

St Helen's Magazine

November 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)

ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST	AYFC Office	560940
BELL RINGERS	Michael Davidson	DAVIDSON29029@aol.com
BUILDINGS' TEAM		sthelensbuildings@gmail.com
CHURCHWARDENS	Shân Dyer	07368 615406
	Judith Lewis	564204
HERITAGE CENTRE LETTINGS	Elaine Shaw	07392 409745
		sthelenslettings@gmail.com
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Andrew Chapman	07792 461782
ELECTORAL ROLL	Eileen Coombs	417883
FLOWER ROTA	Eileen Coombs	416370
HERITAGE	Julie Starkey	sthelensheritage@gmail.com
LANTERNS children's group		
MAGAZINE ADVERTISING	Sue Evans	461808
MAGAZINE EDITOR	Jill Chapman	07725 519453
		jill.chapman12@btopenworld.com
MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION	Margaret Worrall	413665
MOTHERS' UNION	Margaret Worrall	413665
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Carole Nettles	411607
PRG young people's group	Elizabeth Smith	07941 935887
READERS	Sue Brown	417313
	Carol Eyley	412334
	Judith Lewis	564204
	Andy Smith	07896 519807
	Elizabeth Smith	07941 935887
SAFEGUARDING	Elizabeth Smith	07941 935887
SERVERS	Eileen Barradel	838029
SOUND SYSTEM	Simon Starkey	415718
STREET PASTORS CONTACT	Chris Lewis	07828 463368

St Helen's Church contact details:

Parish office: ♦sthelensashby@gmail.com

♦01530 411607

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

♦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 took up knitting in October. I aimed to knit every day, and was sponsored to do so to raise funds for Shelter. I'm sure anyone who watched my progress on Facebook will agree with my thinking, that my sponsors weren't going to be impressed by my efforts but would likely be amused. Knitting is part of the many and varied ways our Mothers' Union reaches out to people, and you can read about their numerous projects, including knitting, on page 28.

To teach myself to knit I bought a book called, *You Will Be Able to Knit by The End of This Book*, but several people mentioned I might do better by watching YouTube films on-line. I wonder how many of you who are reading this are doing so via the on-line version, and how many are holding an actual magazine in your hands. We have an article from a 1955 parish magazine on page 35. It's strange to think that one day no such printed 'archives' will exist.

To be fair I had learnt to knit as a child but that is quite a while ago, so I didn't feel it was misleading to claim to be a beginner. How I wish I'd paid more attention to what my Grandma tried to teach me. Picking up useful knowledge and skills seems to be quite a theme through this month's magazine – read about children who have been learning enthusiastically on pages 7, 11, 18 and 32. On pages 10

and 23 you'll see what our PRG youth group are going to be using their baking talents for this month, and in the Christian Aid article on page 30, there are examples of adults undergoing life-changing training.

If you'd like to consult me for my 'free-form' knitting expertise now you've seen what I can do, I am available at our monthly 'Knit & Natter' sessions, possibly appropriately known as 'We're in Stitches'. Details are in the monthly 'diary' which can be found on page 21.

The beautiful knitted poppies created (by people who know how to knit!) for Remembrance Sunday last year will be used in one of the two special memorials we are creating this year between 6th and 13th November. So, if you have cherished memories of someone you hold dear who is no longer with us, or of someone who has died in conflict, we'd like to invite you to come to the church to add their names to these—Reminders of dates and times are on the What's On noticeboard on page 8.

Jill Chapman

Sue Brown Writes ...

One-anothering

Do you know how many 'one anothering' verses there are in the Bible? You'd be surprised, I think, to know the answer

Maybe it's because we are almost one year into a vacancy, but the one-anothering dimension of our church family life is on my mind right now. One of the wonderful things about a vacancy is that it reminds us to be more aware of one another, and not leave everything to the vicar. True, such awareness should always characterise the body of Christ, but I'm not sure that it always does, so here's just a selection of Bible verses that speak about the ministry we should be exercising towards one another.

Love one Another

Are you surprised that this tops the list? Here is just a selection of verses, starting from the challenging command that Jesus gave to his disciples, recorded for us by John in chapter 13:34. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Jesus repeats this command in 15:12, and in the next verse speaks of "laying down one's life for one's friends". He sets the bar very high, doesn't he? What might such love look like in practice? To love one another as Jesus loved sounds like an impossible standard, and yet that's what he tells us to do.

It appears that the apostle John thought deeply about this command. He it is who records (20:15ff) the lakeside encounter between Jesus and Peter and the threefold question: "Do you love me?" in positive response to which Peter receives a threefold command: "feed my lambs". Is that why John goes on to write in his first letter "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another"? And in his short second letter, he repeats the commandment that Jesus gave: "Let us love one another" and helpfully spells out what this love consists of: "And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments."

I conclude from this short survey that loving one another is not an optional extra, but lies at the core of who we are as the body of Christ and followers of Jesus. It means, among other things, caring for others sacrificially, unselfishly, building one another up in the truth, and making sure that we ourselves are setting a good example in this regard. And lest we think that John was the only person to write about love, notice what Paul says in Romans 12:9-13 about genuine love, and in Romans 13:8 where he links it

to the commandment to love our neighbour.

The big question, then, is what this means in practice. It may mean not expecting the churchwardens to do everything during an interregnum, but offering some practical help! It may mean noticing who isn't at church on Sunday morning, and giving them a ring or popping round to make sure they are OK or offering to do their shopping if they can't get out. It may mean praying on our way into church, 'Lord, whom do you want me to sit by or talk to today?'

But more than individual acts of kindness or love, surely it is a basic attitude that puts others first – a servant attitude - as exemplified in the mind of Christ described in Philippians 2? Paul also links loving one another with forgiving (Col 3:13; Eph 4:31) and serving each other (Gal 5:13) as well as with things we should not be doing (Gal 5:15).

