



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

FAITH — LOVE — COMMUNITY



Parish Magazine

July 2025

PARISH DIRECTORY

General inquiries: in the first instance, please contact the parish office.

Parish office: **parishoffice@sthelensashby.net** // 01530 411607

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

Opening times: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10am - 1pm

Website: www.sthelensashby.net

Team Rector	Rev. Sue Field	flagstaffrector@gmail.com
Safeguarding	Elizabeth Smith	safeguarding@sthelensashby.net
Heritage Centre Lettings	Elaine Shaw	sthelenslettings@gmail.com
Heritage project	Julie Starkey	heritage@sthelensashby.net
Magazine	Emily Darlington	sthelensmag@gmail.com

Ashby Youth For Christ	Centre Director: Helen Davis	Helen.davis@yfc.co.uk
Street Pastors	Chris Lewis	07828 463368

St Helen's Church is part of the **Ashby Churches**

Alliance Church	07753 679147
Ashby Baptist Church	01530 413721
Ashby Congregational	01530 563301
Ashby Methodist Church	01530 412298
Holy Trinity	01530 412339
Our Lady of Lourdes	01530 412237

Donations can be left in the boxes at the back of St Helen's Church, in the porch of Holy Trinity or the Congregational Church, or at any of Ashby's Co-ops. Thank you to everyone for the continued support.



FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM

Dear friends

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and members of the Ministry Team (MT) have been doing some work on thinking about our vision as a church – who we are, where we would like to go and what we would like to do.

At an ‘away day’ in January, members of both PCC and MT started with a blank piece of paper to think about what they would like in a Vision Statement and, after a lot of work by Ministry Team (and Andy Smith in particular), the PCC was able to agree the following:-



‘St. Helen’s is a community that is deeply rooted in God and faithful to Christ.

We are called to welcome everybody with open arms, offering a safe and nurturing environment where each person can explore the Christian faith at their own pace.

Our mission is to grow together in God’s love and to share that love and the gospel of hope through our words, our actions, and by building strong, connected relationships within Ashby and the surrounding villages.’

Three Word Strapline

Faith – Love – Community

We hope that this will help us to focus, plan and evaluate what we do and give us direction for the way ahead.

One of the things that I said in my interview, for this role was that I think it is easy for churches to go on doing more and more things as we see the need but, in my experience, we are often not so good at letting things go when they are not sufficiently fulfilling a purpose. This is important when we have limited resources, particularly in terms of people. Putting our energy into things that are fruitful and which fit into our vision is important

if we are to move closer towards achieving that vision which we believe to be of God. In other words, we sometimes have to let things die in order for resurrection to happen.

It is easy to be busy and to have lots going on but stewarding our resources carefully, pruning what we do where we need to, and caring for all those who volunteer is really important if we are to be a healthy church and a church that bears good, lasting and godly fruit.

So please pray for your PCC - especially as we are a smaller PCC this year with no Churchwardens, only one Deanery Synod representative and with one vacancy – that we may continue to work out how we fulfil our calling of leadership. Please also pray for members of the Ministry Team – Caroline, our Choral Director, Sue, Andy, Liz and Judith, our Readers. Also pray for our clergy – Richard, John and me and all those who offer service to the life of our community that we may fulfil this vision statement, trusting that God will equip us and bless us with all we need.

With my prayers for you all,

Sue Field



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

If you would like to sign up for regular updates either follow this link <http://eepurl.com/dvVqrj> or email helen.davis@yfc.co.uk.

Alternatively you can scan the QR code.

Thank you for all your prayers and support.



As we come to the end of the summer term we tend to look back over the previous twelve months, and review what we've been involved in. The last twelve months have been exciting, as we have seen God move in the lives of young people in Ashby and the surrounding areas.

One of the big blessings of the year has been having Iona with us, taking a year out to serve God. We have seen her grow in confidence, particularly with speaking to young people about her Christian faith. Please join us in praying for Iona as she starts university in September. She will be missed.

Our groups are well attended and we are blessed with a number of volunteers who support us each week. Please pray for God's love to impact the lives of the young people who are engaging with us.

