

## **Welcome to the United Benefice of St. Helen, St. Mary and St. John the Baptist**

It's great to gather together as the Body of Christ in this beautiful part of Derbyshire. Though we have differences, we have one Lord, one Faith and one passion for the Gospel. May we spend time this morning praying together and sharing fellowship.

All are welcome to take part fully in our services. If this is a Service of Holy Communion, you are very welcome to receive Holy Communion at the appropriate time. *Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask anyone leading the communion.*

### **Our Worship today, 10<sup>th</sup> December, Second Sunday of Advent**

**8.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's**

**9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's**

**11.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's**

**4.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Mary's**

Tuesday – Morning Prayer at St. Helen's, 9.30

Thursday – Morning Prayer at St. John's, 9.30

Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.30pm, Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Rd.

Thurs. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.00am, Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue

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### **United Benefice Services for next Sunday**

**9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's**

**11.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's**

**4.00pm Informal Carol Service and Readings at St. Mary's**

**Readings:                    Isaiah 40:1-11  
                                      Mark 1: 1-8**

**Prayer:** Fridolin Wieschhues, Robert & Margaret Pearse and family, the Hopper family, the Parnell family, Tony & Marie Thrower, Stan Codd, Dennis Roberts, Dorothy Ash, Stephen Porter, Anne & Susan ChinChen, Lindsey Wilson, Andrew Brown.

Please let Pauline know of anyone you would like to put on the list, and also when someone's name can be removed. For St. Mary's, please pass names to David Gadsby (734922) and for St. John's to Marion Bowler (650261).

### **Calling all singers! (And a reminder about the vocation of Christians.)**

We've been asked to sing some carols at Whitworth Hospital and also at the Dementia Centre next door. I know we are all busy, but as a Christian community we must always remember we are called to serve the poor and needy, to support the sick and dying. We are also called upon to live an ordered life, in which we often spend time in prayer and reflection.

### **Intimate Worship**

Our first meeting of 2018 will be Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January. We will be meeting on the second Sunday of the month on a regular basis.

### **St. Helen's Opening Times**

We are trying to get a rota of people to help keep St. Helen's open, Monday – Friday, approx. 9am - 4.30pm. We are so very lucky to have St. Mary's open every day. It's a wonderful oasis of peace, somewhere to feel the presence of the Lord. It seems so sad for any Christian Church to be shut for most of the week.

## **Attention! What's Happening This Week...**

**Today, St. Mary's, 4pm**, we have the **Community Service of Carols and Readings**. It would be lovely to see people from all the churches of our United Benefice at this Service. It's great to support each other. And the other positive thing is that you can simply come along to sing, pray and spend some personal time, without having a particular job to do!

### **Advent Night Prayer at St. Helen's**

Please continue to support our Monday Night Prayer, 7pm.  
(11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.)

### **Advent Bible Study at St. John's**

Bible study, 10.30am, on Fridays (15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.)

Our reflections last week, on the previous Sunday's Gospel, were very inspiring.

Everyone is very welcome to both these events.

### **St. Helen's – A discussion of Services and Hymns**

Tomorrow (Mon), 10.30am, we'll be taking some time to look at our services and to choose hymns. It's frightening to realise that we'll be thinking about next Lent and Easter! Doesn't time fly? **ALL** are very welcome. The meeting will be at Margaret and Chris Long's home (14, Park Avenue, Darley Dale).

**Churchtown School, Prayer Meeting, Mon., 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 3.30pm in the school, all welcome. Please support.

### **Joint P.C.C.**

**Meeting in St. Mary's parish room, Tues., 12<sup>th</sup> Dec., 7.30pm.**

If you're on this committee, please do attend. Thanks.

**Messy Church Planning Meeting, Tues., 12<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1.00pm**

## **Joint P.C.C.**

**St. Mary's, Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.30pm.** If there are any issues you wish us to discuss, please give them to Mrs. Penny Dakin (Hon. Sec.). I know everyone is very busy at this time, but please do make this a priority.

## **South Darley School, Christmas Fair, Thurs., 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

After school.

## **Our Schools' United Service, Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2.30pm.**

United Carol Service, St. John's, Winster. All welcome, but you may have to stand. On this one day of the year we have so many children - but isn't that great?!

**St. Mary's, Christmas Concert, Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.30pm,** led by Darley Dale Band and Hillside Choir. This will be a wonderful evening of entertainment and fellowship, so please support. Why not bring a friend or family member who does not normally come to church? It could be a great introduction to the warmth and welcome we always give.

## **And Next Week... Carols Galore!!**

Next **Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.**, there will be two carol services:

**St Mary's, South Darley, 4pm.** We have '*Choose your favourite Carols*', along with some readings.

**St John's, Winster, 6pm.** A more formal service of Carols and Readings, followed by refreshments.

All are very welcome to both these services. And do invite others.

## **Advent Collection**

Remember we are collecting for Ashgate Hospice this Advent. Please do give whatever you can afford to our churchwardens, coordinators, treasurer or even to me. The hospice desperately needs our support, both in prayer and financially.  
Thank you.

## **Please Don't Forget... Ecumenical Holy Communion**

Last Monday the numbers for this service were not great again. Please do try to support our next Holy Communion, at **Darley Dale Methodist Chapel, Monday, 8th Jan., 10am**. It's so enriching for Christians to pray together.

## **Thanks**

A very big thank you to everyone who supported last week's Joint Carol Service with the uniformed organisations. The feedback from both leaders and parents was 100% positive, and your warm welcome to everyone made such a difference. Please do keep these groups in your prayers.

Thanks also to everyone who supported the 'Blessing of Christmas Trees' at Winster. It was a lovely little service, which helped to unite the community and the church.

## **Ding Dong!!**

It was great to welcome back the local Ringers for their Christmas Service of Carols and Readings, followed by a pie supper. We must always remember to feed both the body and the soul!

## A Thought

Some translations of Mark's Gospel start with the words '*In the beginning*'. But in the more accurate translations, Mark puts us straight into the life and work of Jesus Christ, no delay, no messing about! Mark is writing for a group of people facing death and persecution. These people are not interested in rhetoric, they just want the saving message of Jesus Christ. The Word of God.

The end of Mark's Gospel is similar – it's an abrupt end. Jesus has died for our sins, in order to restore us to friendship, through Him, with God our Father. The abruptness aims to show people that this is the time to know Jesus. That there is a pressing need, an urgency, a rush.

In our own broken and chaotic world, we too are in a time of great need. This is true of our personal lives, our faith lives, and of our world in general. Today, so much is happening all around us. We need to turn each day to Jesus. We need to give ourselves time and space to hear and receive God's saving invitation, brought to us through Jesus Christ. This does not come via the promptings of an angry and vengeful God, but through the outreached hand of our loving God. The God who loves you and our world so very much that He allowed His Son, Jesus, to be born for us, to walk upon the earth, and finally to die for all humanity.

This Advent, may we turn once more to Jesus and allow him to pour into our hearts His redeeming love. To purify us and make us whole. May this second week of Advent give you time to Love God, to love your neighbour, and to love yourself.

God Bless.     Stephen Monk

## Psalm 85.1-2,8-13

- 1 Lord, you were gracious to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the offence of your people  
and covered all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say,  
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,  
that they turn not again to folly.
- 9 Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together,  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth  
and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him  
and direct his steps in the way.

Please take this pew sheet home for details of what is coming up and also for prayer.