James mentions grumbling about one another (Jas 5:9) as something we should avoid, and confessing our sins and praying for one another, as things we should be doing (Jas 5:16).

If you have a Bible Concordance, why not make a list of all the 'one anothering' verses in the Bible, and then think how they apply to you as a follower of Jesus and to us corporately as a church family? And if you have a Concordance and find the answer to my opening question, please tell me, because just at present I cannot lay my hands on mine...

Sue Brown

Ashby Foodbank Donations

Did you know that as well as donating food, it is also possible to make financial donations to the Foodbank? This allows them some flexibility to buy particular items when stock becomes low. At the Concordia Choir concert held at St Helen's during November, a collection was taken for the Foodbank, and raised over £200.

Please note if you are planning on donating in December the last day for donations will be Friday 9th December. The Foodbank's warehouse will reopen to accept donations from Tuesday 3rd January, 2023.



November Shopping List

- Tinned carrots, or sweetcorn
- Instant mash
- Tinned hot meat such as chicken in white sauce, beef stew
- Longlife sponge puddings.
- Deodorant preferably neutral
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Washing up liquid
- Tinned ham
- Tinned salmon
- Chocolates
- Boxes of biscuits
- Christmas puddings

Chris Lewis

Counsellor / Psychotherapist

Chris's Therapeutic Counselling

chriscounselling@mail.com

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Pop in and see us at

1 Bath Street Corner, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 2FH

DC WOODWARD, MRCVS

Veterinary Surgeon

Mon-Fri 8 am–7 pm | Sat 9 am–12 noon | Sun 9.30–10.30 am

All consultations by appointment

24 hr Emergency Service

Ivanhoe Business Park Smisby Road

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Harvest with Wellesley School

What a joyful celebration when Wellesley school had their Key stage 2 Harvest at St Helens on the morning of Friday 14th October.

The roof of the church was certainly raised with children's voices singing harvest songs.

Children and adults, including parents and carers friends and family members joined together in a service of harvest thanksgiving. Everyone was welcomed and we listened to a reading from Psalm 65 v9-13 from the International Children's Bible (ICB) "You take care of the land and water it. You make it very fertile.....". We spent time thinking about the needs of the world and how food is distributed across the world, not always very fairly. Information about the work of our local foodbank here in Ashby was shared. Year 5 performed a harvest poem and Year 6 shared harvest prayers they had written.

We all joined together in singing – We Plough the Fields and Scatter and concluded with a harvest Blessing.

Bless to us, O God The sun that shines above us the rain that falls upon us the earth that sustains us the air that surrounds us the love that binds us.

May God who has made us, who loves us and who gives us life bless and keep us, now and always.

Amen

Elizabeth Smith





The What's On Notice board



St Helen's Church

A Time to Remember

a quiet reflective service
to remember those we have loved & lost

6.00 p.m.
Sunday 6th November

A list of names of those we are remembering is read out as we light candles during the service. If you would like to remember in this way there will be a sheet at the back of church from Sunday 23rd October until the morning of Sunday 6th November for you to add names.

Also, there will be a panel in church throughout the season of remembrance where you can add the names of loved ones tied on ribbons around a cross.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AB



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St Helen's Church

Remembrance Sunday

13th November
at 9.30am

& afterwards at the war memorial on
Market Street for 11am
where the service continues with the
laying of wreaths and the minute's silence

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AB



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An Evening of Song with Off the Record



St George's Church

Church Lane, Ticknall DE73 7JU

7pm Saturday 26th November 2022

with refreshments

Donations on the door towards

the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal

Off the Record is a four-piece acoustic band performing songs from the 1920's to the 2000's featuring vocal harmonies, guitar, ukulele, harmonica and tin whistle.



St Helen's Church

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

HERITAGE TALKS 2022 - 23

1200 Roger
1224 Reg
1240 Elias
1249 Elias de Ege
1303 Joan de Lisleby
1314 William de Bromyard
1315 William Lucas de Viterton
1349 Richard de Ege
1350 William de Donnton
1381 Elias de Leykingham
1401 Robert de Ege
1414 William Pepur
1455 William Ederyche
1456 Robert de Ege
1463 Henry Dalkyns
1477 John Harrison
1501 Edward de Ege
1508 William Shelton
1511 John de Ege
1530 George Harrison
1542 Anthony Babby
1581 Thomas de Ege
1593 Arthur Hildersham
1632 Anthony Watson
1646 William de Ege
1658 Daniel Smart
1671 Gowyn Knight
1676 Francis de Ege
1676 Ethel Smart
1691 Henry Hooton
1693 John Lord
1711 Francis de Ege
1715 Joseph Smith
1731 Samuel de Ege
1731 Peter de Ege
1783 John Prior
1801 William de Ege
1802 Robert de Ege
1883 Charles Dundas
1884 Canon Marmaduke Vavasour
1905 James de Ege
1900 Canon Herbert Edward Sawyer
1901 John de Ege
1928 Thomas de Ege
1931 Canon Hugh Dunlop Hayward
1993 Francis Mendenham de Ege
1989 Charles Philip Dobbin
2002 Brian Robertson

A Thousand Years of the English Parish Church & some of its vicars

Churches have been at the heart of the system of parishes in England for well over a thousand years, and a church has been on the site of St Helen's for most of this time. The story of these magnificent buildings, repositories of history, heritage and art, and of the enormous changes they have witnessed, will be told via the story of St Helen's.

£3 including light refreshments
Tickets on the door



Facebook: St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
Website: www.sthelensashby.net
Email: sthelensashby@gmail.com



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St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre



PRG are fundraising -



Cakes & Bakes 4 Toilet- Twinning

19th Nov
World
Toilet Day!

12 noon
- 3pm



- cakes and bakes to buy
- games to play
- raising awareness of the world's sanitation crisis



Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AB



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Notes from the Bird Hide.

