carbon produced by a car travelling over 1,000 kilometres
- Due to their presence at the level of pedestrians, hedgerows are natural barriers to harmful air pollution in our streets
- Hedgerows are the UK's largest priority habitat – and are home to 80% of our woodland birds
- 50% of UK hedgerows have been lost since WWII and of those that remain, 60% are badly-managed
- The Climate Change Committee has advised that the UK needs to increase our hedgerows by 40% to meet our 2050 net zero target, which means planting 200,000km of new hedgerows – the equivalent of half the length of the UK road network
- Healthy hedgerows are essential habitats for UK biodiversity, supporting over 2,000 species including the hedgehog and several European Protected Species, notably the dormouse, most species of bat, the great-crested newt and many more

If you would like to find out more about the role of hedges in providing a habitat for wildlife, protecting the soil, cleaning the air and absorbing carbon emissions, or about The Tree Council and their partners who organise the week, or to be involved in some of the events, go to <https://hedgelink.org.uk/campaign/national-hedgerow-week/>



The What's On Notice board

THE MONDAY GROUP IS BACK!

We are trialling a fortnightly meeting starting on Monday 3rd October. We chat, study the Bible, discuss world events and have regular meals out. If you would like to hear more, phone me on 07706

146440

Steph Whiten



St Helen's Church & Heritage Centre

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AA

Join us on a "Veggieventure!"

- Medieval vegetable pottage making
- Vegetable carving and sculpture activities
- Fruit and veg printing and pattern making
- Heritage apple catching

17th October 9.30 to 12 noon
£3 per child



Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch

Website: www.sthelensashby.net

Email: sthelensashby@gmail.com



Instagram: [sthelenschurchandheritage](https://www.instagram.com/sthelenschurchandheritage)



Ashby
Street
Pastors

Invite you to a

BBQ

Saturday 8th October
at 5pm ...

at the
St Helen's
Heritage Centre
Garden
Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1AB



St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AA

HERITAGE TALKS 2022 -23

Dr Wendy Freer

Tuesday 25th October at 7.30pm

St Helen's on Film

Join us to watch two historical dramas filmed in St Helen's church earlier this year.

Meet their creator, local historian, filmmaker and founder of Pudding Bag Productions, Dr Wendy Freer who will be sharing the story behind ...

Dinner at St Helen's
&
Comrades in Arms

£3 including light refreshments
Tickets on the door



Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch

Website: www.sthelensashby.net

Email: sthelensashby@gmail.com



The Cecilian Singers

Music Director - Benjamin Kirk

Assistant Music Director - Guy Turner

Piano - Gill and David Parker



Love on the Rivers

Float to the music of McLeish, Debussy, Faure and
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Saturday 29th October 2022 7.30pm

St. Helen's Church

Lower Church Street, Ashby de la Zouch LE65 1AA



Tickets £12 Caroline Essex 01530 417056

Jane Cotton 0115 937 2993 jane.cotton2@ntlworld.com

Visit www.ceciliansingers.co.uk

Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/love-on-the-river-tickets-427059254727>

An Evening of Song with

Off the Record



Friday 7th October 2022

7pm

at

St Helen's Church, Lower Church St,
Ashby de la Zouch

LE65 1AA

Entry by donation

Proceeds to local church and charities



Haul Away

with

Concordia Choir

at St Helen's Church

Spirituals,
HMS Pinafore,
a 1974 classic by Simon and Garfunkel ...

... and if you like sea shanties
you'll love this concert!

Friday 28th October
7.30pm



Tickets £10

God Knows

In his Christmas 1939 broadcast, His Majesty George VI spoke some words from a poem given to him by his daughter, the then Princess Elizabeth. He was newly a king, it was his first Christmas message, and she understood his fear and trepidation.

These words also struck a chord with the listeners at a time when the country was facing the uncertainty of war.



And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’

And he replied:

‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.’

These famous lines were also spoken at the funeral of Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in 2002, and are the preamble to a not very well-known poem, written in full below, sometimes called The Gate of the Year, and sometimes God Knows, which was written in 1908, by Minnie Louise Haskins.

