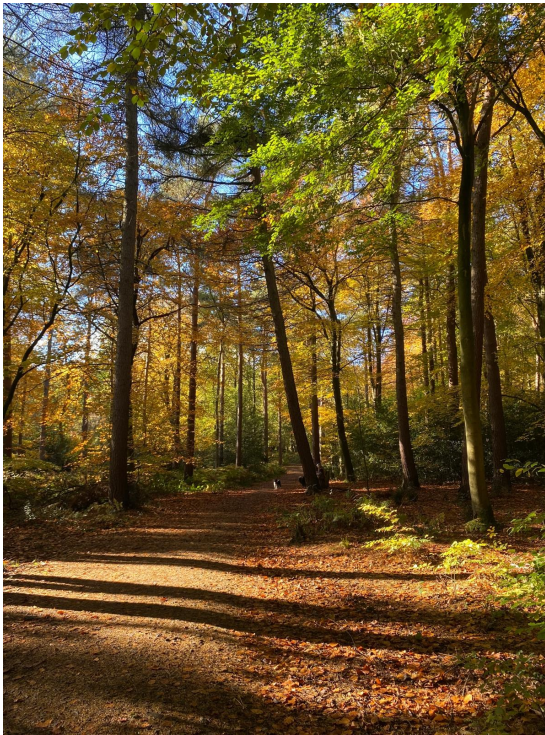




St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

FAITH — LOVE — COMMUNITY



Parish Magazine

October 2026

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

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CAP contact	Katie Johnson	0800 328 0006 (to use CAP services)

For more regular updates, find us on Facebook: St Helen's Church Ashby De La Zouch

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

Hello Everyone,

Here we are and it is October. A month that speaks of autumn colours, crisp warm days and half term! I always think it is an oasis time; a time to gently experience the change from summer towards the winter. "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" (opening line of the 1819 poem "To Autumn" by John Keats) This morning I awoke to a misty landscape and hints of sunshine.



In the church's calendar we are at the end of the season of Creationtide/ Season of Creation. This season ends on October 4th which marks the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This date was chosen as it is the day following his death, October 3, 1226. He is celebrated in many churches that bear his name. He is the patron saint of animals, the environment, and Italy. Churches often host special pet blessing services around this date.

In June at St Helens, we held a service which was open to the town, to celebrate and give thanks for our pets. It was supported by a range of animals including the donkeys who come to St Helens church on Palm Sunday and at Christmas (I have been informed that they are already looking forward to our crib service at St Helens on December 24th at 4.30pm).

I was privileged to attend Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral a week ago. I was struck by the beauty and magnificence of the building and the wonderful dome -and yet it seemed to me that it was enfolding and comforting. On further research I found that it is often felt that the cathedral possesses "a unique, powerful atmosphere", and that the dome is "the crowning achievement of that experience." I was sitting beneath the dome and the architecture filled me with a sense of awe and wonder and quiet reverence -a sense of being enfolded in God's love.

In these turbulent times of the world, let us be reminded that God is there and is there for each one of us. "And behold, I am with you always, to the

end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20).

September 21st marked the *International Day of Peace*, with individuals, nations, and groups around the world marking the day. The United Nations designated this as a day for global ceasefire and peace activism in 1981, to encourage and honour peace efforts large and small around the world.

The theme this year was *Invest in Peace—recognising everyday peacemakers. through encounters with others in churches, schools, and local contexts.*

Let us take time to consider this and ask ourselves if we can embrace it, and be everyday peacemakers and reconcilers nurturing peace from the ground up as we live our own lives.

Let me leave with you the prayer of St Francis -

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen
Elizabeth Smith

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.



We are hiring!

Do you have a passion for sharing the good news of Jesus with young people in the Ashby area?

We are hoping to broaden our youth work offer and have created two vacancies to increase our capacity.

- Centre Director– 15hrs per week, permanent
- Youth worker– 8hrs per week, initially fixed term for 1 year.

Interviews are taking place on Friday 30th October 2026.

For more information and an application pack, please contact emilyd.ayfc@gmail.com

There is an occupational requirement that the role holder is a committed Christian in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010. Due to the nature of this role a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service) is required before a final job offer is made. A criminal record is not necessarily a bar to employment with us please see our policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders for more details.

Upon securing the role, it will be subject to a satisfactory probation period of three months.

Applicants must be over 18 years old.

Please do pray for the centre, and any interested candidates, as we undergo the recruitment process.

ASHBY JOY

Ashby JOY is a group of people in their 20s &30s from various local churches, who meet weekly for fellowship and study.