This was meant for last month's magazine but we got struck down with Covid! And - If anyone tells you this is a mild illness – don't believe them! Anyway I have just about surfaced now so here it is.

This last summer, as we went about bird watching on the East Coast, what was generally missing were two things – water and birds. Due to the dry weather all the water in the scrapes had almost disappeared and the birds with it, give or take a few mallards, shovellers and, if you were quick off the mark, the occasional lap wings.

Before the summer I challenged you to take note of what other churches/ places are doing in your travels and if you had any ideas for mission which we might use at St Helen's then to write it on a slip of paper and place it in the bag on the notice board inside church. But like the scrapes, come September the bag was still empty! Of dear!

So, I don't know what you got up to, but we would like to share with you what we did in August, (beside looking for non- existent birds). When I was a little girl I used to go to the Beach Mission at Mablethorpe. This year Allan and I spent two weeks sitting in on the Scripture Union Beach Mission at Sutton on Sea. It was the SU's 136th Beach Mission and it was, in the words of Strictly Come Dancing, "**Fab-u-lous!**"

Fab-u-lous because of the fabulous weather!

Fab-u-lous because it brought together around 200 children and over 40 adults who "dived in" each and every day, two sessions a day, for two weeks. Sometimes different ones each day/week.

Fab-u-lous because despite one of the key leaders being struck down, everyone else rose to the occasion.

Fab-u-lous because, just on our caravan site alone, over 20 caravans were occupied by families coming from all over the country just to the Beach Mission.

Fab-u-lous because, no matter what we did, sing, dance, pray, bible study, give testimony, play games, everyone smiled and smiled and smiled. And - we learnt lots of new songs, games, and different understandings of Scripture. I now have a new favourite worship song "This is the story of the cross".

Fab-u-lous because it was absolutely free and open to everyone!

Fab-u-lous because other families who just happened to be on the beach, watched on, and, after a little while, came and joined in.

Fab-u-lous because after 15 years apart we met up again with our

Methodist neighbours from Stanley Common where I used to be a curate.

And lastly Fab-u-lous because one of the youngsters from my congregation who was confirmed while I was Rector of Holy Cross Morton was now, aged around 19, on the Staff Team. Brilliant!

For Allan and me it was a **fab-u-lous** two weeks. It was a breath of fresh air. It made me smile again. I often look at the church in despair but two weeks of Beach Mission gave me hope for the future of the church.

Some words from “This is the story of the Cross” which we used as we approached a time of prayer.

This is the story of the Cross.
The Father loves us, oh so much
That when we did our very worst,
Jesus gave his very best
And He died for all of us.

This is the story of the Cross
That we were broken, we were lost
So then You built a bridge to us
Took our hand, led us across
Oh, I'll never know the cost.

This is the meaning of the Cross.
That I am now a friend of God.
Oh, even at my loneliest
There's no greater love than this
You took the nails to hold me close.

(From Sparkle. Pop. Rampage. Rend and Co Kids.)

I know some of you went to Greenbelt, but what did the rest of you do?

Revd. Margaret and Allan





Please look after this bear!

During the recent time of mourning for our queen, many of us will have paused with a smile at the memory of her discussion with Paddington Bear about marmalade sandwiches!

It's interesting that Paddington is held in such affection by those of all political persuasions, because, when you come to think about it, he was, of course, an illegal immigrant! He arrived in London with nothing but a small suitcase and a sign that said, "PLEASE LOOK AFTER THIS BEAR. Thank you."

When asked where he is from, Paddington looks carefully around for authority figures, before replying: "Darkest Peru. I'm not really supposed to be here at all. I'm a stowaway."

I remember reading that an immigration lawyer, having watched the Paddington movie, commented grimly: "I would assess Paddington's prospects of success before an immigration judge as virtually zero."

I was reminded of this recently, when someone I had come to regard as a friend arrived at the Immigration Enforcement Centre with a small suitcase.

I had first met him nearly a year ago. He was then reporting weekly at the Immigration Centre while he waited for the outcome of his appeal against potential deportation.

As a 'new recruit', volunteering outside the reporting centre, I listened to his story and assumed that on any reasonable and compassionate grounds, he would be allowed to stay. Not so. A few weeks later, he arrived to tell us that his appeal had been rejected. 'I just can't do this any more!' he said.

Fast forward nine months or so and he finally arrived with that small suitcase. - Yes, you did read that correctly! - For nine months, despite agreeing immediately to his deportation and complying with all instructions, he had been required to travel from Nottingham to 'report' each week, in order to avoid spending the whole of that time in a detention centre. Unable to work in order to pay for his own flight, he had no option but to comply. Twice he was told to have his bags packed - only to be told 'not yet'. And every week when I saw him, the strain was etched more deeply on his face.

So, on the day he arrived with that suitcase, he was to be transported to a detention centre for 'a few days' before finally flying back to a country he had not called 'home' for many years.

When I got home, Mike asked: 'Was it good news this week?'

What would you have replied?

This was the guy I wrote about before, who had told me that what we did for him each week outside the Immigration Office was - 'huge'.

It certainly didn't feel 'huge' that day.

This is by no means an isolated case. This man's country is regarded as 'safe' (though knowing his story, it didn't sound very 'safe' for him) and in any case, the UK regularly deports people to countries where UK government advice warns against all travel for British citizens.

I could tell you several more heart-breaking stories. The figures from the House of Commons Library website and from Oxford University's Migratory Observatory show the UK 14th among European countries per head of the population for the number of claims received - and 19th in terms of those accepted.

Trust me, our immigration system is anything but the 'soft touch' some newspaper headlines would have us believe!

And now, in terms of Loughborough Town of Sanctuary, we have an additional challenge! A large group of newly arrived asylum seekers are being temporarily housed in Loughborough. They are at the very early stage of registration in the system and although we think they will be with us for at least a year, we can't be certain.

