

# Pastoral Letter and Church Notices

# ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, LOW FELL

***'At St Helen's church we believe that God's love is unconditional and meant for everyone. Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here. We celebrate diversity in age, background, ability, race, gender and sexuality.'***

***29/11/2026***

## Advent Sunday

**Readings**

**Isaiah 64. 1-9**
**1 Corinthians 1. 3-9**
**Mark 13. 24-end**

*"At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory."*



**Collect**

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen

**Post Communion**

O Lord, our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

**A Prayer for Peace**

We pray to you O God
the lover of all for those whom we have named our enemies.
Deliver us from the hardness of heart that keeps us locked in confrontation.
Deliver us from the hatred that binds us in old ways.
Grant unto all your people the blessing of your love.
And grant unto us such transformation of our lives
that we make peace with our enemies
and that together we might make this world
a safer, kinder place for all.
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

**Prayer for Renewal and Growth in Durham Diocese**

Almighty God,
you are calling us as the churches of the Diocese of Durham
to renewed life, hope and vision:
take our worship and witness,
that, by the work of your Spirit,
many may come to faith in Christ.
So may you bless our congregation,
and bless our parish through the love and service of your living,
growing church of missionary disciples in this place;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***Safeguarding Contacts***

***To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact either the Parish Safeguarding Churchwarden 07505105184***
***Concerns can also be raised with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Mrs Beth Miller***
***Email: beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk or beth.miller@durham.anglican.org***
***Mobile: 07968 034075***

**St Helen's Church contacts:**

**Churchwardens: Helen Jones Mobile: 07505 105184**

**Tony Gunning Mobile: 07864 695115**

**Parish office: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com**

## St Helen's Worship and Notices week beginning Sunday 29th November 2026 Services and Prayer

## Sunday 29th November 9.30am Eucharist

*Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding*

**Wednesday 2nd December 12noon Eucharist**

*Revd Norma Clee presiding*

**Sunday 6th December 9.30am Eucharist**

*Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding*

**Wednesday 9th December 12noon Eucharist**

*Revd Norma Clee presiding*

All are welcome to join in worshipping at **St Helen's** we hope to see you soon. There are services of morning and night prayer available on the website with attached readings and prayers. Alternatively, you may participate in worship with Songs of Praise BBC1 at 1.15pm or Morning Service with BBC Radio 4 at 8.10am, or on line each weekday and Sunday via Durham Cathedral worship online www.durhamcathedral.co.uk

### Prayer List

An important part of our service is the section where we pray for those who are unwell, vulnerable and who have asked for our prayers. Many people greatly value our praying for them both in services and in our own private prayers.
However, in the past few months the list has become very long and since Revd Yvonne's retirement we are no longer sure who some of the people are and many of them are parishioners of St Chad's. PCC discussed this issue and agreed that we would begin a complete new list in January 2027. If you have anyone you would like us to continue to pray for please write the name on the list at the back of church or email Hazel at office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com
We also welcome new names for the list at anytime.
If you have any questions or concerns about this please talk to Tony or Helen or any member of the PCC.



## ADVENT CDURSE

**Revd Margaret Mackay will be running an Advent course on Friday 27th November and the following three Fridays at 4pm in the church hall. The course will focus on the Candles on the Advent Crown which are lit on the four Sundays before Christmas. All are welcome. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church so we have an idea of numbers or just come on the day.**

**No need to attend all four sessions. Any questions, please ask Helen Jones**

**St Helen's PCC Meeting Tuesday 1 December**

Please let us know if you have any issues you would like to have raised at the next PCC meeting, taking place on Tuesday 1 December. Email: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

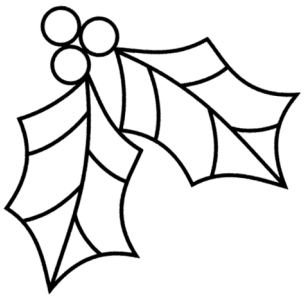
**Embrace the Middle East**

As we no longer receive a hard copy of the magazine from Embrace the Middle East, please follow this link to read the newsletter and view other resources.

**Resources from Embrace — Embrace the Middle East**



## *Christmas Cards - donations please*



We would be grateful for donations of Christmas cards which will be sent to members of the church community and other groups this Christmas. If you could donate one pack, please give to churchwardens or leave in church.

**Thank you**

**Scott Slapin Concert Sunday 22 November**

Once again, on his third visit to St Helen's, Scott's recital was exceptional. He is a truly talented musician and composer. Thank you to those who attended and helped on the day. £160 was raised for church funds. Hopefully he will be returning again next year.

