

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 March, Lent 4

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St. Helen's
- 9.00am** Mothering Sunday/Holy Communion at St. John's
- 10.00am** Mothering Sunday Service at St. Mary's
- 11.00am** Mothering Sunday Service at St. Helen's

**Readings: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
John 19:25-37**

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

Thurs. 15th Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue, 9.30am

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 Gill, Pauline Hall, Kath Dick, Ruth Smith, Pete Bloor and Werner Weber.

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).

A.P.C.M.s

Our **Annual Parochial Church Meetings** take place over the next couple of months, as follows:

St. Mary's – Sun.18th March (approx.10.45 am, after morning service). Agenda items and motions to be put before the meeting should be sent in writing to Penny Dakin, no later than Fri. 2nd March.

St. Helen's – Sun.15th April (12 noon).

St. John's – Mon.16th April (10.30am).

Motions and agenda items for St. Helen's and St. John's should be sent to the secretary (Penny, for St. Helen's) no later than Fri. 30th March. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings but please remember that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are allowed to speak and to vote.

Deanery Synod, Mon. 12th March, 7.15pm, at Holy Trinity Church, Matlock Bath. I understand that people involved in working for the church (churchwardens, coordinators and treasurers) are welcome to this meeting. Please do come along if you can.

A.P.C.M. St. Mary's, 18th March

After next Sunday's Holy Communion Service, we will be having our Annual General Meeting. Everyone is very welcome. We will first take a few moments to get coffee and cake (please speak to Marl if you're happy to bring cake!) and then we'll get on with the meeting. Please do support this - it's a chance to have your say. There are many changes in front of us as a church, as a deanery, a diocese and also as a national church. Please come along and feel free to speak your mind with love.

Churchtown School Request

Janine has organised a retreat day for our school children. She sent me the following email. (I know we have creative people in our community!)

"I have a list of things that I need to source/prepare for each station:

- 1) Palm branches, old cloth coats*
- 2) Bag of 30 silver coins, lanterns, chains*
- 3) Large nails, large wooden cross, hammers, red ribbons, red cloths, natural sponge soaked in vinegar*
- 4) Bright flowers (daffodils, tulips etc.), bandages/burial cloths, incense*
- 5) Lots of small, empty boxes wrapped up as gift boxes - enough for one each per child*

If you could help with any of the above I would be very grateful."

Funerals:

We remember the people whose funerals will take place in the next week or so. We pray for all those who have lost loved ones.

Monday Munchers

12th March – Salt. Terrace Tea Rooms, 11.45 for 12 noon.
(19th March – Pepper and Mustard)

Sunday Kids: Please note there will be **No** Sunday Kids at St. Helen's on 25th March (4th Sunday) as we will be worshipping at St. John's in Winster that morning. The following Sunday, 1st April, is **Easter Sunday**, so please join us as Sunday Kids celebrate this joyous day! Will there be a treasure/egg hunt? Come and find out!

Joint P.C.C.

Thanks to everyone who came to the P.C.C. Meeting last week and to those who keep these meetings in their prayers.

Ecumenical Holy Communion

Thanks to the few brave souls who braved the weather (though it was a lot better). Thanks to David and Marl for setting up the parish room in South Darley and also for sorting out refreshments for everyone. It was our first Holy Communion at South Darley but from now on it will be every three months. Please do support this important prayer time with our Methodist friends.

Holy Week

Please remember the various services of Holy Week, from **Palm Sunday** till **Easter Sunday**. Try to attend as many as you can, for they will help you grow in your relationship with the Crucified and the Risen Lord.

Prayers

We've got a lot happening at the moment, from Afternoon Tea in South Darley, Tea and Toast in Winster, to Coffee Morning and Home groups in Darley. **But**, we need to remember to be rooted in prayer. I'm aware of, and am humbled by, the hard work of you all, but we do need to pray before and after our 'events'. We also need to take our daily prayer seriously. So if you're a morning person, then pray in the morning, and if you're an evening person, then pray in the evening. To Christians, prayer is like breathing.

Mothers

There's a Spanish saying that goes like this: 'A good mother is better than a thousand priests.' It's true. A good mother is one who teaches her child about the love of God and of His wonderful story. Today, in our United Benefice, we pray for all our mothers, both living and departed. We pray particularly for mums who are struggling with life and with all their responsibilities.

May I wish you all a very happy Mothering Sunday. May God bless you always.

A Prayer for mothers, for their worries and anxieties:

God, you sent your Son to carry my greatest burden at the cross. I know that you can handle all that troubles me today. There is nothing too great for you. The earth is your footstool and the wind and rain come and go at your command. Free me of this worry today. Help me to trust the same grace that saved me at the cross to save me from all that weighs me down.

I know that you have a perfect plan for my life. Help me to walk by faith and not by sight. I want to trust in your plan and in your love for me. I want to face the unknown future confident that you have it under control. Grant me the grace I need.

A Thought

'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience'.

It's not, I hope, sexist to say that these are feminine qualities. But ironically, within these one needs an inner strength, for such qualities are neither passive nor weak. They are rooted firstly in the feminine heart of God. St Julian of Norwich often talked about God during the Middle Ages. In the midst of death, dying and great violence she saw the beauty of God in everyone and in everything.

Someone once said, 'There is nothing as strong as gentleness and nothing is as gentle as real strength.' God is both feminine and masculine, and yet God is so much more. We, who are His creation, must value the gifts and talents of both genders and, especially today, the beauty and the creativity of good mothers.

Today we remember that the church is known as '*she*' and as '*mother church*'. Today we celebrate the mothers in our community, we hold in prayer the mothers and grandmothers of our United Benefice, particularly those who feel overwhelmed by their vocation. We pray also for women who are unable to have children, and for those who have lost children in childbirth.

I finish with a few quotes to help us reflect on the blessing of Motherhood. May God bless you and may you be assured of the prayers of our communities.

With Love and Prayers,

Revd. Stephen Monk

"In the Heavens above, the angels, whispering to one another, can find - among their burning terms of love - none so devotional as that of '*Mother*'" (Edgar Allen Poe)

"My mother handed down respect for the possibilities - and the will to grasp them." (Alice Walker)

"Giving birth and being born brings us into the essence of creation, where the human spirit is courageous and bold and the body a miracle of wisdom." (Harriette Hartigan)

"Having kids - the responsibility of rearing good, kind, ethical, responsible human beings - is the biggest job anyone can embark on." (Maria Shriver)

Please do take this pew sheet home for details of what is happening in the United Benefice and for prayer.