

# **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, 4<sup>th</sup> March, Lent 3**

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

**Readings: Exodus 20:1-17  
John 2:13-22**

## **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. 5<sup>th</sup> Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road**
- Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue**
- Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Home Group, 14 Park Avenue**

## **Our United Benefice Services next Sunday**

- 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**

**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** – meeting on Sun.18<sup>th</sup> March (approx.10.45 am, after morning service). Motions to be put before meeting, or agenda items, should be sent, in writing, to Penny Dakin, no later than Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

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

**St. John's** – meeting on 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.

**Coffee Morning, Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> March, St. Helen's Church Hall**

Please do join us for a coffee and a piece of homemade cake - and of course a chat!

**Our Lent Courses continue:**

We're following a series, "**All things are possible**" (a study of how faith in God can change the world). **6 week course.**

**Mon. morning, St. Helen's church hall, 10am.**

(Leader: Stephen Monk)

**Mon. evening 7.30pm, Darley Dale Methodist Church.**

(Leader: Robert Foster).

**Thurs. morning, 10.30am, Winster Wesleyan Church.**

(Leader: Stephen Monk)

**Fri. evening, 7. 30pm, St. Mary's**

(Leader: Revd. Audrey Smith).

Thanks to everyone who is helping with the Lent courses.  
Please do support these.

### **Also This week:**

#### **Ecumenical Communion**

**St. Mary's, South Darley, Mon. 5<sup>th</sup> March.** This service is very important for our worship and for our fellowship with other Christians. Do try to support this, if you've not been before. If someone needs a lift, please offer one. Thanks.

#### **Joint P.C.C. Tues. 6<sup>th</sup> March.**

**St. Mary's** (parish room) This is the last P.C.C. before we have our separate A.P.C.M.s.

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

We need all our reports in by Tuesday's P.C.C. Meeting. And do remember also to get your resolutions, business, etc. to Penny soon. Thanks.

#### **Fair Trade Coffee Morning**

**Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> March, Imperial Rooms, Matlock, 10 -12am.** Please support this if you can.

### **Pray for our Schools**

Lent is a time to renew our prayer life. Let's not forget to pray for our schools, their parents and the staff. This week, Churchtown School will be having a quiet day at St. Helen's. (See below)

### **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."*

### **Yew Tree Film Club, Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Next Sat. at **3pm** we have a film club for primary school children (aged 5 -11). If you know any children who'd enjoy this, do speak to me or to Sharon.

If you'd be interested in a film club for adults - which could be considered in prayer and discussion later in the year – then please give me your thoughts.

### **A holiday Thank You**

My thanks to Revds. Audrey & Julie for all their help while I was away during half term.

### **Escape Project**

This is a project which supports people who are vulnerable, have special educational needs or mental health issues. I hope that we can support this local charity both in our prayers and also in a more practical way. Please keep this charity and its volunteers in your prayers.

### **Mothering Sunday**

Next week is Mothering Sunday. We pray for all mothers, and thank God for the gift of motherhood. We pray for those who have broken relationships with their families and for those who cannot have children. Please remember to invite your friends and neighbours to our various services. In your prayers remember that the Church is a Mother - the mother who cares for all.

### **Deanery Synod**

**Mon. 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7.15pm, 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.

### **Fast for Love**

Will you join me in fasting from large meals on **March 16<sup>th</sup>**? Let's give the money we save to our joint school in India, which lives in great poverty and neediness. Let's show Christ's light to the children there, so that they know they are loved. Please give your donations to Ian Sutton, Marion Bowler or Revd. Stephen Monk.

## Vicars!!

I was at the gym the other day and there was a group of people from the locality (but not from Darley, South Darley or Winster, thank God!!) They were moaning about their Church, how they never see the vicar and don't even know if it's a man or a woman. They've no idea what the vicar does all day. In the old days, the vicar was always seen around the village, and so on and so on.

If vicars are out all day, it's said they're *never in*, and if they're in all day, then they *don't do anything*. I was tempted to say, *I do this, that and plenty of the other!!* (Though we all have to remember there is no perfect vicar.) But the point sadly missed by this group of men was that their vicar (I'm mentioning no names) could have several parishes, may be elderly, could be ill, or might have to do other jobs in the diocese.

I try to do as much as I can each day, but within that 'work' is the important need to hold before God the communities. To pray for, as well as minister to, the needy, the sick and the dying. It's hard to quantify the 'job' of a vicar because he or she is there to love, in the name of God. We are there to teach others how to pray and how to be 'the church'.

But my final thought from this eaves-dropping was simply this. ***We are the church together.*** We are called to be in our communities, to be witnesses to the love of God in our parishes. The vicar doesn't 'own' the church. His or her role is to help others to be the church, in the name of Jesus Christ.

## A Thought

Discipline is the other side of discipleship. Discipleship without discipline is like attempting to run in the marathon without ever practicing. Discipline without discipleship is like practicing for the marathon but never participating.

It is important, however, to realise that discipline in one's spiritual life is not the same as discipline in sport. Discipline in sport is a concentrated effort to master the body, so that it can obey the mind better. Discipline in our spiritual life is a concentrated effort to create the space and time in which God can become our master, and in which we can respond freely to God's guidance.

Thus, discipline is the creation of boundaries that keep time and space open for God. Solitude requires discipline, worship requires discipline, caring for others requires discipline. They all ask us to set apart a time and a place, where God's gracious presence can be acknowledged and responded to. In this third week of Lent, let us all try to be rooted in Discipline and Discipleship. For Christians, these are both supported by the Holy Spirit. In Lent, the Holy Spirit invites us to turn once more to Christ, to allow His love, mercy and forgiveness to touch our innermost lives.

Our lives can bear fruit in this way only if we turn to Jesus Christ. We are not attempting to be sportsmen or women, not even to lose weight for shallow reasons. We are trying to build a closer, more honest relationship with Christ. Lent's disciplines and discipleship is about knowing God's real and lasting love once more, about sharing that love with other people. May you have a great week, and may you come to know the love of God in a deeper way.

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