So - a number of different agencies including Loughborough Town of Sanctuary, local churches including the Salvation Army and the Quakers, and several refugee charities - have come together to identify and try to meet their most pressing needs.

Learning or improving their English is of course, top of the list. The team at Riverside Church in Burton were an answer to your prayers, providing us with demonstrations of a relaxed and flexible conversational model and lots of resources. The Salvation Army will provide premises and detailed planning is underway.

Boredom, of course, is also a factor for these young men, housed three to a room with very few facilities and not allowed to work. We have secured access to the local library for them and in addition, a young couple connected to the university are establishing a football club, sourcing suitable footwear and recruiting student volunteers to help. The Salvation Army and other charities are providing winter clothing and a place of welcome for social interaction and friendship - and some limited opportunities for these young men to volunteer in the community.

"But the problem of millions of displaced persons all across the globe is HUGE!" I hear you say -

"What's the answer?"

I wish I knew. Seen in that light, the numbers are enormous and the problem

simply overwhelming.

But these individuals are here, now, on our doorstep - and they need us to help. Isn't that what the gospel demands of us?

So - what can you do to support us? Our original work at the immigration centre is ongoing. Superdrug vouchers to the value of £5 would be much appreciated and with the onset of winter, men's hats, gloves and scarves will be needed. Reporting rules have changed and young women and families are not currently housed in Loughborough, so please **no** ladies' hats or gloves: beanie style men's hats and dark gloves and scarves are preferred.



Look out for the box at the back of St Helen's, speak to Liz Smith, or get in touch with me to arrange collection.

We also need volunteers to come and chat to people at the conversation classes. These will happen once a week at the Salvation Army Centre, which is easy to find and on this side of Loughborough, so if you feel that might be something you can do, please do get in touch to find out more. pat@destafford.co.uk.

None of this may be for you, of course - and these are very difficult and challenging times for all of us, but there *is* something each of us can do: please do keep praying for this work. I'm convinced your prayers are being answered in so many ways, so thank you so very much - and do keep up the good work!

Pat Stafford



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Ashby's Commonwealth War Graves

As this is the month of Remembrance for those killed in war, I wanted to take a look at the Commonwealth War Graves in our cemetery in Ashby de la Zouch. There are eight of them, three from the First World War and five from the Second World War.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission began in 1917 and was the first ever attempt to commemorate all the war dead of the British Empire (now the Commonwealth) from one conflict. It was the brainchild of Fabian Ware who served as the commander of a mobile unit of the British Red Cross, initially attached to the French sector of what we now call the Western Front. Fabian was shocked by the sheer number of casualties and the fact that there was no system in place for burying the dead or recording their resting places. He began his campaign to have something done in 1915, and on 21st May 1917, the Imperial War Graves Commission, as it was then called, received its charter with the Prince of Wales as President. The principle was established that the dead should be buried where they fell with no repatriation of remains. A standard headstone was to mark the grave and this would be the same for all, regardless of rank.

Most people will have seen photographs of, or visited in person, some of the war cemeteries in Europe where hundreds of identical headstones stand in



rows. Some may be surprised to learn that there are such graves in Ashby, especially from the First World War. The fact is that although the three servicemen buried here did die during the war, they were not killed on the battlefield which explains their presence here.

Edgar James Jarvis was born in Market Bosworth in 1898 but by 1901 was living in Ashby with his parents. He served in the Royal Engineers, R.T. Depot (Bordon) and died of wounds in Sheffield on 13th December 1917, aged 19. Also commemorated on his headstone is younger brother Wilfred Arthur Jarvis, who died on 3rd August 1918, aged 19, and is buried in France.

George Farmer was born in Ashby in 1897 and lived at The Green where

he worked as an errand boy and grocer's assistant. He was a Royal Naval Volunteer Reservist and served on HMS President III, a shore-based establishment based in Bristol. He died of disease on 3rd February 1919 aged 21.

Bernard Collier was born in Swadlincote in 1891. He worked, like his father, as a potter in the pipe works. He was married in 1912 and had a daughter born in September 1915. He served in the 156th Siege Battalion of the Royal Garrison Artillery and, although he survived the war itself, died of influenza and pneumonia on 23rd January 1919 at the Plough Inn in Ashby while on demob leave.

All five men from the Second World War were born in Ashby and four were in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. William Raymond Lilley, James Hedley and Cyril Archer all died in 1944 and Anthony John Brodribb in January 1945. The fifth man, Geoffrey Webster, was in the Royal Navy and died in 1947.

Lilley and Rice both crash landed on return from a raid. Lilley was a Flying Officer in 640 squadron, and died 13th May 22 years old. He crash-landed at Woodbridge when returning from a raid on the Hasselt Railway Yards with battle damage; 4 of the crew survived. Rice was a pilot officer in 78 squadron, Bomber Command. He flew into a tree at Spaldington during a circuit at Brighton when returning from a raid on Sterkrade.

Brodribb was killed in action by a V-2 Rocket that hit RAF Stapleford Tawney in Essex, killing 17 and Wounding 50.

Archer served at Sleaf in Shropshire in 81 Operational Training Unit, Air Defence of Great Britain, and according to a newspaper was accidentally killed, although no other details are given.

The fifth man was Geoffrey Webster, a steward in the Royal Navy serving on HMS Lothian. He died of pulmonary tuberculosis at the County Sanatorium, Markfield, Leicester on 25th April 1947.



Wendy Freer

Messy Church

So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41 verse 10

We're not afraid at Messy church. We know what to do with scary things!!

Children and adults had great fun making spiders and bats and worms with smiles and bright colours. We turned our scared and frightened faces into smiles and sailed boats on a stormy sea.

Our story was **Jesus stills the Storm**.