Ashby JOY is continuing to meet every Thursday evening for fellowship and discipleship. Over the coming weeks we will be commencing a discussion series to delve into some deeper topics concerning how we live out our faith and how we understand the bible. Some more 'mature' Christians from the local community have been invited to join us for discussion to help guide our reflections and to offer insight on any questions we bring. Please pray that this will be faith-strengthening for all involved.

We are also continuing watching, intermittently, watching series one of 'The Chosen' whilst sharing a meal together. These evenings are aptly titled 'Chosen and Chips'.

Please feel free to contact sthelensmag@gmail.com for more information about the group.

Emily Darlington

ARISE AFRICA

During September, we welcomed a guest speaker from the charity 'Open Doors' to one of our Sunday services. Open Doors champion and support people around the world who are persecuted because of their faith in Jesus.

We were asked to remember the number 360 million during the talk—the number of Christians who face high levels of persecution. Some of the things Open Doors are involved in include distributing bibles (a nod to their origins and the work of Brother Andrew), presenting petitions to governments, practically supporting victims of persecution and displacement, advocating for persecuted Christians and engaging in prayer

for the persecuted church. On the Sunday in question, many members of the congregation signed Open Doors' 'Arise Africa' petition. Here is some information about the motivation behind this from their website:

'Extreme violence is spreading across sub-Saharan Africa. Thousands of Christians are killed for their faith. Each martyr leaves behind traumatised family and friends. Each murder further destabilises the church and threatens its future.'

The petition is aiming to reach 1 million signatures globally, before being presented to the UN and the EU amongst other governing bodies. The total is currently at 842,965 signatures. If you feel compelled to add your name, or find out more, please head to:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/arise-africa/>

HOVERAID

We also recently welcomed a guest speaker from Hoveraid, one of the charities we support prayerfully and financially. Hoveraid are a Christian organisation who work to deliver medical aid and general supplies to rural areas of Madagascar.

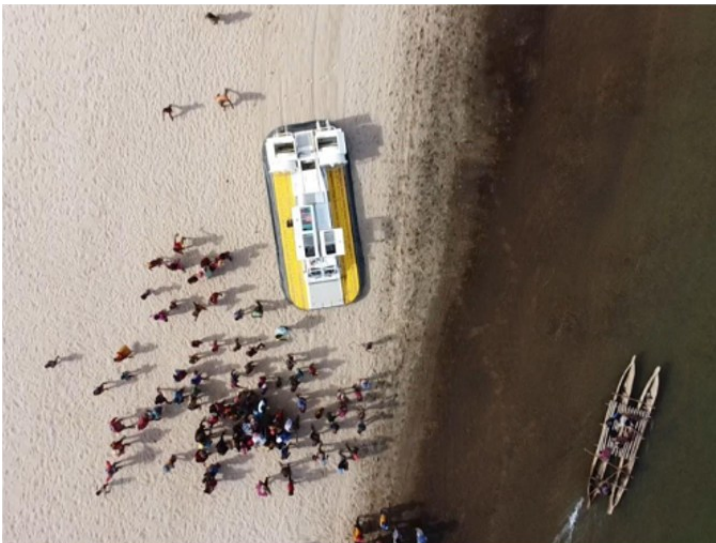
Over the summer, Hoveraid officially launched a new hovercraft, a River Rover, began work in Madagascar. Named 'Hope' the craft is already supporting HoverAid's work in the Mangoky River region, transporting medical teams, clean-water projects and vital equipment into some of Madagascar's most isolated communities.

A hovercraft is the ideal vehicle to get to remote wetlands: it can travel over a variety of terrains, including shallow or deep water. A new bespoke hovercraft has been designed, based on previous generations. This new design has all the benefits of the previous, but with a more powerful engine, a lighter and tougher frame, and more efficient structure.

Faith is now based at Beroroha where she is transporting teams of doctors for our "pop-up" medical clinics, construction teams and materials building

solar-powered bore holes and pumps providing clean water for thousands for the first time ever, and survey teams planning further life-changing work up the rivers in future years.

She is already demonstrating the ability of a hovercraft to reach isolated communities living in proximity to shallow river systems effectively, where there are no roads. This provides an efficient motorised means of enabling community- scale relief and medical support, where all other forms of transport fail. The hovercraft at 40-50 km/per hour; just 30 mins travel from one location to another by hovercraft would take 2 days to walk.



This year, HoverAid will deliver life-changing support to over 25,000 people in isolated communities in Madagascar, which they anticipate will increase with the full deployment of this new hovercraft enabling them to reach even more otherwise

inaccessible areas through this special capability.