## Pearl of Africa Choir

**We are holding a cake and coffee morning, 10am to 12noon, on Saturday 30th January 2027** to raise funds for projects in Uganda

If you would like to support their emergency appeal (hoping to reach a target of £100,000 by Easter 2027) this will significantly help to bridge the funding gap created by the cancelled 2026 tour. Here is the link to the Just Giving appeal: Emergency JustGiving Appeal

## DOUBLE CENTURY CLUB 2027

Thank you very much again to everyone who has supported the Double Century Club in 2026. This year £970 has been raised been raised towards church funds.

It is now time to start preparing for next year. Hopefully everyone will renew their shares in the club.
Prize money for 2026 was, winner £50 and runner up £25.

We do need more new members in order to keep the prize money the same. So please ask family and friends if they would like to become shareholders.

**Please see attached for further information, payment methods and contact details, and application form.**

## Wednesday Warm Welcome Drop In at St Helen's

**Every Wednesday morning 10am-12noon -** there will be tea and coffee freely available and a warm welcome at St Helen's church hall for any who wish to come in for a cuppa and a chat, or who simply want a warm space to relax in for a few hours.
No need to be at home alone, you will be made welcome at St. Helen's. We are pleased to be part of Gateshead Council's Warm Spaces Charter.
**There will be a variety of opportunities on offer for you to join in with if you come along to this Drop In.**

## Crafts

You are welcome to join us for crafts and projects in the Warm Welcome Drop In from 10am. each Wednesday in the hall. Everyone is welcome.

## St Helen's Toddler Group

St Helen's now has a thriving toddler group which meets every Friday afternoon from 1pm-3pm. It is very much appreciated by families, carers and, of course, the children.

Joan and others have helped this group to grow, offering a warm welcome and building relationships with all who come along.

We would really value more help for this group, if you might have a couple of hours to spare on a Friday afternoon and are interested to volunteer, please be in touch via email: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

Do please also remember the ministry to family and young people in your prayers.




**Come and join us for**
**Coffee and Company at St Helen's Church Hall**

**Sundays from 10.30am to 12noon**
**Everyone is Welcome**

**Thursday Luncheon Club at St. Chad's Rawling Road Bensham**
**Thursday Luncheon Club Time 11am -1pm**

Join us each Thursday for a freshly cooked two course lunch

**Cost £6.50**

Tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival

Each week there is a quiz, coffee and a game of bingo.

A chance to meet people and enjoy different company. All are welcome

**Contact Ron Bellinger 07847 096 709**

## Support for those in Poverty

We are pleased that the congregation of St Helen's continues to make regular, generous donations to the Corpus Christi Food Co-op. Gillian Hunt regularly takes our donations to the Food Co-op and it would be great if we could all increase our donations. As we read every week, the need for free food is not going away and anything donated is greatly appreciated. **All donations should be left at the back of church on Sunday, Wednesday or Friday.**

Dear Supporters,

This week 97 members attended the Food Co-op. The 97 represented 58 families/couples and 39 single persons (148 adults and 87 children). A steady session, with the early birds arriving well before 8.00am. With the poor weather, the refreshment table was very popular, and many people stayed for a warm drink, biscuits and soup. There was a lot of friendly chat and banter amongst the members and the volunteers, making for a pleasant atmosphere.



Donations were received from several local churches, Gateshead Foodbank and individual supporters. We also received a bumper crop of apples from a parishioner's garden that were very welcome. Grateful thanks are given for all these donations and thanks also for all who deliver the items to Corpus Christi in time for our Tuesday session.

With kind regards for your steadfast commitment.
Kath

## THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME A BETTER WAY TO GIVE

Are you able to contribute financially each month to ensure our church's abiding presence in this place and enable our mission and ministry to continue and grow?
Many enjoy our free toddler group, our breastfeeding mum's group and our Wednesday warm welcome drop in. Your support is valued.

.