(Matthew 8:23–27, Mark 4:35–41, and Luke 8:22–25.)

And we joined together in a song, and then offering our worries and scares to God in our prayers remembering that Jesus is the light of the world.

“When Jesus is in the boat you can smile at the storm
When Jesus is in the boat you can smile at the storm
And our worries will sail away”
Amen

Elizabeth Smith





4th Sunday of each month

3.30pm to 5pm

Flagstaff
Family of Churches

Messy
Church

Our Worship on Sundays in November

Week	8.30am	am	pm
1 6 th Nov	St Helen's Holy Communion		3.30pm St Helen's All Age 6.00pm St Helen's * A Time To Remember
2 13 th Nov		9.30am St Helen's * Remembrance	
3 20 th Nov		10.30am St Helen's * Holy Communion	12.30pm St Helen's Baptisms
4 27 th Nov		10.30am St Helen's * Holy Communion	3.30pm Coleorton or St Helen's Messy Church 6.00pm St Helen's * Advent Carol Service



* - 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)

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

November Diary

Tuesday 1 st	7pm	Mothers Union meeting
Wednesday 2 nd	2 - 4pm	‘We’re in Stitches’ knit & natter group
Sunday 6 th	4.30pm	Sunday Tea (after All-Age)
Tuesday 8 th	2.30 - 4pm	Friends, Fellowship, Faith
Wednesday 9 th	10.30am	Communion at Prior Park
Monday 14 th	8pm	Monday Group
Tuesday 15 th	10.45am	Mother’s Union meeting
Tuesday 15 th	7pm	PCC meeting
Saturday 19 th	12 - 3pm	PRG’s Toilet Twinning fundraiser
Tuesday 22 nd	2.30 - 4pm	Friends, Fellowship, Faith
Tuesday 22 nd	7pm	Heritage Talk
Thursday 24 th	5pm	Priest Room Gang youth group
Monday 28 th	8pm	Monday Group

Early December

Saturday 2 nd	3pm	Tea Time at Prior Park
Sunday 4 th	3.30pm	Christingle

This is the first article of a new monthly strand which will be written by members of the PCC sub-committee looking at eco-church issues:

Tofu

In the final week of the chaotic Truss government, soon-to-be-sacked-and-then-reinstated Home Secretary Suella Braverman stood in parliament and decried the “Guardian reading, Tofu-eating wokerati”. Now, I don’t have a clue who the ‘wokerati’ are, but I do know what tofu is, and it can be far more exciting than its somewhat staid reputation suggests!

It is argued that a plant-based diet has less impact on the environment than a meat-based diet. This means that some make the move to become vegan,

vegetarian or simply eat less meat as an environmental decision, alongside those who do it for ethical or health-based reasons. In general, a plant-based diet struggles to replicate some of the nutrients of a meat-based diet. As a result, in a western diet, meat substitutes are often used to replace the missing protein: this job has become associated with substitutes such as Quorn.

Tofu however, has a richer and more complicated history. Tofu is made by collecting together the curds of soy milk into a block, which is then pressed. It finds its origins two millennia ago in China, where it was far from being used as a meat substitute. In fact, the delicious classic Chinese dish Mapo Tofu is traditionally made as a stew of tofu *and* pork mince, in a Szechwan pepper and chilli bean paste sauce.

Tofu is graded by how firm it is: the types that can be bought easily in Ashby's supermarkets are firm tofu and silken tofu. Firm tofu comes in a vacuum pack with the water it was produced in. Some brands need an extra "press" first to take water out, but the most popular British brand 'Tofoo' doesn't require this. This brand also produce smoked and flavoured versions of tofu, and can be chopped and fried, to produce a crisp finish to the tofu, or braised as in the mapo tofu dish. Silken tofu tends to be used as a substitute in the UK by vegans or those who avoid milk or eggs. It can be used as a surrogate for scrambled eggs, but requires added flavour.



Braverman's quip is based around the British view that tofu is tasteless and bland, and in the cuisines where it is widely used, tofu is used as vehicle for stronger flavours such as soy and chilli. In Chinese cuisine, however, tofu is also used for what is known as 'mouthfeel', something prized just as highly as (and possibly even more highly than) the flavour. Fried tofu has a somewhat unique sensation, a springy texture that yields to pressure, surrounded by a crisp outside – it can get addictive!

My favourite tofu recipe goes as follows (this serves one so scale up as you need): whisk together a tablespoon of peanut butter, dark soy sauce, rice vinegar (or Chinese black vinegar if you can get it) and chui chow chilli oil. Cook two nests of wholewheat noodles according to the packet instructions. Fry half a block of smoked tofu cut into 2cm cubes in rapeseed oil until golden and crispy all over. Mix the noodles with the sauce and top with the fried tofu, roasted peanuts, fresh mint and coriander, chopped radishes and cucumber.

Sam Blatherwick

Toilet Twinning the St Helen's Loos



The charity Toilet Twinning aims to 'flush away poverty one toilet at a time.' For a £60 donation, you can twin your loo with a family's household latrine in a vulnerable community in a country of your choosing.

Toilet Twinning funds the work of international relief and development agency Tearfund, and donations are used to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education. For many communities, hearing about the link between sanitation and health is a revelation: a light bulb moment. Many have never known why diarrhoea is so common, and why their children have fallen ill or died. Suddenly, they understand. And then they want a latrine.

In communities hit by disaster or conflict, the cost of providing a latrine is far higher than £60. In places where the charity is working long-term through local organisations, the cost is lower. Overall, the average cost per household for a water and sanitation programme is about £60.

This term, the young people of our Priest's Room Gang are fundraising to 'toilet-twin' the Heritage Centre Loos, and they'll begin with an event on 19th November when there will be cakes and bakes to buy and games to play. They didn't choose this day by chance - 19th November is World Toilet Day, which is a UN-designated day to raise awareness of the sanitation crisis and push for action to change things.