We are looking for somebody who would enjoy finding and applying to grant bodies for us. If you would like to find out more please get in touch.

Rock Solid

We would like to express our thanks to the PCC of Breedon Parish Church for allowing us the use of their grounds and church building for our recent overnight camping trip.

Members of Rock Solid enjoyed an evening of group games, capture the flag, stargazing, piano playing and great conversation before settling down for a night under canvas. The venue, with its rich history and excellent views, definitely facilitated a sense of wonder among some of our younger members.



MESSY CHURCH

At the last messy church we heard the story of the Ascension, which gave us the excuse to make collage pictures and play with bubbles, balloons, cloud shaped biscuits and more besides. I love to see all the generations enjoying time together at

Messy Church and sharing thoughts and prayers inspired by the bible story. We ended our session with 'aeroplane prayers', a song and our special Messy Church blessing.

I love to see all the generations enjoying time together at Messy Church and sharing thoughts and prayers inspired by the bible story.



Please see the back cover for details of the next exciting messy church event on the 1st August.

Pat Stafford

A LIGHT IN THE WORLD

The next in our series highlighting the ways we live out our faith as a church, we hear from Chrissie Hyland about her work at Canine Partners. Last month, St Helen's hosted Gresley Male Voice Choir for a concert raising funds for the charity.

My name is Chrissie Hyland, and I have had the privilege of working for the charity Canine Partners for over twelve years. Canine Partners is a national charity with their training centre in Osgathorpe, Leicestershire; they transform lives by partnering disabled people with amazing assistance dogs.

Each potential assistance dog is nurtured through puppyhood from 8 weeks of age in a loving volunteer home and enters the Assistance Dog Training phase around 16 months of age, training for around 4 months during which time they will be matched to a person with a disability who is on the waiting list. At the end of this training, they undertake a two-week residential course at the National Training Centre where, with the coaching of the dog's trainer, the partnership is created and learns how to work together. I lead the team of Assistance Dog Trainers based at the National Training Centre.

I always wanted to work with dogs but am also driven by helping people; as an Assistance Dog Trainer, I get the satisfaction of progressing each dog through their learning of vital skills and tasks, and then the immense reward of creating and training the partnership during the two-week residential training course.

As a Christian, I believe I am called to serve, and as a Team Leader in my workplace, I strongly believe that a servant heart and a desire to empower others is one way to live out my faith in a modern-day world. As well as my immediate team of trainers, I also work with many keen volunteers, without whom the charity would not be able to function. Each dog in training is fostered locally so that they have a comfortable home to relax in during their training; these volunteer fosterers provide much-needed 'down time' for the dogs but also must maintain key routines and behaviours. Developing their knowledge and skills, as well as sharing in their dog's journey, hopefully gives a sense of worth and value.

The bible encourages us to work with all our heart, as if working for the Lord, and I strive to live out my Christian values at work. I am lucky that I can share that I have a faith on which I have established my own personal values; this comes with a responsibility in that my actions will reflect this. I hope that my team and other colleagues see integrity, diligence and a love for people, that they may be intrigued and drawn to understand more about my Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For more information about Canine Partners visit the website www.caninepartners.org.uk

Chrissie Hyland

During the concert in June, the audience were wowed as Belinda and assistance dog Myrtle gave a demonstration of several of the skills the dogs are trained to carry out. From helping their partners out of bed, fetching and carrying items and loading the washing machine, it was clear that the charity are providing a truly life transforming service when they match a dog to a partner.





THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SHOP

94 Market Street

Ashby de la Zouch

Serving the community since 1987
Quality nearly-new bargains for everyone
Gifts of donated goods always needed
Volunteer helpers welcome
Telephone **01530 417096**

villair

Independent Travel Consultants

Specialist in

- Personalised itineraries •
- Over 20,000 computerised low cost airfares •
 - We search and book low cost airlines •
 - Accommodation or tours only if required •
- Very competitive annual and family insurance •
- Well travelled staff have visited Europe, Mediterranean •
 - USA, Canada, Caribbean, Bermuda •
 - Dubai, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand •
 - Far East, Fiji, Hawaii, Mexico, Mauritius, etc. •

Pop in and see us at

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

Tel 01530 413055 e mail: enquiries@villair.com



CHRIS'S THERAPEUTIC COUNSELLING

CHRIS LEWIS UKCP REGISTERED REG NO 2011165704

Telephone: 01530 564204 Mobile: 07828 463368

Email: chrislewiscounselling@gmail.com

Looking
for the
right
advice?



