

# 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, 18<sup>th</sup> March, Lent 5/Passiontide

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

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34  
John 12:20-30

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

Thurs. 22<sup>nd</sup> Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue, 9.30am

Thurs. 22<sup>nd</sup> Home Group, 14 Park Avenue 7.30pm

**N.B. Our United Benefice Service next Sunday:  
A Joint Benefice Service at St. Mary's, 10am**

**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).

### **Thanks from Pauline**

I would like to thank everyone for the kindness shown when I came out of hospital. From the meals cooked, shopping done, flowers and cards received and, most importantly, the prayers said. I must particularly mention Chris Townsend, who went with me to hospital and stayed with me in A&E for several hours while I was waiting on a trolley to see a doctor. Many, many thanks to you all.

### **A.P.C.M.s**

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

**St. Helen's** – Sun.15<sup>th</sup> April (12 noon).

**St. John's** – Mon.16<sup>th</sup> 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. 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **This Week:**

### **Monday Munchers**

**19<sup>th</sup> March** – Pepper and Mustard, Terrace Tea Rooms, 11.45 for 12 noon.

### **School Services**

This week we have two special services:

**St. Mary's, Tues. 20<sup>th</sup> March, 9am**, is our Family Church. All are very welcome at this Lenten Service.

**St. Helen's, Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2.15 pm**, is the twice yearly service for all our local church schools. Please keep these services in your prayers.

### **Lenten Groups**

We're nearly at the end of our Group meetings - only a week to go. Please try to attend the last few if possible.

## **And Beyond:**

### **Palm Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Please remember that our Palm Sunday Service is at **St. Mary's Church** at **10am**. This will be a Holy Communion Service, with a solemn reading of Our Lord's Passion. The Service will begin in the Village Hall car park at **9.55am**. Please do support this beginning to our Holy Week Services. It's very important that we follow the way of the Lord on His difficult journey. Jesus died for us. May we all walk with Him.

**Café Church, next Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March** - 5.00 in the church hall. The theme will be Palm Sunday

**Sunday Kids:** Please note there will be **No** Sunday Kids at St. Helen's on **25<sup>th</sup> March** (4th Sunday) as we will be worshipping at St. Mary's 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!

### **Wedding**

Congratulations to David and Anna, who were married yesterday at St. Helen's. May their life together be filled with many blessings and much love.

### **Funerals**

Sadly, several funerals have taken place recently or are soon to do so. Let us hold the dead and their families in our prayers. This following prayer may help:

Bless those who mourn the death of relative or friend, and feel that with this loss their lives are incomplete.

Bless those who mourn, and fill their empty hearts with pleasant memories, with the sound of laughter, sunshine and happier days.

Bless those who mourn, and heal their brokenness with the soothing balm of Your gentle touch,  
That they might know  
Shalom, Wholeness, Peace.

### **A Spiritual Movement**

Today we move from the inner place of fasting, alms giving, prayer and life change to reflection on the Passion of Jesus Christ. We think on this question: why did Jesus Christ suffer, lose everything and die? Was it to appease an angry God? To stop a vengeful God from smiting us? Or was it out of an overpowering love for God's creation? His Father's creation. In Passiontide, let us think about the Passion narratives in the Bible, both in prayer and during silent reflection

## **This Prayer may be helpful during Holy Week:**

Lord God, I give You thanks, for You are good, and Your mercy is endless.

Here I stand, at the start of this Holy Week,  
This week in which Your Church remembers Jesus' passion and death.

And I am distracted by many things.

Turn my eyes now to the One who comes in Your name  
The one who opens the gates of righteousness  
The one who answers when we call.

I bless You, Lord, for shining Your light upon me,  
And for sending Your Son to us, in human frailty,  
To walk the road we walk.

Open my eyes that I may see Him coming,  
And may praise Him with a pure heart.

And may walk in the way of His suffering,  
And share also in His resurrection.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

## **A Thought**

In Seminary, about twenty years or so ago, we celebrated all of the Passiontide services. Some were 'normal' services, others took place even in the middle of the night! The liturgies were powerful, symbolic and filled with grace. Yet our church services are not magic. They are Sacramental; i.e. sacraments to help us receive the grace of Jesus Christ. Our liturgies are so important to help us engage with the story of Salvation. In order for our services to really touch us, we need also to spend time each day in prayer. You may be very busy or you might be going through a dry period in your prayer life. But in this Passiontide, turn to the Lord and

allow Him to touch you once more. In our Gospel today we hear that Jesus Christ will be lifted up and will draw all of us to Himself. We need to give Jesus space to allow His grace and love to touch our lives.

This Gospel is so very powerful - it shows us the lengths Jesus will go to in order to save and redeem us. May this week bring us all closer to God's amazing grace. May you know that God went through His terrible passion for you, for love of you and for all the many wonderful things you can do in service of God and His world.

So, Happy Passiontide, with all the blessings of God's love.

Every Prayer.

Stephen Monk

### **Christian Aid and Thy Kingdom Come**

This year, *Christian Aid Week* and *Thy Kingdom Come* fall at the same time - Christian Aid Week runs from 13th -19th May, and Thy Kingdom Come from 10th – 20th May. However, you don't have to do one or the other. The two can be great together, so why not combine them?

- A Christian Aid door to door collection could be combined with a prayer walk
- Your Christian Aid Big Brekkie event could be combined with a prayer event

It's a great sign of prayer leading into action, as we pray for God's Kingdom to come and witness the fruits of that prayer through Christian Aid.

This year, Christian Aid have partnered with Thy Kingdom Come to produce a free Eleven Day Devotional for 10th – 20th May. You can order copies of this, along with other Christian Aid Week resources, at:

**[www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/resources](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/resources)**

We will be engaging in a few events with our Methodist brothers and sisters, along with other Christians who wish to take part. All are most welcome.

### **Psalm 51.1-13**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in Your great goodness;  
according to the abundance of Your compassion  
blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against You only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in Your sight,
- 5 So that You are justified in Your sentence  
and righteous in Your judgement.
- 6 I have been wicked even from my birth,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 7 Behold, You desire truth deep within me  
and shall make me understand wisdom  
in the depths of my heart.
- 8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;  
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the bones You have broken may rejoice.

- 10 Turn Your face from my sins  
and blot out all my misdeeds.
- 11 Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from Your presence  
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me again the joy of Your salvation  
and sustain me with Your gracious spirit.

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