God Knows

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:

What need our little life

Our human life to know,

If God hath comprehension?

In all the dizzy strife

Of things both high and low,

God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.

Mango tree-mendous

If you love the look and feel of natural wood, then fair2all has plenty of items you'll appreciate. One of the most popular pieces is the Tree of Life trivet/table mat which looks attractive but also robustly protects surfaces from hot pans or dishes.

It is made from mango wood which is categorised as a hardwood, meaning its dense grain makes it strong and durable. But the even better news is that making things out of mango wood is also good for the planet - increasingly, mango trees are being seen as an environmentally sustainable alternative to other hardwoods, due to its fast rate of growth.



Mango trees are primarily grown for their fruit, and take a relatively quick 10-15 years to reach full productivity. (By comparison, oak trees can take around 75 years to reach maturity!) When they get older and taller, they can become trickier to harvest as well as less productive. Once this happens, the trees are felled and new ones planted so that the farmers can continue producing more fruit. This combination of quick-growing trees which can be easily replaced, and the fact that the older trees would be cut down regardless, means that using mango wood can help to relieve deforestation of endangered tree species, and its price is relatively low.

Fair2all is at 17 Bath Street. To check opening times ring 01530 417286

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

On hearing of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Sheran Harper, President of the Mothers' Union Worldwide, wrote:-

It is with deep sadness that I receive the news of the passing of our beloved Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. On behalf of the Mothers' Union members around the world, I join with the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in offering our love and sincere condolences to the entire Royal Family and all those dear to her.

Her Majesty has had a long and extraordinary life in which she saw our world change dramatically. Yet Her Majesty's dedication and service to her country, the Church and Commonwealth remained steadfast and continued to be an inspiration to us all, keeping us together in all situations.

We give thanks to God for her being our Patron, for blessing her with special gifts for a life humbly dedicated to public service, her strong faith as she weathered many storms; her commitment and devotion to family life; and her great concern for communities and all people.

Her guidance and support of Mothers' Union over the decades has enabled us to achieve so much in impacting communities and touching lives. During times of ongoing war and turmoil around the world, she reminded us of the healing power of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation. This inspired us and encouraged us to work for harmony and good relationships among all people in our communities.

Her spirit of acceptance to change and transformation through the years and her ability to take others on the journey of change is testimony to her great strength as a leader and her faith in change that is inevitable. This outlook on life strengthened Mothers' Union members to embrace all opportunities of change and transformation to truly reflect the worldwide nature of our movement. We will always remember her intelligence and humility in making wise decisions, her charm and sense of humour, and her sincere caring and gentleness. Hers was a life born to serve God and all humanity and her legacy that will live on in so many ways and in the hearts of all Mothers' Union members for generations to come.

On behalf of the Worldwide Board of Trustees, Staff and Members all around the world, we pray for the peaceful resting of Her Majesty's soul

with the sure hope of her rising in glory.

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love."
Romans 8:38a (NLT)

Adrienne Sedgman

Almighty God,
we bring to you our gratitude
for the life and reign of Elizabeth our Queen.
We thank you for her support of our work and vision
through her Patronage of Mothers' Union.
We look to her example of selfless service
as we seek to live out our Christian faith
by the transformation of communities worldwide.
May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen



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October Gardening Tips

In October the garden is looking Autumnal but beware of the first frosts. When the sun is shining, these blue-sky days are the perfect time to tidy and/or cut back plants that are passed their best. Also, if you have grown vegetables and fruit, then there is plenty of time to harvest and store over winter.

3 main jobs over October include:

- ⇒ Lift and divide any over-crowded herbaceous perennials whilst the soil remains warm.
- ⇒ Keep sweeping up fallen leaves as they are a favourite hiding place for slugs and snails. Create a leaf mould bin for these leaves if you can.
- ⇒ Late October is a good time to clean and disinfect the greenhouse so that more light gets in and pests and diseases are prevented from over-wintering. If needed, protect half-hardy plants with fleece and store them (off the ground) in the greenhouse after cleaning.

