

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, 6th May, Sixth after Easter

St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion

St. Mary's 10.00am Holy Communion

St. Helen's 11.00am Holy Communion

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. 7th Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Tues 8th Home Group, 5 St. Joseph's Lane

Thurs.10th Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue, 9.30am

Thurs.10th Home Group, 14 Park Avenue

United Benefit Services for next Sunday, 13th May

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**

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, 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).

Baptisms

We welcome into our church family Willow, Delilah and William, whose baptisms will take place over the next few weeks. Please pray for them and for their families.

Funerals

We pray for those who have lost loved ones in the past few weeks. We pray that their loved ones will rest in peace.

Thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported the Quiet Morning yesterday. These events are very important for our spiritual well-being.

Thanks to everyone who took part in last Sunday's Joint Service, and especially thanks to Ian, Steve and Chris.

'The Spirit of Freedom' Spirituality Lecture – Bishop Alastair

There is now only 1 more session to come, this **Tues. 8th May** at **7.30pm**. Please do try to give your support this.

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 who have donated to this great cause.

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**

This Week:

M.U. Quiet Evening, Tues. 8th May, 7.30 – 8.30

This is the annual Quiet Evening Service for M.U. members but everyone is very welcome. There will be hymns, prayers and reflections. Please do support.

On **Friday 11th May** there is **a litter pick and prayer walk around Darley Dale, starting at 7.00pm**. It will be followed by fish & chips in the Methodist church hall on Dale Rd. at 8.15pm. If you would like to take part, please let me have your name to pass on for the fish and chips order.

Chris Townsend

Yew Tree Film Club, 12th May, 3 – 5pm

This is for primary school children and above. (£1.50 entrance). All our youngsters are very welcome.

Coffee Morning, St. Helen's, Sat. 12th May, 10 to 12 noon

Please come and join us for a cup of coffee or tea, some delicious home-made cakes and a chat!

Looking Further Ahead:

Ascension Day, Sun. 13th May, St. Helen's, 10am

This is our family Service, and is open to everyone. We'll be celebrating the amazing Feast of the Ascension. Jennie Gill, a teacher from South Darley Primary School, will be leading the worship.

Ecumenical Holy Communion, Mon. 14th May, 10am

Our monthly Ecumenical Communion with our fellow Christians is at Darley Dale **Methodist Church**.

Monday munchers, 14th /21st May, Whitworth Tea Rooms

11.45 – 12 noon. 14th May, Salt group. 21st May, Pepper and Mustard Groups. Further details, phone Kathleen on 732805

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.

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.**

United Benefice Joint P.C.C. Update

At our A.P.C.M.s we spoke of getting official Church of England approval for the St. Helen's and St. Mary's joint P.C.C. When I approached the Diocese Registrar, she said that to do this officially we would have to become *one parish* of St. Mary's and St. Helen's. As I feel this is a step too far for some people, I told her we'll stay as we are. Our joint P.C.C. works, and it works mainly because we have trust and the same purpose; to serve Jesus Christ and to serve His people, for anything else is unworthy of a Christian. All our governance must be used to build up God's Kingdom, not to build up personal egos, and so on. May the Lord bless our future endeavours and all three of our parishes.

Some Reflections

'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

'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

'God had brought me to my knees and made me acknowledge my own nothingness, and out of that knowledge I had been reborn. I was no longer the centre of my life and therefore I could see God in everything.'

Bede Griffiths

'Suffering, failure, loneliness, sorrow, discouragement, and death will be part of your journey, but the Kingdom of God will conquer all these horrors. No evil can resist grace forever.'

Brennan Manning

A Thought on 'Thy Kingdom Come'

This week you'll be given a prayer book to use during the next few days. The whole Christian family throughout the world is praying, using the theme and hope of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. When we pray for God's Kingdom we are doing a number of things. First, we are praying in hope and trust that God wants what's best for us. Second, we're acknowledging that the Kingdom of God is here and now but not quite complete, for our brokenness and sinfulness limits the effectiveness of the Kingdom. Third, we are praying, alongside all Christians, for God's purpose to unfold for us.

This all reminds us that although the parish is our reality, to be fully Christian we need to remember that Christians around the world are called upon to be one. One in prayer and mission and pastoral outreach. Tom Wright comments; "When God wants to sort out the world, as the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount make clear, he doesn't send in the tanks. He sends in the meek, the broken, the justice-hungry, the peacemakers, the pure-hearted, and so on." Or, as Anthony Bloom said; "We cannot live a life of prayer, we cannot go ahead God-wards, unless we are free from possession, in order to have two hands to offer and a heart absolutely open. Not like a purse which we are afraid to keep open because our money will drop out, but like an open and empty purse, and an intelligence completely open to the unknown and the unexpected.

This is the way in which we are rich, and yet totally free from richness. And this is the point at which we can speak of being outside the Kingdom, yet be so rich inside, and also so free."

Please do remember to take a copy of the booklet 'Thy Kingdom Come' from Chris Townsend and use it this week. Thank you.

God Bless, and may this week bring you closer to Him.

Stephen Monk

Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation;
4 his deliverance has he openly shown in the
sight of the nations.
- 5 He has remembered his mercy and
faithfulness towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
salvation of our God.
- 6 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.

- 7 Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
8 with the lyre and the voice of melody.
9 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
 sound praises before the Lord, the King.
- 10 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
11 Let the world and all that dwell upon it.
12 Let the rivers clap their hands
13 and let the hills ring out together before the
 Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
14 In righteousness shall he judge the world
 and the peoples with equity.

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