

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, 8th April, Second of Easter

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

St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion

St. Mary's 10.00am Joint Worship Group with St. Helen's

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. 9th Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Thurs.12th Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue, 9.30am

United Benefit Services for next Sunday, 15th April

9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

11.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen'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, Pauline Hall, Kath Dick, 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).

Bishop Alastair's 1st Talk, Tues.10th April,7.30pm

Bishop Alastair will be giving a number of talks at **St. Helen's** on Tuesday evenings, beginning **this week**. As he will be retiring in August, we are very lucky to have this opportunity to listen to our Bishop as he leads us in reflection on the Good News of Jesus Christ. These talks will be over 5 weeks, but each stands alone. (Coffee from 7pm).

Ecumenical Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Tomorrow,10am.

This Ecumenical Service is important in the fellowship with our Methodist friends. Please support, and if you've never been before, then do try it out. This is a lovely, prayerful service. More than anything, our local communities need prayer. All we do must be rooted in the prayer of the Church. (**Mon. 9th April**)

M.U. Holy Communion, Tomorrow, 9th April, 2pm

This is a Deanery Holy Communion to celebrate our fellowship as members of the M.U. But our Communion is open to everyone. If you are free, please do come along to celebrate with us, and stay for refreshments after the service.

We warmly welcome new members or simply those who wish to ask about the M.U. Looking forward to seeing new people there.

A.P.C.M.s

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

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

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

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.

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

Diocesan Synod

Please pray for our Synod, which takes place on April 9th, in Derby Cathedral.

My thanks for services today, 8thApril

I'll be away on the 8th April, so I want to thank Revd. Julie and Steve Walker for taking our services.

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.

Dates this month are: **Salt group - Mon. 9th April, Pepper and Mustard group – Mon. 16th April.** Both at the Terrace Tea Rooms, **11.45 for noon.** Any questions, phone Kathleen on 732805

Thank you

Thanks to everyone who supports the Church of St. Mary and who came to the APCM. I must single out four amazing, hardworking people: Marlene, Maureen, Ian and Penny. Your ministry and hard work are helping us at this difficult phase in the church's story.

Flowers

Thanks to all those who gave donations for Easter flowers, and also a big thank you to the people who gave their time in order to arrange the flowers in our churches.

Lent Courses and Holy Week Services.

Thanks to everyone who attended the events of Lent and Holy Week. I hope that our times of prayer and reflection over the last few weeks has brought us all closer to God.

Concert – just come along and enjoy – no charge!

Next Saturday, 14th April, we're very lucky to have a concert by one of Neil's star pupils. This will be held in St. Helen's hall, during Coffee Morning, starting at **10.30am**. Please do support, it's always a great show.

And Looking Ahead:

St. Helen's A.P.C.M. Next 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, 12.30pm. 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.

Tuesday Church, St. Mary's, 17th April, 9am. T

The themes of this service are the Environment and Spring.

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.

Prayer for faith and freedom

Almighty God,

Lord of life, we thank You for the life and death of Jesus.

Most of all we thank You for His resurrection which changed the world and made it possible for us to know You as our loving, gracious Father.

Lord, when we feel locked in, imprisoned by fears and circumstances, help us to remember that locked doors mean nothing to You. You can set us free. You can help us. You give strength for today and tomorrow. You give us new life as your children, through faith in Jesus.

May we open our hearts to Your help today; to receive from You the peace and power that we need - and then to share it.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

(By Daphne Kitching)

Psalm 133

- 1 Behold how good and pleasant it is
to dwell together in unity.
- 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head,
running down upon the beard,
- 3 Even on Aaron's beard,
running down upon the collar of his clothing.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon
running down upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has promised His
blessing:
even life for evermore.

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