

## **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, 28<sup>th</sup> January, Epiphany 4**

- 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
- 5.00pm** Café Church at St. Helen's

**Readings:** Deut.18:15-20  
Mark 1:21-28

### **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. 29<sup>th</sup> Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Tues. 30<sup>th</sup> Home Group, 5 Sir Joseph Whitworth Lane

### **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, 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).

### **Funerals**

We pray for the families of Terry Boswell, June Taylor, Christine Donald, Brian Grey and Frances Mary Smith (wife of Reverend St John-Smith). May their loved ones rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

### **Today and This Week:**

**Cafe Church, today, 5.00pm** - An opportunity to talk to Cristobal, our mission partner from Chile. Do join us for a shared meal in the church hall.

**Messy Church, Mon. 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. 10am - 3pm.**

Those who are able to help, please remember the important role you have in this event. It would be much appreciated if all helpers were able to come to church for 9am to help set up the hall and church. Many thanks. Margaret.

**Joint Churchwardens/Coordinators Meeting, St. Mary's Parish Room, Thurs. 1st Feb. 11.30am.** Please pray for all members of our church leadership team, as they lead our parishes into the future. Thank you.

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**Mothers Union, Mon. 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1.30 p.m.** in the church hall.

Members are asked to bring their favourite games to enjoy a games afternoon, after which will be the usual cake and tea. Visitors are always welcome.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2018**

Our Annual Meeting is on **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April**, approx. 12 noon (after 11 a.m. service). Reports need to be sent to Penny Dakin no later than Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. This may seem early, but the report has to be collated, taken to the PCC for approval at its March meeting, then printed ready for 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Monday Munchers.** We are a group of people who, in the main, live on our own but enjoy a meal out with others. Because there are so many of us, we are split into two groups. Each person receives a phone call the week before, inviting them to the meal. Usually 12 – 14 of us make the date, and we can order just what we want to eat. The Terrace Tea Room are extremely helpful. This month's dates are: Salt – Mon. 12 Feb., Pepper and Mustard – Mon. 19 Feb. If you think you might like to join us, do phone Kathleen on 732805.

### **Calling Everyone!!**

I've asked a few times for more volunteers to help in our churches. We need readers, intercessors, helpers with Holy Communion, and so on. Everyone is very welcome to help. If you are interested, please speak to me, to your churchwardens or the coordinators.

### **Our Next Family Service, St. Helen's, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10 am.**

This service will be dedicated to those who are lonely, ill, or in any other state of need. Everyone is welcome to come, as we ask the Lord to heal us and, as the prayer says, 'raise us up'. This means raising us to wholeness and healing, even to contentment. If you know anyone who may be helped by this service, please do invite them to come along.

## The Season of Lent

What can we do this Lent? How can we become closer to the Lord?

What can we give up – and then give the money saved to charity?

What can we take on? Could we perhaps help the children in our schools, assist with afternoon teas in South Darley, volunteer in a charity shop, help Christine with the Peace Garden at St. Helen's?

But let's also take time out in Solitude - time with the Lord, time reflecting on the daily readings or on a certain book of the Bible)

Why not come to Lent Group? (See list of times and places in the Magazine)

Or could you help more in church – with flowers, cleaning, reading, being a sides-person?

Lent is the time for leaving behind our sins, for coming closer to our Lord.

## A Thought

In the coming weeks let us reflect on the importance of spending **time alone with God**.

There's an old saying that 'silence is golden', but for people who live alone, silence can sometimes equate to loneliness.

Often people complain about the church calling certain services 'family services'. They say '*we don't have a family*'. But the reality which this service professes is that to belong to a healthy church, to belong to a mature, life-giving church, is to accept that a church *must* be a family. Not one with a power structure, but one that offers a place of safety and equality for all, under Jesus Christ. Jesus often went to 'lonely places' or took time to go to 'quiet places'. Jesus, the Lord of community, knew that he needed solitude.

In our own solitude, we experience blessedness in Jesus Christ. We have the opportunity to grow in Jesus, as well as to grow in knowledge of ourselves. This is important for a healthy church. A church which is confident, both in knowing Jesus and in the knowledge of self, will be empowered to great service, love and compassion. Henri Nouwen said 'Where solitude is greeting solitude, that's what community is all about. Community is not the place where we are no longer alone, but the place where we respect, protect, and reverently greet one another's aloneness. When we allow our aloneness to lead us into solitude, our solitude will enable us to rejoice in the solitude of others. Our solitude roots us in our own hearts. Instead of making us yearn for the company that will offer us immediate satisfaction, solitude makes us claim our centre, it empowers us to encourage others to claim theirs. Our various solitudes are like strong, straight pillars that hold up the roof of our communal house. Thus, solitude always strengthens community.'

### **A Thought on The Kingdom**

We are called to build the Kingdom of Heaven. The Church should be a sign and a foretaste of the promise of future glories. The Pope sums this up as follows:- The problem, he says, is not feeding the poor, clothing the naked and visiting the sick, but rather in recognising that the poor, the naked, the sick, prisoners and the homeless have the dignity to sit at our table, to be *at home* among us, to feel part of a family. 'This is the sign that the Kingdom of Heaven is in our midst. This is the sign of a Church wounded by sin, shown mercy by the Lord, made prophetic by his call.'

## THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

I will stand with God's people and pour out my praise;  
I delight in the wonders the Lord has made known,  
For righteousness echoes through all that he says,  
And his deeds have a splendour which mirrors his own.

They will not be forgotten, the things he has done,  
For as he rules the nations his power is displayed.  
In all that he gives us his kindness is seen;  
He will always be true to each promise he made.

To honour the Lord is where wisdom begins,  
Let his precepts instruct us, directing our ways.  
So awesome he is, and so holy and just;  
Let eternity ring with the sound of his praise.

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