

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, 13^h May, Ascension Day

8.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's

9.00am Holy Communion at St. John's

10.00am Joint Family Service with St. Mary's at **St. Helen's**

Readings: Acts 10:44-end

John 15:9-17

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. 15th Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Thurs. 18th **No** Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue.

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United Benefit Services for next Sunday, 20th May

St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion

St. Mary's 10.00am Holy Communion

St. Helen's 11.00am Holy Communion

For Prayer: Fridolin Wieschhues, Robert & Margaret Pearse and family, the Hopper family, the Parnell family, Tony & Marie Thrower, Stan Codd, Stephen Porter, Anne & Susan ChinChen, Andrew Brown, the Stoker Family, Claudia Jeffrey, Steven Gill, Ruth Smith, Werner Weber, Janet Monk, Janet Brindley Stan & Janet Brown.

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).

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 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**

Today and This Week:

Today, Ascension Day

This is our family Service, and we are celebrating the amazing Feast of the Ascension. Jennie Gill, a teacher from South Darley Primary School, is leading the worship.

Intimate Worship, Today (Sun.) 6pm, St. Helen's hall

It's great to pray, praise and contemplate God's love. If you've not yet tried this service, please do come along. It's very much surrounded by God's Holy Spirit, which is so important as we worship together.

Ecumenical Holy Communion, Tomorrow (Mon.)10am, Methodist Church (Dale Road). Please do support this, it's wonderful when we all pray together. We need to sacrifice our time in order to to worship with Christians of different traditions, which offer different riches.

Monday munchers, 14th /21st May, Whitworth Tea Rooms 11.45 – 12 noon.14th May, Salt group. 21st May, Pepper and Mustard Groups. For further details, please phone Kathleen on 732805.

Prayer meeting, Mon. 14th May, 3.30pm
Everyone is welcome, please come and join us.

Tuesday Church at South Darley,15th May, 9am
Everyone is very welcome to this service at **St. Mary's**. Please try to support.

Sex & Sexuality, St. Helen's, Tues. 15th May, 9am
Bishop Jack (former Bishop of Sheffield) will be reflecting on Sexuality and Spirituality.

And Further on:

Variety Show (formerly called The Benefice Has Talent).
We intend to hold another Variety Show on **1st June at 7 pm** in **St. Helen's church hall**. There will be no judging, just a light-hearted evening of entertainment. Please make a note in your diary and come along. Bring your own wine if desired. Soft drinks and nibbles will be provided.
If you can take part in the entertainment, please let one of the church wardens or coordinators know by **Mon. 21st May**.

Mothers' Union Service - A thank-you

I wish to thank everyone who supported our service last Tuesday evening. It was great to pray together.

Saturday's Coffee Morning

Thanks also to everyone who attended and supported the Coffee Morning yesterday. Please do spread the word about our monthly Coffee Morning at St. Helen's. Everyone is very welcome.

In our Prayers...

We pray for those being baptised today. We pray too for those whose funerals will take place in the next few weeks and for their families.

Please pray also for the Uniformed Organisations, as they look towards the building of their new hut. We pray that we may always have good volunteers to help run the groups in the future.

'Thy Kingdom Come' and Prayer

Last week you were given a booklet for this time of prayer, in preparation for the Holy Feast of Pentecost. We pray that in our country, county and towns and villages, God's reign will come to bring unity, love and peace. Please take seriously the call of prayer.

As we having weddings coming up in the next few weeks, I invite you to please keep the couples involved in your prayers.

Some Thoughts for the Coming Week

"I'm sick and tired of (only) reading about church history; let's make some by the grace of God!"

Leonard Ravenhill

"That which happened at Pentecost is the biggest thing that ever happened. And now the biggest question of all is, has it happened to you and me? Have ye received the Holy Ghost?"

Samuel Chadwick

"Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power."

J. Hudson Taylor

"Pentecost offers a chance to confess our failure to live by the Spirit and to ask the Lord to fill us afresh with His power."

Mark D. Roberts

My Weekly Thought

Last Saturday, there were very few of us who gathered to pray and to spend time in reflection. I really hope in future that more of us gather to pray on quiet days, vision days, etc. This is so very important; reflecting on Steve's prayers from last Sunday's Eucharist, we do need to pray for safety and defence from the devil. The more worldly success we have, the more we will be tempted to rely less on Jesus Christ and more on 'me'.

When things are going very well, we can start to lack humility and faithfulness. But our Faith is both communal and vertical.

We are a community, we are the body of Christ, but to use those gifts effectively and with integrity, we have to be rooted in our prayer life, both as individuals and as a community.

On this Feast of the Ascension, we remember that Jesus Christ entered the heart of God, carrying with Him all our experiences and our needs. Jesus took to the Father and to the Holy Spirit what it means to be a human being.

Today, we celebrate that God truly understands what it is to be human. So, let us give thanks for our humanity, which is a gift from God. And let us give thanks that we truly have a connection with God, through the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ. God knows how we feel, both on our good days and in our sadness.

God bless you and remember the words of a saint: 'Pray, hope, and don't worry.' I leave you with a prayer and a reflection below.

With love and prayers.

Stephen Monk

A Prayer

Almighty God, grant that as we believe your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to have ascended into heaven, so may we also, in heart and mind, there ascend, and with him continually dwell: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

A Reflection

The hour of this glorification has not yet struck for us. But while awaiting our eternal union with the choir of the blessed, we should in mind and holy desires dwell in that heaven where Christ, our Head, lives and reigns for ever.

We are upon earth only as strangers and pilgrims seeking our country. As members of the city of saints and the household of God, we may, says St. Paul, already dwell in heaven by faith and hope.

(Philippians 3:20)

Columba Marmion OSB

Psalm I

- 1 Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 Like a tree planted by streams of water
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not
wither,
whatever they do, it shall prosper.
- 4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in
the judgement,
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

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