Property Law

Business Law

Wills & Probate

Family Law

Litigation

Choose Crane and Walton for everything legal...

We provide quality services in a friendly yet professional way on a range of legal matters, including:

- Property Law and Conveyancing
- Litigation
- Court of Protection Applications
- Family Law
- Wills and Probate
- Business Law
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Trusts



CRANE AND WALTON LLP

SOLICITORS

Lexcel
LAW FIRM
OF THE FUTURE

Ashby Office
30 South Street Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire LE65 1BT
Tel: 01530 414111
Fax: 01530 417022

Coalville Office
21-25 London Road Coalville
Leicestershire LE67 3JB
Tel: 01530 834466
Fax: 01530 810886

Leicester Office
113-117 London Road
Leicester LE2 0RG
Tel: 0116 2551901
Fax: 0116 2555864

Melbourne Office
William's Yard
Derby Road, Melbourne
Derbyshire DE73 8JR
Tel: 01332 863810

www.craneandwalton.com

petdeli

Free Local Delivery

Your local pet food specialist

5a Brook Street, Ashby de la Zouch

Leicestershire, LE65 1HA

Telephone : 01530 417484

See our latest offers on our
website, Facebook & Twitter pages!



www.petdeliashby.com

A.E. Grice

Funeral Service

**Offering a sympathetic
24 hour service in your
time of need.**

**4 Derby Road,
Ashby de la Zouch**

**01530
412229**

Darklands

School of Motoring

Jane Armson, ADI

Friendly, professional tuition

Intensive courses

Full hour lessons

Pass Plus

Motorway Tuition

Telephone

01332 865293

(Staunton Harold)

07774 924913

(Mobile)

Blossom Caring

DO YOU NEED HELP AT
HOME?

Caring

Cleaning

Collections

Dog walking

Cooking

Hospital visits

Doctors appointments

Trips out

*I offer a range of services and I
am available as and when you need me*

**Contact April on 07857 562306 to
discuss the assistance you need.**

** I work according to COVID-19 guidelines with a limited
number of clients *CRB-checked *15+ years experience
References available

OUR WORSHIP IN JULY

	am	pm	Wednesday
1st Sunday 6th July		3.30pm All age service 6pm Evensong	1st Wednesday– 2nd Holy Communion 10.30am In Church
2nd Sunday 13th July	10.30am Holy Communion		2nd Wednesday-9th Holy Communion 10.30am Prior Park Community centre
3rd Sunday 20th July	10.30 am Morning Worship		3rd Wednesday– 16th Morning prayer 10.30am In church
4th Sunday 27th July	10.30 am Holy Communion		4th Wednesday– 23rd Holy Communion 10.30am St Helen's In church

Regular activities:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Monday mornings | - Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am during term time |
| Mondays | - Pilgrim group |
| 1 st Wednesday | - We're in stitches – 2 till 4pm |
| Thursdays | - Choir practice – 6.30 till 8.30pm |
| Fridays | - Heart- warming Space 2-4pm |
| Saturdays | - Parish Prayers – 9.30am in the Hastings chapel |
| 1st Saturday | - Pause for Paws– 10.15-12.15 at the tower door. |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 6th July– 6pm- Soiree

Join us for choral evensong lead by the choir, followed by refreshments and a recital of 'Music For Two Voices' by Caroline Essex and Caroline Summers. Entry is free with donations welcomed on the night.

Sunday 13th July– 7pm– Music For A Summer Evening

Ashby String Orchestra promises an evening of entertainment, with music by Eccles, Bach, Mozart, Elgar and Ireland. Tickets are £10 for adults, free for children or carers and are available on the door.