Once PRG have twinned one of our Heritage Centre toilets for us, we will receive a certificate, a photo and the GPS coordinates so we can look up our twin's location on Google Maps.



Jill Chapman

From the Albums

Our half-term activity for children was ... **VeggieVentures!**



Baptisms

We welcome (from top left, clockwise) Casey, Rupert, Holly and Ernest, and their families, as they join our family.



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November Gardening Tips

The Winter months are quiet in the garden so it is an ideal time to clear up, review planting schemes and tackle any weeds. It is well known that good mental wellbeing has strong links to gardening.

Continue to rake up the leaves from lawns, ponds and other areas in the garden – it seems to be a never-ending job!



Decomposition of leaves and plants in a pond will raise the nitrate levels and so reduce the oxygen which is not good for the fish and other pond creatures. As mentioned before, it is worth saving the leaves to make leaf mould.

Winter berries encourage birds to visit your garden. Particularly good shrubs for a supply of berries

include variegated Holly, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and Berberis. They are all easy to grow.

November is a good time to plant tulip bulbs in the ground or in pots. Plant 3 times the depth of the bulb in light soil. If your soil is heavy then add grit to improve drainage as the bulbs do not like to sit in water.

You don't have to wait for Spring to have colour in the garden. You can plant Winter Pansies, Polyanthus, Heathers and Primroses to achieve a lovely floral display in hanging baskets, window boxes and patio pots.

A cheaper and easier way to grow fruit trees and shrubs is to plant them bare-rooted. Firstly, put the bare root in a bucket of water for 30 minutes to rehydrate. Make sure the growing area chosen is free from weeds and large stones. Dig a hole large enough to take the root and break up the soil base with a fork before adding a spade-full of well-rotted organic matter. Mix them up and place the bare root in the centre of the hole before backfilling the dug-out soil. Water well and finally, add a layer of mulch over the soil.

It is recommended that you cover your vegetable beds with well-rotted organic matter if leaving them empty over Winter. It will break down in the cold weather to release its valuable nutrients that will improve fertility and soil structure. Leave your parsnips, swedes, turnips and sprouts until the

first frost before picking as this improves the taste as it converts the starches to sugar.

It is a good idea to wrap glue bands around your fruit tree bases to stop the Winter Moth Caterpillar eating the new tree shoots.

Give your garden tools a check and make sure they are clean and, in some cases, sharp. Also ensure that your lawnmower has been cleaned and checked over. Remove all traces of fuel if necessary.

Finally, make the most of any dry day by sitting outside and enjoying your Winter garden - just make sure you are wrapped up. A few fairy lights and garden ornaments can add a bit of brightness, interest and fun to your garden and your life.

Alan Cross

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

I have written previously how Mothers' Union is a Worldwide Organisation, so this month a small insight into St Helen's Mothers' Union. How from its various fund raising events through the year, it helps towards the Diocese of Leicester. Also our members help provide various crafted items for local care home/ hospital patients and premature babies.

Homeless in Leicestershire - As a part of our charity donations, St Helen's has supported this local charity. 'Action homeless' it offers supported accommodation and resettlement services which enable people who are homeless to rebuild their lives. The occupants of the accommodation are given a planned programme of support on a temporary basis until a more permanent place is found.

St Helen's also provides towards the annual Christmas chocolate bars, which are wrapped and distributed to patients in the Mental Health Units in Leicester at Christmas. These bars are much appreciated by both patients & staff.

St Helen's Mother's Union also purchase Bibles which are given to the couples who come to be married at St Helen's. A Bible is given to each couple at a point in the marriage service.

Branch members also give their time within Ashby de la Zouch.

Mothers' Union also organise the Prayer Partners, where when families

worship in St Helen's the children are linked to a Prayer Partner. This person with parents' consent keeps a contact with the child, by birthday cards, and gifts, and praying for the child in their daily prayer. As this link strengthens over the years many of the youngsters keep the contact through their school lives and during their university courses.



Our members have helped provide Fiddle Blankets for use by the elderly and those with dementia or Alzheimer's. Another very popular knitting project is creating the beanie hats, mitts & booties for the premature babies. These are given to the special care premature baby units at Leicester Royal Infirmary and Leicester General Hospital. This also proved a help to our own members pass the time during the Covid lockdown period.

Mother's Union Members help the community of Prior Park, a monthly afternoon tea, cakes and social time to chat is another way that the branch is fulfilling a local need.

St Helen's Mothers' Union has a morning and evening meeting the times are as follows: Morning meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Heritage Centre at 10.30am Evening meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Heritage Centre at 7.30 pm

November 15th is our next morning branch meeting.

Adrienne Sedgman



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Buy a gift of love for families and friends this Christmas

Christian Aid's Charity Gifts all have the power to make a real, practical impact and transform lives around the world - from seeds and saplings to schooling. And they are ideal for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries or for thank you gifts.

Every gift bought supports Christian Aid's work by acting as a donation. Local partners use the money to work on a specific programme or project. So, when you buy a virtual gift from Christian Aid Charity Gifts, you or your lucky recipient(s) don't get an actual goat or a pair of chickens (although we know it would be pretty cool if you did).

What you do get for each gift is a physical or print-at-home card, which explains a bit more about the gift and tells a story about someone – a real person – who benefited from a similar contribution. You can add in your own personal message.

How does buying a charity gift work?

- Choose and buy gift(s) for your loved one(s).

Your money acts as a donation; it goes into a fund for each area of Christian Aid's work. So if you buy the gift of a goat, your money goes into our Nutrition & Food Security fund and so on.

- Every gift is represented by a card. You can write a personal message inside it. Then you can arrange to either have it sent to you or to whoever you've bought the gift for.
- The gift delights them and everybody feels good.
- Our local partner uses the money you've donated to work on a particular programme or project – like supplying goats to families in Ethiopia.