Pictures and information from <https://hoveraid.org/>



St Helen's Church
Ashby-de-la-Zouch



Sunday Soirée

4th October 6pm - 8pm

Choral Evensong for Harvest sung by

St Helen's Choir

followed by refreshments,
then

Music for saxophone, oboe and piano

with

Corinne Marsh and Jeremy Kimber

*Admission free
Retiring collection*



St Helen's Church & Community Heritage Centre

Pause

9:30am to 11:30am
First Saturday of
the month St
Helen's church
(west door of the
church)

Refreshments will
be provided

for Paws



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



Facebook.com/sthelensheritage



www.sthelensashby.net



DON'T TALK. JUST DO IT.

You may recognize this catch phrase. It's from the 1993 film Last Action Hero, and spoken by Arnold Schwarzenegger who plays Jack Slater. 'So what? How is that applicable to me?' you might ask. Well, it may be inspired by the words from the Letter of James, 'Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers.'

The Letter of James is in a bit of a backwater, and it's not frequently read in church. Why might that be? One reason is that it cuts close to the bone, and modern Western society does not like being spoken to in the direct way that James uses. He points out things that are wrong with people in church. Ouch! That sort of language never goes down well. If he was a visiting preacher, I doubt he would be invited back. The message would be too challenging. A more appropriate topic might have been how to make the perfect Victoria Sponge cake!

James' quote, about doers of the word, looks harmless enough until you read how he expands on the main idea behind it. He is really talking about the 'double-minded' person. In Greek the word here is the very strong 'dipsychos,' literally two-souled. It describes a person who wants God's wisdom, and says as much, but their real love is directed towards selfish ambitions.

There are many descriptions in the bible of the double-minded person. Jesus said 'You cannot serve two masters,' and that sounds quite comical until you think of people for whom it is true. Then there's a parable about a house built on a rock contrasted to one built on sand – 'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and ***acts on them*** will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.' *My italics.*

Again Jesus says "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you?"

Enough of words, let's now do something interesting. Please write down a secret and strictly confidential list (shortly to be destroyed) of people you consider to be double-minded. And why.

When you've done that, check you've not missed anyone out. My

suggestion is there may well be someone you have missed out.

Yourself! Because at my first reading of James, I thought, yes, there's lots of people I know of in political circles and church leadership who look double-minded. Then I finished reading the whole letter, which is quite short, and pondered it.

Suddenly, I realised the worst double-minded person is me! For example when I'm praying for Ukraine, I usually end up creating new weapons they could use to win. My prayer should be anything but that. I've gone completely off track. James gives another example when he says in chapter 3, 'With our tongue we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.' Painful! But it's true for most of us.

Double-mindedness is like divided loyalty, and was the main problem faced by the Israelites in the Hebrew Bible. One day they would promise to love God with heart, soul, and strength, and the next day ... out come the little idols, or a trip to the high places to worship other gods.

In the teachings of Jesus we see some graphic examples. In the Parable of the Sower there are the thistles - 'the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word.' Then there is the rich young man who says he's kept all the commandments, but he cannot give up his wealth and status to follow Jesus. Had he done that, his name might have appeared in the bible and he would have become famous forevermore. Except wanting to be famous is also a sign of a double-minded Christian!

Another illustration from Revelation (and I hope the children are not watching) is the church in Laodicea, who are lukewarm and God is about to spit them out of his mouth. The problem is self-sufficiency caused by wealth, and I'd better say no more as we may have gone right into the bone here!

To conclude, please read the whole letter of James and check if he's being too in-your-face. Double-minded is only a word, but is like a powerful wrestler who picks you up and can slam you down on the canvas. Or you beg for mercy. Just ask, just do it.

Richard Vann

OUR WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

	am	pm	Wednesday
1st Sunday 4th October		3.30pm Harvest Festival 6pm Soiree	1st Wednesday– 7th BCP Holy Communion 10.30am In Church
2nd Sunday 11th October	10.30am Holy Communion		2nd Wednesday– 14th Holy Communion 10.30am Prior Park
3rd Sunday 18th October	10.30 am Morning Worship		3rd Wednesday– 21st Morning prayer 10.30am In Church
4th Sunday 25th October	10.30 am Holy Communion	3.30pm A time to remember 7.30pm Compline	4th Wednesday– 28th Holy Communion 10.30am In church

Regular activities:

- Monday mornings - Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am during term time
- Mondays - Pilgrim group
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday - We're in stitches – 2 till 4pm
- Thursdays - Morning Light– 8.45am
- 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 6th October– 3.30pm– All Age Harvest Festival— donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries are welcome for Ashby Foodbank.

- 6pm Soiree with music for saxophone, oboe and piano— join us for choral evensong with the choir, followed by refreshments and a musical recital.

Friday 9th October– Barn Dance– 7pm

Join Ashby Street Pastors for an evening of barn dancing in St Helen's Heritage Centre. Entry is £3 on the night. Tea, coffee and cake will be served.

Sunday 25th October– A Time to Remember– 3.30pm

A special service for those who have been bereaved.

