

Please note: This Pewsheet is for two weeks.

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, 22nd April, Fourth after Easter

St. Helen's 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion

St. Helen's 11.00am Morning Prayer

St. Mary's 6.00pm Evensong

**Readings: Acts 4:5-12
John 10:11-18**

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. 23rd Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Tues. 24th Home Group, 5 Sir Joseph Whitworth Lane

Thurs. 26th Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue, 9.30am

United Benefit Services for next Sunday, 29th April

Joint Benefit Service at St. Helen's at **10.00am**

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, Werner Weber, Janet Monk, Janet Brindley, Stan and Janet Brindley.

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).

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

Café Church 22nd April

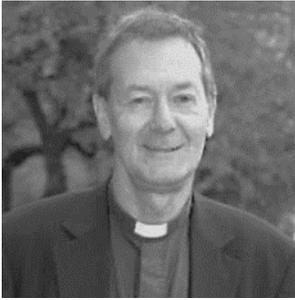
Theme 'Songs of Praise and Prayers.'

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.

Worship Group – calling all singers and instrumentalists

Dear Friends, the Worship Group has grown over the last five years. But we'd love to welcome warmly new singers and also new people who play instruments. You don't have to be perfect, simply to enjoy playing an instrument or singing. We're looking for people from *all* our churches. We really need YOU!! So, please speak to Stephen (Rector) or Richard Royds (Worship Group leader) Tel. 735854



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**

Bishop of Derby Harvest Appeal 2017

This is for the Edwardes College School in Parachinar, Pakistan. The Diocese of Derby has raised £22,181.74 to help equip the school. Well done to all the people who gave money for this great cause.

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.

Thank You

A very big thank you to everyone who helped on Saturday at the Coffee Morning, and also at Freda and Bob's Wedding. It was really lovely to have a 'community' wedding. Please continue to pray for Bob and Freda and for all the couples who are preparing to get married during this coming year.

Thanks also to those who attended the Sunday service and then the A.P.C.M. at St. Helen's Church. It was a honest and frank meeting – I hope everyone who wished to speak did so. These meetings aren't always easy but they are important. It's important for us to move forward and also to challenge ourselves. My reflection afterwards was that we must never lose the gratitude and graciousness which we ourselves have received from Jesus Christ. Sometimes, we have to be 'unreasonably' kind and charitable to each other in Jesus' name. So, as we seek to move forward, can I please put these necessities before us all: we need to *love more* (each other and the wider community), we need to *pray more* (turn daily to God, rooted in the bible and in our tradition). And finally, let us please be *more gracious* in thought, word and mind, *more charitable* in deeds and words.

Thank you for your prayers for my Mum and my family. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate it.

A thank you also to the volunteers who help on Tuesdays at South Darley. It would be great if more people from our United Benefice could support this service – imagine seeing 60+ children, with parents and staff, worshipping God. It's really amazing.

Bishop Alastair

Bishop Alastair's talks are really great. Please can you try to support these events? They're so rewarding and we're very lucky that the Bishop is coming to speak here, in his final series of talks in the diocese.

Baptisms

Today we give thanks that Imogen, Delilah and Bobby have been welcomed into the Christian Family. If you know anyone who wishes to be baptised, please give me a call. Everyone is welcome.

Funerals

We continue to have a number of funerals in our United Benefice. Please keep the family members in your prayers and thoughts. For those of you who have lost loved ones, please be very much assured of my continued prayers.

Wedding

Robert & Ceri-Anne are getting married on the 27th April. Please keep them in your prayers.

Service of Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Sunday, 29th April, 10am

The theme of this Communion Service will be **Mental Health**. The issues surrounding mental health touch so many more people than we often realise,

After the service I will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick for anyone who would like to receive this. Please invite people from

our communities or within your families who may find help or peace in this service. Remember, The Lord wants us to have 'wholeness'. This word equals Holiness.

A.P.C.M. St. John's Church, Mon. 30th April, 10.30 am

All are very welcome – please do support.

Joint P.C.C. for St. Mary's and St. Helen's,

This will take place at St. Helen's, **7.30pm** (7.15pm for coffee)

A Thought

With two A.P.C.M.s down, I want to reflect for a moment on *graciousness*. The following quote makes one think: "We're all in this human experience together, so let's try to be kind, gracious, and compassionate to each other." (Kailin Gow)

It's so easy in this world we live in – not only in the world of politics but also in the life of the Church – to concentrate on *my* rights, *my* needs, *my* opinions, etc. But in the life of the Spirit, in life rooted in Jesus Christ, we are called to hold different values. For example, an Anglican Church exists for everyone in a geographical area. Yet recently I've hear of complaints about people who come to funerals but don't attend church on a Sunday, complaints about children who are baptised but never come back to church (or rather, about their parents.) But the job of the church is not only to point a way to the Lord, but to give people the sort of welcome and hospitality which enables them to start their spiritual journey. This is our privilege – you and I can, through the Grace of God, give people space and safety to encounter and listen to the God who loves all people. May we all ask for humility to serve, and may we take deep joy in that service. Amen.

"The wings of the dove are as soft as they are swift. Gentleness is a sure result of the Sacred Dove's transforming power: hearts touched by His benign influence are meek and lowly henceforth and forever." (Spurgeon)

With my love and prayers. Stephen Monk

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
 therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
 and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul
 and guide me in the paths of righteousness for His
 name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
 death,
 I will fear no evil;
 for You are with me;
 Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me
 in the presence of those who trouble me;
 You have anointed my head with oil
 and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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