

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, 21st January, Epiphany 3

United Service at the Methodist Church, Dale Rd. 10.30 am,
in celebration of Christian Unity Week

United Benefice Services next Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's

9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's

11.00am Morning Prayer at St. Helen's

4.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's

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. 22nd, Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

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, Claudia Jeffrey.

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).

Joint PCC

Please remember our next meeting, **23rd Jan. 7.30pm** at **St. Helen's**.

Café Church, Sunday 28th Jan. 5.00pm. The theme is 'New Beginnings'.

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

Can you help?

Our Mission Partner for Chile, Cristobal Ceron, will be visiting St. Helen's on Sunday, 28th January. Is anyone able to offer him accommodation for the Saturday & Sunday night? Also, could anyone offer him a Sunday lunch? Please contact Margaret, Roz or Stephen Walker. Thank you.

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 a long 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.

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.

Thanks

The Family Service was well led and well attended last week. Thanks to Jo for her hard work in leading the service and to the Worship Group, which goes from strength to strength. It was a wonderful time of prayer and praise. Our next Family Service is at **St. Helen's, 11th Feb. 10am**. This will be a service in which we think of those who are sick and needy.

Thanks also to the first Outreach meeting. This group is reflecting on how we can reach out with love to our local communities, and offer service to those of all ages. The group is made up of people from all of our United Benefice.

Thanks to those who attended St. Helen's Social Committee meeting last Monday, in which we looked at events for 2018.

Thanks to those who supported our Ecumenical Group on Thursday.

Finally, our thanks are due to Revd. Audrey, who is very generously helping out at the moment.

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the family and friends of Terry Boswell, whose funeral was last Friday, and also for the those of Brian Gray, whose funeral will take place in the next couple of weeks. May they all find consolation in the love of God.

Unity

Jesus prayed that 'All may be one'. This shows us that the call to be united is not an optional extra. Whatever our tradition, we can learn from each other's worship, theology and spirituality. In Jesus' name we must do as much as possible together, and we must remember to pray often for those in other traditions. Today we acknowledge the privilege of a good relationship with our Methodist brothers and sisters. Let us all try to work more closely with local Christian churches, so as to bring to fruition the call of Jesus that all, indeed, may be truly one. Amen

A few quotes about Christian Unity

1. And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him - a threefold cord is not quickly broken.
2. True friends face in the same direction, toward common projects, interests, goals.
3. The Church is everywhere represented as one. It is one body, one family, one fold, one kingdom. It is one because it is pervaded by one spirit. We are all baptized into one spirit so as to become, says the apostle, one body.
4. There is one body and one spirit - just as you were called to the one hope, to one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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