The Church of England, in the Diocese of Durham, has a vision to Bless our Communities in Jesus's name for the transformation of us all. This means having a Christian presence in all our communities.
In turn, your church blesses our community by sharing our faith and values, in worshipping together in our wonderful buildings. For the Church to grow and plan for the future we rely on your regular gifts.
If you would like to consider joining the Parish Giving scheme, which runs as a monthly direct debit, please see **Tony Gunning Churchwarden**
**QR CODES ON OUR WEBSITE AND A CHURCH NEAR YOU** **St Helen's Low Fell Gateshead - A Church Near You**

## Our Christian Giving

We express our Christian Discipleship in part through the financial support of our Church Family. The life, work, witness, and ministry of our Parish costs £762.00 every week, our weekly income does not currently reflect this.
If you value the witness, worship, and support that we offer please help us to enable this to continue by giving generously.
Forms to set up regular giving can be found near the church door or from office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com
One-off donations are always welcomed, no matter how big or small, and can be deposited by electronic transfer to St Helen's bank account: **Sort code. 20-33-51 Account number 70684449 Account name. P.C.C. of St. Helen's** or into the in-wall church deposit box, by the door. Thank you.
**********

## Intercessions Sunday 29th November 2026

| Sick | Sick | Sick/Other needs |
|---|---|---|
| Mark | Michael | Sarah |
| Lucy | Brian | Michael |
| Roger | Margaret | Maryam |
| Joyce | Tom | Sienna |
| Ann | Les | Ian |
| Stan | Carole | John T |
| Niraj | Pauline | Rowan |
| John | Joe | Joyce |
| Valsa | Sharok | Linda |
| Ruth | Ali Hsami | Caroline |
| Jennifer | Kirsty | George |
| Joe | Elsie | David |
| Jacqueline | Susan | June |
| Kevin | | |
| | | |

### Anniversary of Death for week beginning 29th November 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Flo Blenkinsopp | Edith Radcliffe | |
| Ute Spath | Wilf Ward | |
| Douglas Radcliffe | William Foster (priest) | |
| Bob Huddleston | Derek Gunning | |

**********

## St Helen's Church - Monthly Diary November/December 2026

**Friday 27 November Advent Course** 4pm in the church hall

**Sunday 29 November Advent Sunday** Eucharist at 9.30am. *Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding*

**Tuesday 1 December PCC meeting** 6pm in the church hall
**Wednesday 2 December** 12noon Eucharist *Revd Norma Clee presiding*

**Friday 4 December Advent Course** 4pm in the church hall

**Sunday 6 December Advent 2** Eucharist at 9.30am. *Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding*

**Wednesday 9 December** 12noon Eucharist *Revd Norma Clee presiding*

**Friday 11 December Advent Course** 4pm in the church hall

**Sunday 13 December Advent 3** Eucharist at 9.30am. *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

**Tuesday 15 December Community Carol Service** 7pm in the church, following by mince pies and mulled wine in the church hall

**Wednesday 16 December** 12noon Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

**Friday 18 December Advent Course** 4pm in the church hall

**Sunday 20 December Advent 3** Eucharist at 9.30am. *Revd Margaret McKay presiding*

**Wednesday 23 December** 12noon Service of the Word *Ray Shirley*

**Thursday Christmas Eve Blessing of the Crib** at 4pm

**Thursday Christmas Eve Midnight Mass** (from 11.30pm) *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

**Friday Christmas Day Eucharist** 9.30am *Revd Margaret McKay presiding*

**Sunday 27 December Eucharist** 9.30am *Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding*

**Wednesday 30 December** 12noon Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

**Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 29th November**
**1st Sunday of Advent – Year begins**

| Day/ Date | Morning Prayer | Psalm | Evening Prayer |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday 29th | Luke 12. 35-48 | 44 | 1 Cor. 4. 9-16 |
| Monday 30th Andrew The Apostle | John 12. 20-32 | 47 | John 1. 35-42 |
| Tuesday 1st Dec Charles de Foucauld, hermit, 1916 | Rev. ch.20 | 80 | Matt. 12. 22-37 |
| Wednesday 2nd | Rev. 21. 1-8 | 7 | Matt. 12. 38-end |
| Thursday 3rd Francis Xavier, apostle to the Indies, 1552 | Rev. 21. 9-21 | 42 | Matt. 13. 1-23 |
| Friday 4th John of Damaskas, monk, c. 749; Nicholas Ferrar, | Rev. 21. 22 to Ch.22 v. 5 | 25 | Matt. 13. 24-43 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637 | | | |
| Saturday 5th | Rev. 22. 6-end | 9 | Matt. 13. 44-end |

**TO DONATE TO ST HELEN'S please follow this link:**
St Helen's Low Fell Gateshead - A Church Near You

**Here is the QR code for St Helen's church website**




**To contact St Helen's church to book the church hall or for all enquiries please email:**
office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

**To make initial enquiries or book a baptism or a wedding please contact us on the above email address.**