

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, 20^h May, Pentecost

St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion

St. Mary's 10.00am Holy Communion

St. Helen's 11.00am Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 2: 1-21 John 15: 26-27,16: 4-15

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. 21st Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Tues. 22nd Home Group, 5 Sir Joseph Whitworth Lane

United Benefit Services for next Sunday, 27th 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**

This Week:

Monday Munchers, 21st May, Whitworth Tea Rooms 11.45 for 12 noon. Pepper and Mustard Groups. For further details, please phone Kathleen on 732805.

'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.

Baptisms and Weddings

We've had lots of great comments about the welcome given to people who have come for their loved one's special day. This is amazing – it's the Church in action, when we help people feel a sense of belonging. Long may this last in all our churches. Let's never get tired of showing Jesus' love for all people.

We pray for Emma and Charles, who are getting married next Saturday. May God bless their life together.

Finally, please keep in your prayers those who are preparing to celebrate the various Sacraments in the Church.

Peace Garden

Chris (Townsend) had been working very hard in recent months on this important project, but she does need more help. Perhaps a Saturday morning bash every so often? However much effort she puts in, Chris cannot do everything. If we don't get some more volunteers to help, we will need to pay someone, but of course this cuts into our money for plants, etc. Could you, or some-one you know, help for an hour or so? If so, please do speak to Chris soon. Thanks very much.

Talent Show, St. Helen's Church, 1st June, 7pm

We're preparing for a night of fun, frolics and much laughter!!! I've had a couple of entries from South Darley and Joe Bonamassa (google him!!!) from St. Helen's will be playing. But we need lots more people of talent to come forward. Please speak to Roz, and do support this event, which is simply for fun.

Thank You

Sandra, Chris and Roz – a very big thank you for all your help in the hall towards the first of our Spirituality Meetings. (You'll have time to recover – the next one isn't until September!!) We could do with some more people who are willing to help in the Sacrament of Showing Hospitality. Remember that everything is a sign of God's love, from the first cup of coffee you pour, to offering to take people's plates. These are very much Jesus' actions.

We Remember

We remember those who have been killed, maimed or imprisoned in the fighting in and around Jerusalem. Remember the words of the psalm:

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." We pray for our world leaders, that they yearn for the values of humility, wisdom and insight.

We also remember in our prayers people of all faiths and people of none. May we all work for peace in our world and for the protection of the weak and dispossessed.

Mini thoughts

"When you strip it of everything else, Pentecost stands for power and life. That's what came into the church when the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost."
David Wilkerson

"O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams."
St. Augustine

"I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me."
William Blake

"I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him, but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith."
Martin Luther

A Weekly Thought

Today is the birthday of the Church; the day Christ is reborn in each person here present. Today is a day which calls out to the world about the power and the passion of God for all His creation. Today – now – is the moment that God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, invites you into friendship with The Holy Trinity.

The Holy Spirit does not hesitate, does not wait, worry or plan. The Holy Spirit is a wind that blows wherever He wills it to. It is a flame that enlightens the soul to begin, or to continue, its precious search for the Living God.

Today isn't a *safe* feast, it's not an ordered, Anglican Service – it's a time to fasten your seatbelt and get ready for a bumpy ride!

Pentecost brings love, and it brings the power for God to kick-start our hearts. It enables us to experience His amazing love, and gives us so much grace that we have to share it with everyone we meet. The sacred feast of Pentecost celebrates the day when the Church was born, through the sharing of God's message with the friends of Jesus.

But now, through the grace of the universal and ascended Jesus Christ, you and I, if we are open, can allow the Holy Spirit into our hearts every day! Every day can be an Alleluia day. Even in our darkest moments, we know that Jesus has risen, that His Spirit is with us.

May God console and uplift you today and forever.

God Bless.

Stephen Monk

Psalm 104.26-36, 37b

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both
small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 36 So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.
- 37 Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia.

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