Tuesday 22nd July– 7.30pm- Jewellery, A Narrative Journey

The 'We're In Stitches' summer series continues with a talk by storyteller, poet and artist Jo Pond. Tickets are £4 on the door, including light refreshments.

Friday 1st August– 4pm– Messy Church Picnic

Open to people of all ages, you are warmly invited to join with messy church for a picnic at St Helen's Heritage Centre. There will be games and activities to join in with as well as free ice creams!

Sunday 3rd August– 6pm– Hymns and Pimms

Join us outside the west door to sing some favourite hymns and then relax with a glass of Pimms (or squash, or a cup of tea!)

Tuesday 26th August– 7.30pm– Upstaged

The 'We're In Stitches' summer series continues with a talk by Leah Stuart. Tickets are £4 on the door, including light refreshments.



St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

Every
Friday

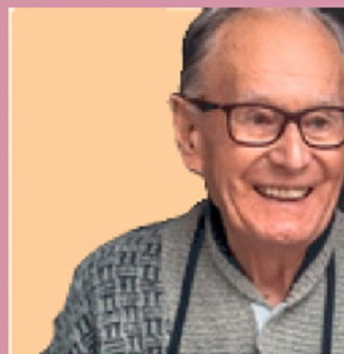
HEART WARMING SPACE

2 pm
to
4 pm



Tea
Cake
Chat

No
Charge



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



facebook.com/stheleasheritage



instagram.com/stheleasheritage



www.stheleentashby.net



[leicestershire.gov.uk](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk)

Green Grass

Landscaping and garden maintenance

ALL YEAR-ROUND SERVICE

30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

Hard & Soft Landscaping

Grass Cutting: mower & ride-on

Strimming & Lawn Edging

Overgrown Site Clearance

Waste Removal & Disposal

Excavation & Rotovation

Patios, Paving & Drives

Turfing & Seeding

Hedge & Shrub Cutting

Pruning

Planting & Plant Removal

Ponds & Water Features

Leaf & Snow Clearance

Stump Grinding

Weeding

Fence Painting

Pressure Washing

Plus more, and we are pleased to discuss your requirements

**FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTATION, PLEASE CALL
CRAIG & SHARON**

Mobile: 07970627509

Office: 01530 830032

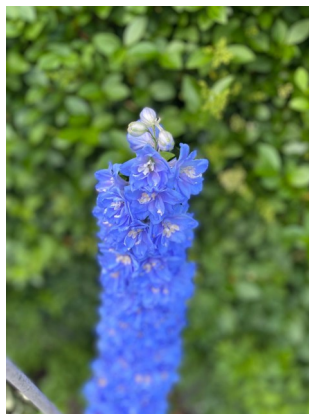
Let US build your dream garden or maintain it

GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY

July gives us a sense of the fullness of summer as the garden is in full bloom and it is just a beautiful time of the year. Although there is still plenty of time to plant out new things, as well as enjoying the established garden scenery.

Prune early flowering shrubs such as Philadelphus, Ribes and Weigela after they have flowered so that they can put on new growth this year which will hold the flowers next year. This cutting back will also help determine the shape.

Plants at their best are Delphiniums, Clematis, Achillea, Roses and many more. However, remember to dead head both bedding and perennial plants to encourage new blooms. When the flower heads of Delphiniums, Foxgloves and Verbascum have faded, cut them back by removing the flower head only (just the spike) and not the whole stem as where there are side shoots surrounding the heads they should produce a second flush



Continue the never-ending garden task of weeding, even during hot July days, as it's essential to remove any competition for both water and soil nutrients.

June has been very hot and dry so make sure you feed and water all vegetables and annuals regularly, especially Tomatoes and Cucumbers, to avoid problems. Don't forget to tie them onto canes and pinch out the tomato side shoots if necessary. We had a problem with, "Blossom end rot", on our tomatoes in 2024 and it's mainly due to inconsistent watering. We now water every other day to prevent this happening again.

Also keep sowing for salads (just a few at a time). This is a good time to increase the number of strawberries. Select runners from the healthiest plants, taking no more than six from each plant. Press the plantlet nearest to the plant on each runner into a small pot of potting compost using a, "Hairpin", piece of wire to keep it in place. Cut off the extension runners

and, if possible, sink the pots into the soil around the plants.

