

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, 15th April, Second after Easter

St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion

St. Mary's 10.00am Holy Communion

St. Helen's 11.00am Holy Communion

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. 16th Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Thurs. 19th Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue, 9.30am

Thurs. 19th Home Group, 14 Park Avenue 7.30pm

United Benefit Services for next Sunday, 22nd April

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's

9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's

11.00am Morning Prayer at St. Helen's

6.00pm Evensong at St. Mary's

For 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, Ruth Smith 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).

St. John's Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been altered, from 16th to **30th April**.

Thy Kingdom Come

Please be aware of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative, which many Christian churches will be involved in between Trinity Sunday and Pentecost. This is supported by both Archbishops of the Church of England. Chris will be putting together a booklet with special prayers for this devotion.

Monday Munchers. We are a group of people who mainly live on our own but enjoy a meal out with others. Because there are 35 of us we are split into two groups which meet on the second and third Mondays of the month.

Everyone receives a phone call the week before, inviting them to come, and each group has a leader who ensures everyone is welcomed and included. Joining us can be particularly useful if you are new to the area, or as a first, careful step following a bereavement.

Pepper and Mustard group – Mon. 16th April, Terrace Tea Rooms, **11.45 for noon**. Any questions, phone Kathleen on 732805

St. Helen's APCM today, Sunday 15th April

This annual meeting will follow the 11am Communion Service. Anyone on the electoral role is eligible to vote. All are very welcome to the meeting and also to the **Shared Table** afterwards. Please do support. Thank you.

Liturgy Planning for St. Helen's, Mon. 16th April, 12.30 pm 14, Park Avenue (Home of Margaret & Chris Long).

We often invite people to come to our various liturgy planning meetings. Not many people come! Some may think the invitation is offered just out of politeness, or perhaps believe they have nothing to offer. May I say that you are all *really welcome*; everyone has something to offer to the liturgy planning.

Please support this meeting.

Prayer Meeting at Churchtown School, Mon. 16th April 3.30pm. Please come and join us in prayer.

Tuesday Church, St. Mary's, 17th April, 9am.

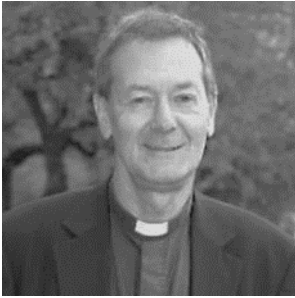
The themes of this service are the Environment and Spring.

Café Church 22nd April

Theme 'Songs of Praise and Prayers.'

Our Annual Quiet Day, St. Helen's Hall, 5th May, 9am – 12.30pm.

This is a special day for all of us in the United Benefice. It's so important to spend time praying together. It will finish with lunch (please bring your own). Revd. Richard Reade will be leading this day on the Jesus Prayer.



The Spirit of Freedom

5 Spirituality Lectures by **Bishop Alastair**

Tuesdays 7.30pm

April 10, 17, 24, May 1 & 8

St. Helen's Church Hall

Refreshments from 7.00pm

'This will be an opportunity, as we approach the season of Pentecost, to consider the new life with which we are endowed through the Holy Spirit, and yet the limitations of the 'narrow way' that Christians are called to follow as a way of witness in a fallen world.'

Bishop Alastair retires this summer. How wonderful to have the opportunity to learn from him once again before our Diocese says its farewell. Each session will stand alone but I do urge you to come to all of them if you can!

Pray for our community, care for our environment and enjoy a time of fellowship. Would you be able to join our Methodist brothers and sisters in Christ? Monica Render has sent the following:

'We are planning to do **a litter pick and prayer walk on Friday, 11th May from 7.00 - 8.00pm followed by fish & chips.**' Meet at Dale Rd. Methodist Church.

Please give your name to me if you plan to go, so Monica may pass on numbers for fish and chips! **Chris Townsend**

Thank you

I want to thank again everyone who helped over Lent and Easter. Thank you for every job - cleaning, arranging flowers, helping with Holy Communion, music, and so on. Everything adds to the glory of God and you provided a very warm welcome for people who aren't used to church. When the power went out on Easter Sunday at St. Helen's, I can honestly say I wasn't worried. That was because our fellowship, our sense of being a Christian Community, is so very powerful. I'm conscious that we're not perfect though, and if anyone has any constructive criticism please let me know.

Congratulations

Freda, a member of our St. Helen's church family, was married yesterday. May we all hold Bob and Freda in our hearts and prayers.

South Darley School

Due to the over-running of work on the roof at South Darley School, the school will be using the church as a classroom for the next few weeks. Please make sure the heating is on, so that the church is nice and warm for our children. It's great that the school's staff feel able to use our church, it shows we have a real relationship with them.

South Darley School, 17thApril, 9am

This Tuesday is the **Tuesday Church** at South Darley.

Family Issues

As some of you know by now, my mum has been diagnosed with terminal lung and liver cancer. As she's my dad's main carer (he had a bad stroke 6 years ago) we have to look at the future and to the needs of my parents. I'm telling you this as I may need some days away as the

illness progresses, though I will try not to let my personal life affect our parishes. I ask you for prayers for my family and that my mum will rely on the love and consolation of Jesus Christ. One reason I share this is to make the point that we all carry many burdens, some so very obvious and some more secretive. But we're one family, and one of the gifts of our United Benefice is that we support each other. Long may it last.

Yew Tree Club, Sat. 21stApril, 3pm

This is our children's film club. Please advertise it to children you know.

Funerals

We continue to hold in our hearts and prayers those who mourn loved ones. We pray for those whose lives have been an example of the love of Christ and we pray the Risen Christ will welcome them home.

St. Helen's A.P.C.M. Today, 12 noon

Please support our APCM. It's very important that we meet together to look at the life and mission of the church and to see where we will be going. Everyone is very welcome, though only those on the Electoral Role can vote on the various points. As there's a long agenda, please be concise in your comments, questions etc. Thanks.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Churchwardens. Roz and Steven are great examples of Christian life, and though different in temperament they are amazing at working together in great harmony. My thanks to Roz, Steven, Ian and Penny, who hold the offices in St. Helens and St. Mary's.

As well as very competent, they are all Christian - kind and generous with their time and talents. We owe a great debt of thanks to them and I also owe a debt of deep gratitude. May God bless them all for their goodness.

A Thought

Over Easter, at the different services and at the offices (weddings, funerals etc.) there is one thing in common. People so often say that our United Benefice is very welcoming. We mustn't get complacent, but it's a wonderful compliment. To be Christ-like is to be hospitable.

We need to be rooted in the power of the Risen Christ. That same Christ who lived and died for us, who loves us and wants us to express that love for all people. Nothing is more contradictory than Christians who set their own limits on the mercy and love of Christ. Those who are so very quick to judge, to condemn, or who simply lack love. We are an Easter people, but we are also filled with faults and failings.

Let us never tire of serving God in His holy people, both locally and those in distant places. But also let us never tire of confessing our sinfulness, assured that we are forgiven and given peace by Jesus. He came and stood among His disciples and offered them His peace and love, holding out His wounded hands to those who loved Him. Let us never retreat from serving our Lord. But let us do it with joy, hope and love. Amen, Alleluia!!! I finish with three quotes. God bless.

Stephen Monk

'God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'
Billy Graham

'The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.'
Basil Hume

'Love always involves responsibility, and love always involves sacrifice. And we do not really love Christ unless we are prepared to face His task and to take up His Cross.'
William Barclay

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my
righteousness;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after
falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his
marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed,
and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any
good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon
us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil
increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in
safety.

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