Where does Gift Aid fit in? Because your purchase of a virtual gift is actually a donation, you can opt in for Gift Aid (if you're a UK taxpayer). There's no VAT due.

The charity gifts include -

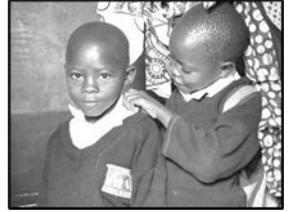
Cookstove	£15.00	A nanny goat	£35.00
A beehive	£63.00	Emergency disaster hygiene kit	£29.00

A pair of chickens £8.00
A sheep £37.00

Five mosquito nets £15.00
Tropical juice kit £40.00



Healthcare Essentials kit
 £31.00



Send a child to school
 £18.00



Train a tailor
 £23.00



Train a soap-maker
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Got a question? Christian Aid Supporter Care team is happy to answer your questions about Christian Aid Charity Gifts. Email on charitygifts@christian-aid.org Call on 01925 573769

Ashby and District Christian Aid Group

Vicars of the Parish of St Mary, Great Tremlett			
A complete guess based on dodgy annals	1302 Arthur de Tremlett	1764 Mackworth Cholmondeley	Wonder which family were Lords of the Manor?
	1333 Bernardus Tremlettensis	1778 Dolben Cholmondeley	
A monk was just showing off.	1354 Danbert Nobacon	1809 Rodwell Cholmondeley	No idea what happened here
	1372 Rademire of Banbury	1831 Sir Bertrand Cholmondeley Bart	
Who needs a surname when you're that sexy?	1409 Brendan	1858 Audrey Cholmondeley	Guess who came up with the idea of the vicars' board? A bit needy.
	1440 Jerome Alekind	1897 Roderick Smithson	
We don't believe he lived this long, either. We mean, really?	1484 Smith Smithson	1905 Chester LeStreet	Still available for occasional offices
	1485 Roderick Nobottle	1922 Maurice Maurice	
Friend of Cromwell's, like you couldn't guess	1531 Gerard Michaels	1958 Martin Radley MA	We reckon we'll make it to about 2034.
	1601 Robert Sampson	1969 Holby Mortensen	
We were hit hard by the Black Death.	1649 Moderick Coldbath	1984 Ralph Osbertson BA MA DPhil DD	
	1661 Charles Joyboy	1991 Canon Vyvyan Westcliffe	
	1665 Randolph Poxmere	2013 Revd Nathan Jones	
	1665 Jeremiah Colby		
	1665 Mordecai Michaelson		
	1701 Chesney Wold		
	1741 Wesley Wesley		

Of course this is a made up list of incumbents, just for comedic value, but it may prompt you to wonder about our own vicars through the ages. If you're ready to wonder no more, be sure not to miss this month's Heritage Talk on November 22nd in the Community Heritage Centre.



Rock Solid

K joined Rock Solid because his sister was already a member and because he had got to know Youth For Christ though their presence at his primary school. He enjoyed the silliness and seriousness of it. When he became too old for Rock Solid he joined the Rock Solid 'graduates' group and continued to study the Bible, serve others and engage in evangelism with his peers. At university his faith was further tested and strengthened and he went on to serve with national charities devoted to social action and evangelism. Building a rock solid foundation on Jesus' teaching takes time, truth and love. Thank you for supporting Rock Solid. Please continue to support Rock Solid with your prayers and presence.

One of the greatest needs for Rock Solid is to build our volunteer base, as currently we are struggling to have a second leader available each week. We would love to have somebody along who can chat and get to know the young people.

Monthly Prayer

We are relaunching our monthly prayer meeting on 24th October, 10:45am-11:45am in the prayer room at Ashby Methodist Church, Burton Road, LE65 2LF. You are welcome to join us to hear an update on the work and to join us in prayer.

Finance

We have been blessed in September by a group of adult and young people taking part in a sponsored stand up paddleboarding event to raise money for AYFC, altogether they raised over £600.

Currently we are facing a monthly shortfall of approximately £1000, please join us in prayer as we work towards reducing this challenge.

If you would like to donate to the work of Ashby Youth for Christ our bank details are:

Ashby De La Zouch Youth for Christ
Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 30-90-89



Account Number: 36821260

Prayer Needs

- For enthusiastic volunteers to work alongside Vernon in leading Rock Solid on a Friday evening.
- For the provision of finance to maintain the work at our current level.
- To give thanks for the volunteers and young people who took part in the stand up paddleboarding event.

For any more information on the work of Ashby Youth for Christ please email helen.davis@yfc.co.uk

Ashby u3a

Marilyn Monroe



She thought 'Diamonds are a girl's best friend' but ended up like a 'Candle in the Wind'.

She is remembered for a few iconic images and wishing an American President 'happy birthday' but her story is a lot more interesting than that.

On Tuesday 22nd November our next speaker will delve into the story behind the myth.

Come along to the Congregational Church, Kilwardby Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch LE65 2FQ [Look out for the advertising board on the pavement outside]. It will start at 2.00 pm and tea, coffee and biscuits will be available – along with a warm welcome.

If you are not a member of Ashby u3a why not come along as our guest for a 'taster' visit?

For more information go to ashbyu3a.co.uk or phone 01283 760348.

Peter Clement

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Keen Workers

Thanks to Pat Stafford who found this article recently in her family 'archives', written by her father Doug Drakeley, who many of us at St Helen's will remember. Are there some interesting parallels with today?

THE JUNCTION

PARISH MAGAZINE OF SAINT PAUL · BATTERSEA

Editor: The Vicar

Sub-Editor: D. W. Drakeley

MAY, 1955

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Part of the news which nobody ever reads (even when there are newspapers) are the accounts of Annual General Meetings, at which the heads of the organisations stand up and show that the business is as sound as ever and profits are up, throwing in some general comments praising those persons and policies which help expansion and condemning those which do not. The Church also by law has to have such a stocktaking and we have just had ours at St. Paul's.