Make your final picking of Rhubarb and remove any flower spikes which start to form. If you have a good crop of Rhubarb it's a good idea to prepare and freeze it. There is nothing better than your own Rhubarb crumble and custard in the dark Winter nights. Thin-out heavy crops of Plums, Apples and Pears and remove any malformed, damaged or undersized fruits. We also prepare and freeze our plums and cooking apples.

Keep mowing the lawn if it is not parched and, if it is looking tired, this month is the last opportunity to apply a Summer fertiliser. Remember to raise the cutting height in order to leave grass longer during dry weather. Due to the weather being much warmer, pond weed can particularly get out of control if left untreated. We feed our fish daily as they have become much more active. We invested in an automatic feeder to cover any times we're away and it seems to work very well. We have also bought an automatic feeder and water dispenser for our Hedgehogs.

We would like to thank all those who visited and enjoyed the Ashby open Gardens. As we know the weather wasn't so good on the Saturday but improved on the Sunday. There is a great deal of hard work for all those who open. We presently don't know the total amount raised but we believe it's in excess of £4000. Finally, July is the best month for Alfresco Dining. Invite over family and friends for a relaxing afternoon and show them the fabulous results of your month-by-month gardening advice, and your hard work.

Alan and Alison Cross



For news and views in North West Leicestershire read your local newspaper

Ashby Times

on sale every Thursday at your local newsagent

Telephone: **01530 813101** email: editor@ashbytimes.com
advertising@ashbytimes.com

WWII EVACUEES IN ASHBY

During a Q and A session after a recent performance of *The Sunshine Girls at The Venture Theatre*, I was asked whether there really were evacuees in Ashby. Of course there were, as many of you will know, but I decided to dig a bit deeper this month and see what I could find in old newspapers.

The evacuation of children, together with mothers with infants and the infirm started on 1st September 1939, three days before war was declared. Children came to Ashby from Birmingham and although I don't know when the first ones arrived, some householders were certainly getting ready to receive them in September. Mr Rumsey, Clerk to the County Council, wrote to the Ashby Urban District Council that month saying that fewer evacuees than expected had arrived in the county but he thanked householders for their preparations. Those women householders who had accepted children in 1939 had received personal messages of thanks from Queen Mary.

Not all householders were prepared to receive them, however. In October, the Ashby Chief Billeting Officer, Mr Dearden, was appealing for more residents to come forward. There were never enough and it seems that he must have been the victim of verbal abuse from some householders. By November he actually resigned but was persuaded to stay on. Things hadn't improved by January 1940 as 70 children returned from their Christmas visit home and needed to be found billets in Ashby.

One solution was to use Manor House in South Street and St Helen's House at the top of Market Street. In November 1939, 350 boys arrived from King Edward's Grammar School, Aston in Birmingham. 40 of them were housed in the Manor House, 50 in St Helens House and the others in private houses in the town. The Manor House served as the HQ for all of them. The first three weeks were spent filling sandbags and digging trenches, but after that they attended Ashby Boys' Grammar School from 2pm to 6pm. The Manor House had two table tennis and two billiard tables, a radio and several other games. Leicester County Library lent 800 books to the school.

300 girls came from Erdington Secondary school and were billeted in private houses. They spent their mornings doing prep in the ballroom of the

Ivanhoe Baths and attended the Girls' Grammar School from 2pm to 6pm. Once a month, children were allowed to go home to Birmingham on Friday night and return on Monday by 1pm.

Although the children were safer in Ashby from the bombs, some did face other dangers. One eleven year old boy from Erdington drank some sulphuric acid mistaking it for lemonade. He was rushed to Ashby Cottage Hospital in a critical condition. I do not know if he recovered. Another 11 year old evacuee went missing in June 1942 and was found dead a few days later having fallen into the Ashby Canal and drowned.