To support our wildlife over Winter put high energy fat balls and sunflower seeds out for the birds, as well as the usual source of nutrition, such as peanuts. Put hedgehog and bug houses in place if not already done. As we are approaching bonfire night, be sure to cover any potential bonfire with plastic to keep them dry but more importantly to keep hedgehogs away. As a matter of routine, **always** check for hedgehogs in any bonfire before lighting.



In the vegetable garden, finish harvesting peas and beans. Cut the plants to ground level leaving the roots in place, as they will fix nitrogen which is slowly released into the soil as the roots break down.

Now is a good time to plant garlic. Break the bulb into individual cloves and use a trowel to soften the soil before pushing them in so that the tip is just covered. They should be 15 centimetres apart in rows that are 30 centimetres apart.

Carrots can be sown in a cold greenhouse or polytunnel to over-winter as

seedlings and then harvest them in April/May.

Tomatoes are slowing down in the greenhouse and, depending on the weather, it could be time to cut the vines and leave them to ripen indoors. In any case always remove faded or discoloured leaves to prevent diseases and remove any flowers or very tiny green tomatoes which, by this time, are unlikely to come to fruit before winter sets in. Larger green tomatoes can be put in a dark place such as a kitchen drawer to ripen.

The lawn needs a little more attention this time of year. Make a last mowing this month and recut lawn edges if necessary. Use a garden fork to aerate the lawn to avoid compaction and waterlogging over the winter period. There is still enough time to repair dead patches and / or lay fresh turf.

Finally, take stock of your garden before plants disappear for winter. Make a few sketches or notes, and take videos / photos for next Spring if possible. You will be surprised how useful these will be next year when you start planning. We have drastically reduced the plants and shrubs in our front areas because we are trying to cut down on the watering regime during Summer. Climate change is coming fast and we want to make our small contribution towards the reduction of Global Warming.

Alan Cross

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Do you have ...

- ⇒ pre 1970s furniture, wood or woodworking tools?
- * Teak, mahogany, oak, pine etc.
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- * Even charity shop rejects

Contact Paul on 07895 451158 or pwin2457@gmail.com

Belgian Refugees in Ashby

With the outbreak of war in Ukraine this year, refugees have been more in the news, and many people in this country have been opening their homes to families from that war-torn land. Of course, this is not the first time that our country has taken in people fleeing from war and it has led me to look into the arrival of Belgian refugees during the First World war, some of whom came to Ashby.

It is said that around 250,000 Belgian refugees came to Britain during the First World War. The exodus had started in August, when Germany invaded, and the refugees continued to arrive almost daily for months, landing at ports including Folkstone, Tilbury, Margate, Harwich, Dover, Hull and Grimsby.

In October 1914, 19 refugees arrived in Ashby on the 6.45 train from London and were given a very enthusiastic welcome. A large crowd had gathered at the station where five cars were waiting to take them to St Helen's which was to be their home. The crowd waved and cheered enthusiastically as the cars drove away. The Burton Chronicle reported that the Governors of the Grammar School had lent St Helen's for this purpose which makes me think that it may have been St Helen's House (the former Girls' Grammar School) rather than the church. This is also hinted at in a report of 15th October which says that the Ashby Urban Council had decided to exempt from the general district rate a large residence in the town which had been offered as a home for the refugees.

A deputation of the Ladies' Committee met them on arrival at St Helen's and spoke with one or two of the adults who were able to speak French. There were children and elderly people amongst them and although most were unable to speak French or English, they seemed to appreciate the warm welcome.

About a dozen more Belgians arrived in Ashby in early December 1914 and were also accommodated in St Helen's. At the same time, accommodation was also made available in the town for 800 troops of the Royal Engineers and 300 horses!

In October, several townspeople undertook to meet the cost of maintaining the refugees and a lecture entitled "Why We Are at War" by Rev. C. Moore was given in the Town Hall that month in order to raise funds for the refugee fund.

