

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, 7th January, Baptism of Christ/Epiphany

St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion
St. Mary's 10.00am Holy Communion
St. Helen's 11.00am Holy Communion

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Regular Midweek Services

Tuesday – Morning Prayer at St. Helen's 9.30am
Thursday – Morning Prayer at St. John's 9.30am

Regular Home Groups & Prayer Meetings

Wed.10th Jan. Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Rd.
Thurs.11thJan. 9.00am, Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue
Thurs.11thJan. 7.30pm Home Goup, 14 Park Avenue

United Benefice Services for next Sunday, 14th Jan.

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's
9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's
10.00am Joint Christingle Service with St. Helen's at St. Mary's

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, the Stoker Family.

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).

This Week

A cancellation

Please note that **Ecumenical Holy Communion** at Darley Dale Methodist Church, Mon. 8th Jan., has been **cancelled**.

Do check in future pew sheets for the new date and try to support. It's so enriching for Christians to pray together.

Prayer Meeting, Churchtown School, Mon. 8th Jan. 3.30pm.
Everyone is welcome.

Monday Munchers,

Mon. 8th Jan. – Salt. (Mon. 15th – Pepper & Mustard.)
Whitworth Tea Rooms, 11.45am for 12.00 noon.

Outreach Meeting, 13th Jan.

For those on the Outreach team, our first meeting Saturday 13th Jan. 11am. If you haven't received an agenda, please speak to Penny.

(**Messy Church** – Please note that the date of Messy Church has been changed. It is now **Mon., 29th Jan.** For details, see Margaret.)

And Looking Ahead...

Next Sun. 14th Jan. Family Service (Christingle) St. Mary's, 10am.

Please remind other people of the time and the place!
(Family Service is ALWAYS 10am, and alternates between St. Helen's and St. Mary's.)

Intimate Worship - Our first meeting of 2018 will be **Sunday, 14th Jan.** We will then be meeting on the second Sunday of each month on a regular basis.

Ecumenical Meeting

St. Mary's, 18th Jan. 7pm. Those wishing to attend, please put this date in your diaries.

A United Service, 21st Jan.

For over 50 years, Christians have come together for a service during **Christian Unity Week**. This year we have the honour of worshipping with our friends at Darley Dale **Methodist Church, 21st Jan., 10.30am**. Please do try to join us. (There won't be any other services in our churches that day.)

Café Church, Sun. 28th Jan. 5pm. The theme is 'New Beginnings'.

Thank You

To everyone who helped in any way over Advent and Christmas, I want to say a very big thank-you. The feedback from visitors and local people was really positive. Let's keep it up - hospitality, prayerfulness and charity. Three words for the New Year.

My Christmas Holiday

Please be aware that I'll be away from the rectory from Monday to Friday, 8th - 12th January.

Collections and Planned Giving

This year, we really need to think about our giving to the Church. Some people haven't reflected on this for some time, others may have kept their giving at the same rate for many years. Can I please invite you to think about this? Some of our churches are now living 'hand to mouth' and that's not good for any of us. If we get our giving right, then we can more easily get our Mission right also. Jesus gives to us all in grace; our salvation and our redemption. That is why we need to give what we can, so that others may know God's saving love.

Helping Our Churches

Would you like to get more involved? For example reading, leading prayers, helping with our liturgy groups, flowers, cleaning etc. If so, please speak to me or to the churchwardens/coordinators.

Charitable Giving

In a couple of weeks, during our meeting of churchwardens and office holders, we are going to choose a couple of charities. If there are any local or international charities you'd like our United Benefice to support, then please speak to Marlene, Maureen, Stephen, Roz, Marion or Roland.

New Year, New Hope

We begin our New Year with hope in Jesus Christ. Let's all try to do three things in the coming weeks:

Pray more

Serve more

Think about how we can share greater fellowship

On 14th February we begin the Lenten Season. After all the business of Christmas, Lent offers a time to reflect on our lives with honesty and humility. May we turn away from sin and towards Christ.

A Thought

In this New Year of 2018, God calls us to use our energies and our imagination in Christian ways. He calls us to allow the spirit of Jesus to touch our minds.

Let us turn away from self-interest, from the demands of our own ego. Instead let us use our abilities to bring forth the Kingdom of God; to bring forth Peace and Love and Hopefulness. So much energy, so much time and money, goes into maintaining a distance from other people. Many, if not most, of the resources of the world are used to defend ourselves against others, to maintain or increase our power, to safeguard our own privileged position.

Imagine if all that effort were to be put into the service of Peace and Reconciliation! Would there then be any poverty? Would there be crimes and wars? Imagine a time when there would no longer be fear among people, no longer rivalry, hostility, bitterness or revenge. Picture the people of this planet holding hands and forming one large circle of love. We would say, of course, '*I can't imagine.*' To which God might reply '*That's what I imagine, a whole world, not only created but also living in my image.*'

Let God work through us. Let us help Him build His kingdom here, now, within our communities.

God bless you, and grant you a very blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ.

Revd. Stephen Monk

Psalm 72.(1-9)10-15

- 1 Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
- 2 Then shall he judge your people righteously
and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people.
- 4 May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.
- 8 May his dominion extend from sea to sea
and from the river to the ends of the earth.
- 9 May his foes kneel before him
and his enemies lick the dust.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
- 11 All kings shall fall down before him;
all nations shall do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,
the needy and those who have no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- 15 Long may he live;
unto him may be given gold from Sheba;
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long.

Do not be afraid

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name;
you are mine.
When you walk through the waters,
I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.
When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.
When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.
You are mine, O my child,
I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

Music by Stopford

Words by Gerard Markland

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