There were certainly mixed feelings amongst the children about having to come to Ashby. One girl, interviewed years later for a BBC programme, described how homesick and bored she was. Her hosts lived in a house in the yard of the biscuit factory, but later moved to a bigger house. She remembered being terrified of the sound of the trains passing close by the house when she lay in her bed at night. She disliked her time here so much that for years she couldn't bring herself to return, but a school reunion held here years later made her realise that Ashby wasn't such a bad place after all!



An example image of some evacuee children from Bristol going to Devon

Some boys probably had a more enjoyable time. Many of them found it exciting seeing the fighter planes flying over and meeting the visiting American soldiers who threw them chocolate bars. They had fun exploring the castle too, especially the tunnel which they went into even at night. Those were in the days when there was no charge to go in the castle. One boy said that when he returned to Aston in Birmingham he found it "rather tame" compared to Ashby!

Wendy Freer

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

In July we are offering three events for the Festival of Archaeology. Details are below. Look out for more information on our website.

Festival Talk - Tuesday 8th July at 7.30 pm in St Helen's Heritage Centre.

£5 (cash or card) including light refreshments.

John Thomas from ULAS - Ramparts, Roundhouses & Rituals: Life and Times at Burrough Hill Iron Age Hillfort.

Burrough Hill is one of the best-preserved Iron Age monuments in the East Midlands, but until recent years it had seen little investigation and was poorly understood. A five year research excavation by University of Leicester archaeologists has produced a wealth of new evidence to better understand life at the hillfort, and has shown the importance of Burrough Hill to Iron Age society in the region. John Thomas, who led the excavations, will describe the results of the project, which include fascinating new stories about the daily life, beliefs and connections of the people who lived at the hillfort.

Tour of St Helen's Churchyard - Saturday 12th July at 2 pm

Free but donations welcome.

Hear about some of the Ashby personalities of centuries gone by who are buried here. Learn from the grim report of the Board of Health Inspector in 1849. Listen to the tale of the body snatchers. Find out when the gravestones were laid flat, and why. Meet outside the Community Heritage Centre in St Helen's Churchyard. LE65 1AB

Tour of St Helen's Church - Friday 25th July at 2 pm

Free but donations welcome.

Learn more about this Grade 1 listed 15th Century church, its history and some of its people. Find out about its close connections to royalty. Discover its links to the early Puritan movement in England. See the only 15th Century pilgrim memorial in England and a very rare finger pillory. Meet outside the Community Heritage Centre in St Helen's Churchyard. LE65 1AB

Wanted by Restorer

Do you have ...

⇒ pre 1970s furniture, wood or woodworking tools?

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

Contact Paul on 07895 451158 or pwin2457@gmail.com



The Ranters Barn Dance Band

**We are a locally based
5 piece Barn Dance Band
with a lady caller.**

We can do Weddings/Harvest
Suppers/parties/etc etc.

We are an experienced band and we
promise you a wonderful evening!

Ring Jane Clayton on 07598 139429
jane.clayton@btinternet.com



JP SPRINGTHORPE & C^o

Funeral Directors

**Castle Lodge
South Street
Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire
LE65 1BR**

As the only privately owned, family run, Funeral Directors in
Ashby de la Zouch, we are able to offer an extremely personal,
yet professional service, and at a reasonable cost,
both in Leicestershire and Derbyshire

Under the personal supervision of John Springthorpe

Quotations given

Telephone: 01530 417310 anytime

Pause for Paws

10:15am to 12:15pm
First Saturday of the month



St Helen's
Church (west
door)

Refreshments
will be
provided

*7th June,
5th July,
2nd August,
6th September,
4th October,
1st November,
6th December.*

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



Facebook.com/sthelensheritage



instagram.com/sthelensheritage



www.sthelensashby.net





PICNIC

for all ages 0-100!



Friday 1st August
4:00 to 5:30pm

ST HELEN'S HERITAGE CENTRE

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

Messy Church is:

A place of
celebration and
creativity, where
conversation and
laughter fill the air
And food, fun and
faith are shared.

Bring a picnic
and join in the
GAMES!
ACTIVITIES!
FUN AND FRIENDSHIP!

FREE ICE CREAMS,
DRINKS & SWEET
TREATS!



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint Helen, Ashby de-la Zouch. Charity Number 1200922