By the end of March 1915, the balance of the subscription account of the Belgian Refugees Fund stood at £278. 13 shillings with expenditure of £136. 1 shilling. Money had been spent on allowances to the refugees, provisions, alterations in house to stoves and furniture, clothes, coal, paying a

charwoman, washing and a bonus to workers. At a meeting of subscribers held in June 1915 there was some discussion as to whether too much money was being given to the refugees, allowing



them to build up savings. It was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the committee and also to send a donation to the National Committee for the Prevention of Starvation in Belgium.

I do not know how long the refugees stayed in the town. I have not been able to find any further references in the newspapers of the day after 1915. A report in the Leicester Chronicle of 27th November 1915 stated that the Belgium Refugee Committee had offered St Helen's for the accommodation of wounded soldiers and a committee was appointed to look into what arrangements would be needed to receive them. Whether the refugees had moved on, or whether it was about to get a lot more crowded at St Helen's, I do not know.

It is interesting to read that in some parts of the country there were purpose-built villages where the Belgians had their own schools, newspapers, shops, hospitals, churches, prisons and police. These areas were considered Belgian territory and run by the Belgian government. They even used the Belgian currency. One such village was Elisabethville, a Belgian enclave in Birtley, Tyne and Wear. It was named after the Belgian queen.

Within twelve months of the end of the war, 90% of the refugees returned to Belgium and the British government was very keen for them to do so. They even offered free one-way tickets for a limited period.

An interesting footnote to this article is that Agatha Christie is said to have based the character Hercule Poirot on a Belgian refugee she met in her home town of Torquay.

Wendy Freer

Our Worship on Sundays in October

Week	8.30am	10.30am	pm
1 2 nd October	St Helen's Holy Communion Staunton Holy Communion		3.30pm St Helen's All Age 6.00pm St Helen's * Evensong Isley Walton Holy Communion
2 9 th October		Deanery Service St Helen's * Holy Communion	12.30pm St Helen's Baptisms
3 16 th October	Staunton Morning Prayer	St Helen's * Morning Prayer— Word & Worship Breedon Holy Communion	
4 23 rd October		St Helen's * Holy Communion	3.30pm Coleorton's Messy Church at St Helen's
5 30 th October		Team Service Holy Trinity 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 & Third Monday	– Monday Group 7.45 for 8pm
First Tuesday of the month	– MU meeting 7pm - 9.30pm
2 nd and 4 th Tuesday of month	– Friends, Fellowship, Faith 2.30 - 4pm
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 6.30-8.30pm
Fourth Thursday of the month	– Priest Room Gang 5pm

October Diary

Monday 3rd	8pm	Monday Group
Tuesday 4th	9am	Willesley School visit
Tuesday 4th	7pm	Mothers Union meeting
Wednesday 5th	2 - 4pm	‘We’re in Stitches’ knit & natter group
Friday 7th	7pm	Concert: Off the Record
Saturday 8th	8am	Men’s Breakfast at Wetherspoons
Saturday 8th	5pm	Street Pastors BBQ
Tuesday 11th	2.30 - 4pm	Friends, Fellowship, Faith
Wednesday 12th	10.30am	Communion at Prior Park
Friday 14th	9am	Willesley School Harvest Festival
Monday 17th	9 -12noon	VeggieVentures half-term activity
Monday 17rd	8pm	Monday Group
Tuesday 18th	10.45am	Mother’s Union meeting
Tuesday 18th	7pm	PCC meeting
Saturday 22nd	3pm	Tea Time at Prior Park
Tuesday 25th	2.30 - 4pm	Friends, Fellowship, Faith
Tuesday 25th	7pm	Heritage Talk—St Helen’s On Film
Thursday 27th	5pm	Priest Room Gang youth group
Friday 28th	7.30pm	Concert: Concordia Choir
Saturday 29th	7.30pm	Concert: Cecilian Singers

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What are you thankful for?

