

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, 11th February, Third before Lent

9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's

10.00am Joint Family Service at St. Helen's with St. Mary's

Readings:

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

Mon.12th Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Tues.13th Home Group, 5 Sir Joseph Whitworth Lane

Thur.15th Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue

Our United Benefice Services next Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

11.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's

Prayer: Fridolin Wieschhues, Robert & Margaret Pearse and family, the Hopper family, the Parnell family, Tony & Marie Thrower, Stan Codd, Dorothy Ash, Stephen Porter, Anne & Susan ChinChen, Andrew Brown, the Stoker Family, Claudia Jeffrey, Steven Gil, Pauline Hall.

Please let Pauline Hall 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).

Your prayers are asked for Ruth Smith, who has recently undergone surgery to remove a brain tumour.

Today and This Week:

St. Helen's, Intimate Worship, Today, 6pm.

Service at the Wesleyan Chapel, Winster, Today, 2.30 pm.

We've been warmly invited to join in a service this afternoon at the Wesleyan Reform Chapel in Winster. After the service there'll be afternoon tea (with very nice cakes!!) If you are free, please do support. This small group of Wesleyans are so very faithful and supportive of the Anglican Church.

Liturgy Planning for St. Helen's, Mon.12th Feb.11.30am.

This will take place at the home of Margaret and Chris Long (14 Park Avenue). Everyone is welcome, so please come and join in the planning of our liturgy if you'd like to.

Prayer Meeting, Churchtown School, Mon.12th Feb.

3.30pm – 4.00pm. Do come along to pray for our children, as well as for all the staff at the school.

Monday munchers, Salt Group, 12th Feb.

11.45/12.00, Terrace Tea Rooms, Whitworth Centre.

St. Helen's Mothers' Union, Shrove Tuesday Lunch,

13th Feb.11.30am. Delicious home-made soup, followed by pancakes. Tickets **£6**, available from Magda **today**.

Remember - Lent begins 14th February!

This Wed. 14th Feb. 7.30pm. Service at the **Methodist Church, Dale Road,**

We join our Methodists friends each year on Ash Wednesday, and they join us for the Holy Thursday service in Holy Week. Remember Lent is about prayer, about fasting and about alms giving. Please make time for prayer. We need to look inward at our own lives, and outward to see how can we can best serve the Lord.

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Lent Courses

St. Helen's, starting Mon.19th Feb.10am.

The theme will be '**All things are possible**' (a study of how faith in God can change the world). A 6-week course, led by Stephen Monk. Venue for Mon.19th to be arranged. (From Mon. 26th onwards, this will take place in the hall.)

Darley Dale Methodist Church, starting Mon. 19th Feb. 7.30pm, led by Robert Foster.

Winstler Wesleyan Church, starting Thurs.15th Feb.10.30am., led by Stephen Monk.

St. Mary's, starting **23rd Feb. 7.30pm** (leader to be confirmed)

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South Darley Mothers' Union

Thanks to everyone who came to the AGM last week. We have two Mothers' Union groups in our United Benefice, and they aim to support families, pray for children, and do outreach with those on the edge of our parish. I invite you to reflect on the values of the Mothers' Union, the fine principles upon which Mary Sumner founded this organisation.

"UP IN THE AIR" is a Free, Fun Activity Day for 5 - 11 year olds. This will be held **on Monday, 19th February** from 10.00a.m. till 3.00p.m. (half -term week) at St. Helen's Church Hall. Bible Stories-Fun-Craft-Songs-Prayer.

To enrol a child/children, or for more information, please telephone Steve or Jayne Walker (01629) 55863.

If you know of any local children who would really enjoy this day, do let them and their families know about it. Ask Steve or Jayne for a leaflet to pass on.

Looking ahead – Friday 2nd March, Women's World Day of Prayer, 2.00pm at St. Mary's.

Rest Eternal

Many people are mourning the loss of a loved one at the moment. Please keep an eye open for those in need in our communities, as well as in our church families.

Please pray for the family and friends of Ray Sutcliffe, who died recently and very suddenly.

A Few Short Thoughts

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear fruits, in this world and in the life to come.

The greatest healing therapy is friendship and love.

Kindness and a generous spirit go a long way. And also a sense of humour! It's like medicine - very healing.

"I suppose that since most of our hurts come through relationships, so will our healing, and I know that grace rarely makes sense for those looking in from the outside."

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.

"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

"He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds."

Healing in Christ

As Christians we hold true that God loves us, that God wants what is best for us, that God wants us to flourish and grow in knowledge of Him who created all.

This is a deeper reality that the world often likes to own. We struggle with the fact that life is tough, that the world is hard, that people suffer and die.

But both these sets of facts are true. We live in a world that was perfect but, due to the Fall, sickness, death and discord have entered it. For centuries God tried to get people back on track with the help of prophets, judges and kings. But people were still too far away from God. So God sent his Son to live, to love, and eventually to die and rise again, in order to save and redeem us. To bring us back into the right relationship with Him.

Jesus wanted people to be healed and to be whole. Yet we must remember that this was in the context of a finite life. One of the most challenging things I saw in hospital chaplaincy was healing through death. By this, I mean that some people were at the end of their lives, and the kind act was to let them slip into eternity, rather than using aggressive medical techniques to prolong life for a matter of days or weeks, but without quality.

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have celebrated the Sacrament of the Sick - using laying on of hands, anointing and prayer. Today too, we trust in God and pray for those who are sick in our community. On one level or another He will give healing, whether it is physical, emotional or spiritual. The healing Jesus never leaves us alone in our need.

Let us trust in God, in His saving and healing power. May God give you consolation and peace. **Revd. Stephen Monk**

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