

# **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, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Trinity One**

**St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion**

**St. Mary's 10.00am Holy Communion**

**St. Helen's 11.00am Holy Communion**

**Readings: I Samuel 3:1-10                      Mark 2:23-3:6**

### **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. 4<sup>th</sup> Home Group, Whitworth House, Dale Road

Tues. 5<sup>th</sup> Home Group, 5 St. Joseph's Lane

Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> 9.30am, Prayer Meeting, 14 Park Avenue

## **United Benefice Services for next Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> June**

**St. Helen's 8.00am Holy Communion**

**St. John's 9.00am Holy Communion**

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

(Marion Bowler, coordinator of St. John the Baptist's church, will be leading this service at **St. Mary's**.)

**St. Helen's 6pm Intimate Worship**

(Please note - there is **no** 11.00am service at St. Helen's)

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

### **This Week:**

**Ecumenical Eucharist, Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> June, St. Mary's, 10am**

Tomorrow we have our Ecumenical Holy Communion. Please do support this. At the last one we had over twenty people; it was a great celebration. If anyone needs a lift, please speak to your churchwardens/coordinators.

**Liturgy Planning, Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> June, Margaret & Chris Long's home, 11am**

We'll be meeting at 14, Park Avenue, to choose the liturgies for the next few months. If you'd like to be involved you are very welcome.

**Mothers' Union Meeting, Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm**

We are joining St. Mary's for this month's MU Meeting

**Dales Devas Meeting, St. Helen's, Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> June, 5pm**

This is a meeting to plan the Dales Devas Charity Concert. Although it will be held at St. Helen's, the concert will be in aid of the ongoing mission of St. Mary's Church. Please get further information (and perhaps offer to help) from Marlene, Maureen, Roz or Penny. Everyone is welcome. Remember, we're one benefice and we need to support each other.

**St. Helen's Coffee Morning , Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> June, 10 – 12am**

Please do come and Join us for coffee, tea, delicious homemade cakes and a friendly chat.

**And Looking Further Ahead:**

**Afternoon Teas, St. Mary's**

Yes, it's that time again - Afternoon Teas at St. Mary's! These are held in the village hall. Please see Marlene or Maureen if you're interested in helping out.

**Monday Munchers, 11<sup>th</sup>/ 18<sup>th</sup> June**

**Salt** - 11<sup>th</sup> June.     **Pepper and Mustard** - 18<sup>th</sup> June.

(Both 11.45am for 12 noon.)

## **Joint PCC, St. Mary's, Tues.12<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm**

If there are any issues you would like us to look at, please see your PCC reps.

## **Quiz Night at St. Helen's, Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm**

This will start with a *fish & chip supper!* And there are luxury hampers to be won.

## **Cream Teas + Cromford Community Band, Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> June, St. Helen's church hall. T**

Tickets £5 or pay at the door. Proceeds go to the 'Escape Fund'. Cromford Community Band are in concert from 2 – 3 pm, cream teas will be served between 3 and 4 pm.

## **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**

## **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.

## **The Peace Garden – do help if you can!**

Chris (Townsend) has been working very hard in recent months on this important and valuable project. A couple of people have kindly volunteered to help but more are always appreciated! Could you, or some-one you know, perhaps help for an hour or so? If so, please do speak to Chris soon. Thanks very much.

## **Please keep in your Prayers:**

### **The Diocesan Synod**

All those who work at this level of governance in the Anglican Church.

### **Weddings**

Those who have been married recently and those who are getting married in the near future.

### **Baptisms**

Those who were baptised last week, and those preparing to join the family of the Church.

### **The Sick**

All those who are ill, especially anyone who is terminally so.

Please pray for the family of baby George Jnr., who was born last week and is very poorly.

Those who suffer any mental health issues, whether chronic or acute.

Those who are feeling that the Church has caused them pain.

## My Thought

*'Jesus, the Blessed Child of the Father, is a peacemaker. His peace doesn't mean only absence of war. It is not simply harmony or equilibrium. His peace is the fullness of well-being, gratuitously given by God. Jesus says, "Peace I leave to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you."' (John 14:27).*

These words of Henri Nouwen are relevant to all people. But they are especially relevant to Christians, who are called upon to be peacemakers and bridge builders. We must work together to bring people to Jesus. This means forgiving each other readily. It means thinking before we talk, act, email or preach. It means we must try really hard to see Jesus Christ in the person before us.

Christian peace will cost all of us a lot. Think of the peacemakers of our own tradition: Jesus Himself, His first followers, the many martyrs of Rome up to the Reformation and then onwards to our own time. There have been martyrs in Algeria, in North Korea and China, martyrs in Syria, Iran and Iraq. Many of these martyrs died with love for Jesus in their hearts and love for their attackers on their lips. Witnesses who told their stories attest to this.

You must live, work and die for peace - as must I. This sounds very dramatic, but it is the way of the Christian. We must do it in our daily lives, in our context of work or school or church. Peace must be our vocation.

Peace and love are what we're called to show to the world. Peace is Shalom - well-being of mind, heart and body, both individually and communally.

This peace can exist even in the midst of a war-torn world, in the midst of unresolved problems and increasing human conflicts. Jesus bestowed this peace by giving His life for His brothers and sisters. It is no easy peace, but it is everlasting and it comes from God.

Are we willing to give our lives to the *Service of Peace*?

Please be assured of my prayers, as we work together for God's glory and for peace in the world.

Revd. Stephen Monk

### **Some Words to think about:**

**The Church that works through its differences flourishes in Christ. The one that doesn't, well...**

'Before Nelson Mandela was arrested in 1962, he was an angry, relatively young man. He had founded the ANC's military wing. When he was released, he surprised everyone because he was talking about reconciliation and forgiveness and not about revenge.' (Desmond Tutu)

'Christian faith is basically about love and being loved and reconciliation. These things are so important, they're foundational and they can transform individuals and families.'

(Philip Yancey)

'Chimps are very quick to have a sudden fight or aggressive episode, but they're equally good at reconciliation.'  
(Jane Goodall)

'Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none'.  
(William Shakespeare)

## **Our United Benefice**

Just to remind us all - we are a United Benefice. This means that we are one community. In this day of rampant individualism, we often think that we can be Christians on our own. That the deanery, the diocese, the Anglican Communion and other denominations are immaterial to us. But the truth is that to be a Christian means to be *in communion*. Jesus mingled with a large group of followers, though He sometimes called upon a smaller group when he was dealing with something special, such as the Transfiguration or the Garden of Gethsemane.

We are never Christian *alone*. To think we can be so is, in some ways, a modern heresy. To be Christian is to be rooted in the context where we live. We may not want it, nor choose it, but this is where God has called us to be. St. Benedict required the monks of his order to take the vows of chastity, obedience, poverty and also stability. Stability meant they could not move from one monastery to another. It prevented them from moving on again and again, looking for that elusive, perfect monastery.

In God's providence, we are a United Benefice. That means that we, as three, united parishes are called to preach, teach and love all those around us, in God's name. So, in the nicest way, let us be stable! Let us allow God to use us here and now. With grace, we can be true agents for His Kingdom.

### **Psalm 139.1-5,12-18**

- 1        O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
          you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
          you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2        You mark out my journeys and my resting place  
          and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3        For there is not a word on my tongue,  
          but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4        You encompass me behind and before  
          and lay your hand upon me.
- 5        Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
          so high that I cannot attain it.
- 12       For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
          you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13       I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
          marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

- 14 My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;  
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,  
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

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