For nearly 50 years, Prisons Week has encouraged Christians to pray for the needs of all those affected by crime and imprisonment - prisoners and victims, their families, their communities, those working and volunteering in prisons and the criminal justice system.

This year Prisons Week falls on 9th -15th October, and the Gospel reading for Prisons Sunday is Luke 17:11-19, with its focus on thankfulness:.

⁹ As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. He was going into a village when he was met by ten men suffering from a dreaded skin disease. They stood at a distance and shouted, "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!" Jesus saw them and said to them, "Go and let the priests examine you." On the way they were made clean. When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. Jesus said, "There were ten men who were healed; where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?" And Jesus said to him, "Get up and go; your faith has made you well."

The compassion Jesus has for the lepers, people who are in a harsh, hopeless place on the edge of society and feeling much pain and despair, shows them that they are people loved and valued by God who can be restored to community and freedom.

THE PRISONS WEEK PRAYER

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.

Amen.

For more information, to find the daily prayers, or to donate, visit prisonsworld.org or email info@prisonsworld.org or write to: Prisons Week, c/o Free Churches Group, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH

[illegible]

LUKE 17:11-19

9TH-15TH OCTOBER 2022

THANK YOU

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Tears and Celebration

A new hymn lyric was written to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. It is sung to the tune “Dim Ond Iesu/Cymraeg” (best known for “Here is love vast as the ocean”). A shortened version was sung on BBC 1’s Songs of Praise on September 11th. You can see it sung by Katherine Jenkins at <https://youtu.be/HNeqtk7EyCs>

We see tears and celebration,
For this life so dignified,
Bearing thanks and hearts of sadness,
To the God of death and life.
As he takes her to his promise,
Of an audience with the King,
We remember all she gave us,
Wreaths of gratitude we bring.

In these days of change and trial,
Be the rock on which we stand,
When we fear in this new season,
Hold us firmly in your hands.
May we rise to her example,
To be humble, kind and fair,
Swift to pray and slow to anger,
Choosing faith and not despair.

In the midst of coronation,
She once knelt in silent prayer,
Oil was poured in Christ’s commission,
Called to lead her people there.
May we know that same anointing,
Move in royal authority,
Then speak liberty and healing,
To a world in need of peace.

Lord forgive, when pride and envy,
Leave our nation bruised and stained,
Turn us back towards our calling,
To make your name great again.
May we rise above divisions,
Lord, our brokenness we bring,
That a more united kingdom,
Would give glory to the King.

When our days are at their dimming,
And our work on earth is done,
May we hear as does our sovereign,
“Faithful servant, welcome home.”
May we rise with Christ to witness,
A new heav’n and earth displayed,
Ours a robe that will not tarnish,
Hers a crown that will not fade.

Alternative Verse 4 for rest of Commonwealth:

We beheld her sure compassion,
For the last and for the least,
Straddling races, tribes and nations,
Forging bonds of family.
May this commonwealth now echo,
The wide kingdom of our King.
Reconciled through Christ who suffered,
All our stories we will bring.

Tune: Dim Ond Iesu/Cymraeg

Words: © 2022 Andy Flannagan and Sam Hargreaves

Published by: Integrity Music/churchsongs.co.uk CCLI Song Number: 7193824

Quotes for the Reign

‘I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.’

Her Majesty Princess Elizabeth on her twenty-first birthday, 21 April 1947

‘Pray for me... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.’

The Queen’s first Christmas Day broadcast – 1952

'I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust.'

Speech on her Coronation Day, June 2, 1953

'It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult.'

Christmas Broadcast 1957

'We know the reward is peace on earth, goodwill toward men, but we cannot win it without determination and concerted effort.'

Christmas Broadcast 1963

'It has been women who have breathed gentleness and care into the harsh progress of mankind.'

Christmas Broadcast 1966

'If I am asked what I think about family life after 25 years of marriage, I can answer with equal simplicity and conviction, I am for it.'