Tuesday 27th October– Heritage Talk—7.30pm

Danny Wells presents 'The Victorian Way Of Death'. Not as morbid as it may sound, we take a fascinating glimpse into Victorian attitudes to death. Tickets £4 on the door, including light refreshments.

Sunday 1st November– Justice Service for Leicester– 3.30pm

Friday 6th November– Messy Church– 4.15pm

GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

October is a Beautiful Month of Autumnal Colour but also there is a risk of possible first frosts. Up to now we have had many hot days followed by a few wet ones. However, use the occasional blue-sky days to tidy up and cut back in the garden, as well as harvesting, storing and possibly freezing both fruit and vegetables for the cold months ahead.

General garden jobs include:

- The tidying up of borders, clearing weeds and cutting down spent flower stems.
- The clearing of dead leaves off of paths, patios and lawns and anywhere else that slugs and snails can hide.
- The composting of green rubbish, but remember **Not** to put perennial roots into the compost bin.

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.

Clear out the pond and clean out the water pump. Remove floating leaves and scrape out excess sludge from the bottom and sides. Cover the pond with netting.

October is a time to pick, store and use any fresh Sprouts, Leeks, Cauliflowers, Carrots, Parsnips, Beetroot, Celery and Winter Squashes. Protect Salad and late root crops with Horticultural Fleece to extend the growing season. Once the vegetable patch is cleared you should carry out Winter digging, forking over and mixing in Organic Matter such as manure as you go. Plant Spring Cabbage and over-wintering onion sets but leave out garlic until the end of the month, or any time in November.

Tomatoes have slowed 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 the sunlight to ripen as we have had success with this. However, if your greenhouse is fairly empty now is a good time to clean and disinfect it.

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.

Continue to plant Spring flowering bulbs and replace old Summer-bedding with Winter and Spring bedding. You can get your own indoor bulbs to flower for Christmas. Plant early varieties of Hyacinths by early October. Put them in a cool (10 Degrees C), dark place until the shoots are about 5 centimetres high before bringing them into the house.

Finally, this is the time for those who love their house plants to consider what needs to be done with them before the Winter. Alison manages our house plants. She has had a rethink over the past years and has replaced all indoor plants with Succulents as they need very little watering. You can leave them for up to 4 weeks without watering and you get such a wonderful variety of colours, shapes and sizes. When she waters them, she soaks them and then leaves them for a few weeks. They do like Sun and Heat so a porch, conservatory or a window sill is ideal. House Plants can be so therapeutic over the long cold Winter months when you don't have the pleasure of seeing your outdoor plants in full bloom.

Alan and Alison Cross



St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

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

Heritage Talks 2026 - 2027

The Victorian Way of Death

Danny Wells
Tuesday 27th October
At 7.30 pm

Death was ever present in nineteenth century life.
Not as morbid as it may sound, we take a fascinating
glimpse into Victorian attitudes to death.

Tickets on the door - £4 including light refreshments



[Facebook.com/sthelenschurch](https://www.facebook.com/sthelenschurch)

Email: heritage@sthelensashby.net

Website: www.sthelensashby.net



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All welcome (over 18s please).

Get together with like-minded textile enthusiasts.
Drop in, chat, and exchange advice, tips, and ideas.

First and third Wednesday of the month
2pm – 4pm
In the lovely Hastings Hall at the Heritage Centre,
4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch,
Leicestershire LE65 1AA.

Tea and coffee available.

If you'd like to contact Mo (the coordinator):
07748 157649

Or contact Anne (group leader)
she's on Instagram: @new_vintage_sewing



St Helen's Parish Office
07565 191852 parishoffice@sthelensashby.net



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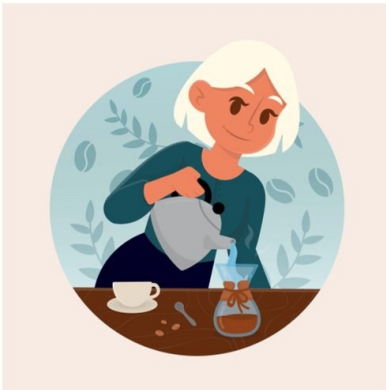
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Facebook.com/sthelensheritage

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www.sthelensashby.net





Baby Loss Awareness Week

9-15 October

Raising awareness
one ribbon at a time

Together, we:



Remember
our babies



Raise awareness of
the support available



Drive change to improve
care and support, and
save more babies' lives



St Helen's Church, Ashby de la Zouch will be open every day
between 9am and 4pm for people to tie a ribbon on a tree
in memory of their baby who has died.

You can also light a candle and leave the name of your
baby to be included in our prayers.



Find out more about the
week and how to support
babyloss-awareness.org

#BLAW