Our income proved adequate for current needs, though more is needed in the present year to cover essential repairs to our property, Hall, organ, etc. After the setback caused by the long vacancy, we are slowly moving ahead once more. Our keen workers, though few in numbers, responded magnificently to every demand made upon their pockets and their time. Our subsidiary organisations have increased in size and number and now offer facilities for all literally from four to eighty-four, whilst our activities range from baptizing those of a few weeks old, to singing hymns for those over a hundred years old.

All this shows steady progress, but are we therefore satisfied with ourselves? Of course we are not! For whatever success we may have achieved, the task before us is enormous. Thousands of people in the parish who regard themselves as members of the Church never darken its doors more than half a dozen times in their lives, just as many who, when they pass St. Paul's, think of it as their Church, never think of giving their time or money towards its work. Thousands of the parishioners who regard themselves as Christian, have only the vaguest idea of what that entails, just as many who feel their own inadequacy to live up to the high standards they want to, ignore completely the gift of God's grace which is so freely offered them.

Did we keep going the family life and worship of God's family at St. Paul's? Did we try to live according to the standards of the Gospel in our own lives and in our common life together? Did we show in our lives the power of God's grace? These are the standards by which we judged our success or failure during the past year, as we must every year. In all these tasks where do *you* stand? Are you a worker, or still only a potential one? We need not be dismayed by the size of the task. After all, the eleven disciples covered the known world. We are more than eleven, and we are only responsible for a small part of Battersea.

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Quotes for the Month

'How we respond to the challenges of the coming months and years – which most of us can't control – will tell us what we really believe and whom we truly love.'

Nick Baines, BBC Radio 4 Thought For The Day, September 30th

'Patience is being worn very thin, and parliament is in a position to put pressure on the church. Without change, I think we might see growing calls for disestablishment.' Ben Bradshaw MP
Harriet Sherwood, The Guardian, October, 4th

'Trauma is static. It makes us feel like we are still stuck on the wrong side of the Red Sea. But healing looks to the future: rest in the Promised Land, resurrection on Easter Sunday.' Theology Slam competition winner
Amanda Higgin, Church Times, October 7th

'Our research shows that many people's only exposure to Jesus is through Christians who reflect him imperfectly.'

Jason Vanderground, of "He Gets Us" campaign, Religion News Service, Oct 10th

'I've been in many cathedral services where the choir outnumbers the congregation by far, and presents the most amazing music which really only God hears. I realize this is sort of the point.'

Jeff Stewart, The Choral Evensong Society Facebook page, October 13th

'There are endless internal debates about the need for the C of E to be more evangelical/catholic/liberal (delete as appropriate).'

Revd Prof Ian Paul, The Ecclesiastical Doughnut: is C of E ungovernable?, psephizo.com, Oct14

'Current chance of rapture: 83.6% Temperature in Hell today: °C'

Ship of Fools website, October 15th

'The world says a lot about menopause, but God has a lot to say too.'

Dr Olúșẹ̀yẹ̀ Àríkàwé, www.womanalive.co.uk, October 18th

'We were never allowed to dress up as anything scary for Halloween - we're Christians so we had to dress as something benign. One year I was dressed as a clock. My friend who's a Christian too - his Mum sent him out trick or treating dressed as Toulouse Lautrec.'

Great British Bake Off contestant Kevin, October 18th

'Most teens have a positive perception of Jesus! This is not the good news we think it is.'

Andy Peck, www.premiernexgen.com, October 19th

'I am utterly convinced that God will have all kinds of grace if we got the theology wrong.'

Stephen Bryce, Twitter, October 20th

'Under current rules, Jews & Roman Catholics are ... prohibited from playing a role in C of E appointments. Yet Hindus, Moslems, Rastafarians, atheists & humanists are allowed to do so.'

Mark Fox, Will Rishi Sunak want to appoint the Bishops?, www.reaction.life, October 26th

'[35 years ago] The church was there for the whole community not just the true believers ... We have amputated ourselves from the moral heartbeat of the country.'

Canon Rosie Harper, Did we die without noticing it?, Anglcanism.org, October 26th

'You know, this stuff, this God stuff, I don't experience that — but you shouldn't give that up, 'cuz it's the most interesting thing about you.' -Bono's father.

Bono interviewed about his new memoir, 'Surrender,' www.npr.org, October 27th

'Consider this remarkable fact: In the sermon on the mount, there is not a single word about what to believe, only words about what to do and how to be. By the time the Nicene Creed is written, only 3 centuries later, there is not a single word in it about what to do and how to be – only words about what to believe.'

Quote from Robin R Meyers' book Saving God from Religion, Kissing Fish on Facebook, Oct30th

'[In September Bolsonaro] told evangelical leaders - who are among his staunchest backers, "only God will oust me".'

Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's election defeat, BBC News, October 31st

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Forthcoming Events



Season of Remembrance church service -

A Time to Remember

6th November at 6pm

A quiet reflective service to remember those who we have loved and lost



Season of Remembrance church service -

Remembrance Sunday

13th November at 9.30am

The service begins in church and continues at the town's war memorial with the laying of wreaths and a minute's silence



PRG Event -

Toilet Twinning Fundraiser

19th November 12noon -3pm

Skip along to buy cakes and bakes and enjoy games with a toilet-twinning theme



Winter Lecture Series -

1000 yrs of the English parish church

22nd November at 7.30pm

Anne Heaton & Julie Starkey trace the story of these magnificent buildings, their heritage and art, via the timeline of St Helen's

£3



Season of Advent church service -

Advent Carol Service

27th November at 6pm

The light shines in the darkness ...
... and the darkness has not overcome it