Silver Wedding speech 1972

'We may hold different points of view but it is in times of & difficulty that we most need to remember that we have much more in common than there is dividing us.'

Christmas Broadcast 1974

'There are many serious & threatening problems in this country and in the world but they will never be solved until there is peace in our homes and love in our hearts.'

Christmas Broadcast 1986

'Like all the best families, we have our share of eccentricities, of impetuous and wayward youngsters, and of disagreements.'

Speech to heads of state aboard the royal yacht Britannia, October 1989

'It's not very difficult to apply [the Good Samaritan] to our own times and to work out that our neighbours are those of our friends, or complete strangers, who need a helping hand. It would be splendid to think that in the last years of the 20th century Christ's message about loving our neighbours as ourselves might at last be heeded.'

Christmas Broadcast 1989

'Let us not take ourselves too seriously. None of us has a monopoly on wisdom.'

Christmas Broadcast 1991

'A well-meaning Bishop was obviously doing his best when he told Queen Victoria, "Ma'am, we cannot pray too often, nor too fervently, for the Royal Family". The Queen's reply was: "Too fervently, no; too often, yes". I, like Queen Victoria, have always been a believer in that old maxim "moderation in all things".'

Speech to mark the 40th anniversary of her accession (Annus horribilis speech) 1992

'If we resolve to be considerate and to help our neighbours; to make friends with people of different races and religions; and, as our Lord said, to look to our own faults before we criticize others, we will be keeping faith with those who landed in Normandy and fought so doggedly for their belief in freedom, peace and human decency.'

Christmas Broadcast 1994

'He is someone who doesn't take easily to compliments but he has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and

many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know.'

Tribute to her husband Prince Philip on their Golden wedding anniversary 1997

'As I look to the future, I have no doubt at all that the one certainty is change... But I do not think that we should be over-anxious. We can make sense of the future, if we understand the lessons of the past.'

Christmas Broadcast 1999

'For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life.'

Christmas Broadcast 2000

'Nothing that can be said can begin to take away the anguish and the pain of these moments. Grief is the price we pay for love.'

Message of support for those who lost loved ones in September 11th attack, 2001

'I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.'

Christmas Broadcast 2002

'Religion and culture are much in the news these days, usually as sources of difference and conflict, rather than for bringing people together. But the irony is that every religion has something to say about tolerance and respecting others.'

Christmas Broadcast 2004

'I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life. He makes it clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served.'

Christmas Broadcast 2008

'I know of no single formula for success, but over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal, and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration, to work together.'

Address to the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010

'Whatever life throws at us, our individual responses will be all the stronger for working together and sharing the load.'

The Queen's speech at her Ireland state banquet in 2011

'Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.'

Christmas Broadcast 2011

'We all need to get the balance right between action and reflection. With so many distractions, it is easy to forget to pause and take stock.'

Christmas Broadcast 2013

'[Jesus Christ] is a role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.'

Christmas Broadcast 2014

'I have been — and remain — very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for his steadfast love.'

The forward of the 2016 book The Servant Queen And The King She Serves

'Some cultures believe a long life brings wisdom. I'd like to think so. Perhaps, part of that wisdom is to recognize some of life's baffling paradoxes such as the way human beings have a huge propensity for good, and yet a capacity for evil.'

Christmas Broadcast 2018

'It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change.'

Christmas Broadcast 2019

'We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.'

Televised address after outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic April 2020

'I am sure someone somewhere today will remark that Christmas is a time for children. It's an engaging truth, but only half the story. Perhaps it's truer to say that Christmas can speak to the child within us all. Adults, when weighed down with worries, sometimes fail to see the joy in simple things, where children do not ... They teach us all a lesson, just as the Christmas story does, that in the birth of a child there is a new dawn with endless potential.'

Christmas Broadcast 2021

'As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.'

Message to mark the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne, Feb 2022

"To my darling Mama, as you begin your last great journey to join my dear late Papa, I want simply to say this: thank you. "Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years. May 'flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest'."

King Charles III, first address to the nation as monarch, September 9th 2022

'What a life. What an extraordinary life! - Her Late Majesty showed us that when we build our lives on God's faithfulness, we are on the solid ground of eternity that cannot be shaken.'

Archbishop of Canterbury, 'Thought For The Day' on BBC Radio 4's, September 9th

'It's not like she was a member of our family. Except she was. She served the household of a nation. It wasn't for her a rule. It was an act of service to this people & to all of us. And ... that that came from somewhere. It came from her profound faith in the One who said that I am among you as one who serves.'

Archbishop of York, House of Lords, September 10th

'In her life and her example, God graciously gave us the most wonderful example of a Christian life and a Christian death. Her Late Majesty taught as much, if not more, about God and grace, both in words and the actions that reinforced them, than any other contemporary figure. We remember her not for what she had, but for what she gave. What a precious blessing. How precious she was therefore to us, and

how keenly we feel her loss.'

Archbishop of Canterbury, sermon at Canterbury Cathedral, September 11th 2022

'Of course, these days the word 'upright' is more often applied to pianos than moral character but it is very common in the version of the Bible that the Queen read - the King James. And it speaks of integrity, honesty, and justice. For the Queen those qualities were bound together with the command to love our neighbour.'

Revd Mark Greene of LICC, Express newspaper, September 11th

'People of loving service are rare in any walk of life, leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases, those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.'

Archbishop of Canterbury, sermon at state funeral, September 19th

Ashby Youth For Christ Registered Charity No: 1058434



Sk8ers

September saw Sk8ers return after the summer break. The five leaders prayed and prepared for the first meeting, expecting a pretty quiet evening (being that it was still warm outside and light, why would young people want to come into a church with us??). Well 20 young people came (with 3 new people too), and we had a jolly old time.

I am amazed that young people want to come in and talk to a bunch of old fogeys like us (well Vernon anyway). And yet, they come, they chat, they bring friends! And they get to ask themselves, why do these people run this club for free? And we get to tell them, it's because we know a God who wants to know you, and if we didn't do this, how would you hear?

Please keep praying for our young people and our team. We would really benefit from volunteers who are comfortable hanging out with young people and want to love them as we too have been loved by Jesus and elders throughout our lives. If this is you, please get in touch.

Our Amazon wishlist is a great way to support us too. Please take a look

<https://ayfc.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=939ad3c6f39358568ad0910d4&id=f85b3b18e0&e=0e99f3ecf3>

In Him,

Katie & The Sk8ers team

Rock Solid

Rock Solid's term has begun with visits to the Ashby Statutes Fair. Although it isn't an opportunity for quiet conversation it is good to be back together.

Please ask God to send the right adults to serve young people on Friday

evenings at Rock Solid.

Thank you
Vernon

Football

We have reverted to a single football session on Wednesdays, which is at 17:00 for ages 16+.

Many of our summer players are now returning to University. Please pray for them as they do: That they will be grateful for the Word, Church and Spirit they have encountered and received over the summer through football - and that God will provide a continued dose of him in their term time habitat.

Please also pray for our Ukrainian players. Some are law students and will have to travel to London to take exams soon. They struggle to understand my English. Please pray they will, nevertheless, grasp God's power and love as he blesses them through our football session.

Please pray for our Ashby residents who make up the remainder of our diverse squad. Pray for them as they persevere with the challenges of work or study or with the challenges of no work or study. Ask God to give them an appetising helping of hope that he is - that he is exactly who he says he is in his word.

Please pray for the 'crowd'. To call them spectators would be misleading. I don't think they notice what's going on on the pitch.

The week of the Queen's funeral was an opportunity to talk about life and eternal life - our late Queen's hope in Jesus. Please pray that at an age when eternal life might seem more like a custodial sentence than a gift to be treasured, these lads (and girls) will have revealed to them the reality of their imprisonment to sin and the prospect of freedom forever with one more precious, exciting and glorious than anyone or anything they could imagine.

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Re-writing the Beatitudes

Early on in the first lockdown of 2020 Reverend Mary found a version of the beatitudes called 'Beatitudes for a Global Pandemic' by Jayne Mandredi, which many of us appreciated. Recently I saw another version of the Beatitudes by the American Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, written as part of a 'sermon for inside a women's prison' where she imagined 'Jesus standing here blessing us all because I believe that is our Lord's nature.' (If you would like to read the full sermon it is at <https://thecorners.substack.com/p/salty-d99>)

I wonder who Jesus would bless in your version of the Beatitudes?

Jayne Mandredi's Beatitudes

Blessed are those who stay indoors,
for they have protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed
for their need of God is great.

Blessed are the corner shopkeepers,
for they are purveyors of scarce things.

Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers,
for they are the bringers of essential things.

Blessed are the hospital workers, the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses,
the care assistants and the cleaners,
for they stand between us and the grave,
and the kingdom of heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the checkout workers,
for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors,
for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers,
for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the church workers, the deacons, priests and bishops,
for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world
as they continue to signpost towards God.

Blessed are the single parents,
for they are coping with their responsibilities alone, and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who are alone,
for they are children of God and with him they will never be lonely.

Blessed are the bereaved,
for whom the worst has already happened, they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers,
for one day - we pray - they will know safety.

Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts;
who still hunger and thirst for justice;
all who work for peace and model mercy.

May you know comfort,
may you know calm,
and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.

Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber's Beatitudes:

Blessed are the agnostics.

Blessed are they who doubt. Those who aren't sure, who can still
be surprised.

Blessed are they who are spiritually impoverished and therefore not so
certain about everything that they no longer take in new information.

Blessed are those who have nothing to offer.

Blessed are the pre-schoolers who cut in line at communion. Blessed are
the poor in spirit.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.

Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears could fill
an ocean. Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels
like.

Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried.

Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking things for granted
anymore.

Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else.

Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."

Blessed are those who mourn.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are those who no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The sex workers and the night-shift street sweepers.

Blessed are the forgotten. Blessed are the closeted.

Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the underrepresented.

Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms. Blessed are the meek.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is hard, for Jesus chose to surround himself with people like them.

Blessed are those without documentation. Blessed are the ones without lobbyists.

Blessed are foster kids and special education kids and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved.

Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people.

Blessed are the burned-out social workers and the overworked teachers and the pro bono case takers.

Blessed are the kind-hearted football players and the fundraising trophy wives.

Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the weak. Blessed are they who hear that they are forgiven.

Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven me when I didn't deserve it.

Blessed are the merciful, for they totally get it.

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Thank you to everyone for the continued support

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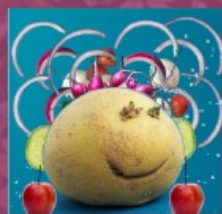
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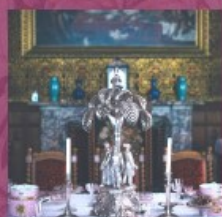


Children's workshop - **Veggieventure**

17th October 9.30am - 12noon

Medieval vegetable pottage making
Vegetable carving and sculpture activities
Fruit and veg printing and pattern making

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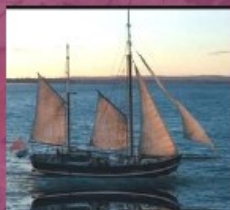


Winter Lecture Series - **St Helens on Film**

25th October at 7.30pm

Dr Wendy Freer, historian and film-maker,
shows and talks about the historic dramas
shot in St Helen's this year

£3

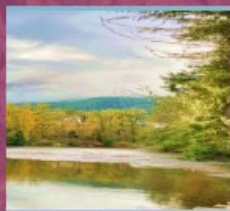


Autumn Concert Series - **Concordia Choir** **Haul Away**

Friday 28th October 7.30pm

Sea shanties, spirituals, HMS Pinafore
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Autumn Concert Series - **Cecilian Singers** **Love on the Rivers**

Saturday 29th October 7.30pm

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