

Pastoral Letter and Church Notices
ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, LOW FELL

02.08.2026

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Readings

Genesis 32. 22-31

Romans 9. 1-5

Matthew 14. 13-21

'He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples' Matthew 14.13-21



Collect

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Post Communion Collect

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God;
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of 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.

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

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Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 2nd August 2026

Services and Prayer

St Helen's

Sunday 2 August 9.30am Eucharist

Revd Margaret McKay presiding (incl. three baptisms)

Sunday 9 August 9.30am Eucharist

The Venerable Katherine Bagnall, Archdeacon of Sunderland, presiding

This is a good opportunity for our congregation to meet with Katherine. We very much hope you can join us on this date

Wednesday 5 August

St Helen's Eucharist 12 noon

Revd Barry Abbott presiding

Wednesday 12 August

St Helen's Eucharist 12 noon

Revd Norma Clee presiding

10.30am Eucharist on Sunday at Bensham and Teams, St. Chad's

Sunday 2nd August

Revd Dorothy Snowball presiding (incl a baptism)

Sunday 9th August

Revd Barry Abbott presiding

All are welcome to join in worshipping at **St Helen's and St Chad'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

Information - St Chad's Bensham and Teams

The following information has been received from the Archdeacon, The Venerable Katherine Bagnall

I am writing to let you know about some plans we have been developing over the past months for the future of St Chad's Bensham. Having worked with the VAP process in the vacancy this time and with the PCC as a follow up, it is clear that the church cannot deliver effective mission and ministry in its current form with so few people attending or able to fulfil required officer roles. This has been on the horizon for some time if we go back to the previous vacancy report, and sadly has not been able to develop over the past years. Having discussed openly with the PCC a list of possible options, which sadly included closure, they have graciously invited a new plan to look towards the development of mission

and ministry in that place, recognising it is the local community they are there to serve. We have entered into discussions and potential plans with Alive Church (St George's), Gateshead and there is now a plan in place to look at them leading the way forward in Bensham as part of their mission and ministry.

This will, naturally feel like quite a change to their life and tradition, however, whilst the PCC and worshippers have a long-standing catholic tradition of worship, they also recognise the need to develop their worship and mission in order to grow and flourish. They are looking forward to embracing this opportunity of celebrating their past and present, and looking to the future to grow the church in Bensham and Teams. There will be an on-going commitment to seek to offer services across the week which will enable people to worship as they feel most comfortable.

St Chad's has always sought to engage with the local community, and there will continue to be the commitment carry out some wonderful work with lunch clubs, warm spaces and drop ins as well as gardening projects and food growing, all of which are currently underway. These will continue to be delivered with the hope of growth and further development when capacity is in place to enable this, and their generous heart for people will continue to be celebrated in the area.

Since we are now at a point of beginning to make decisions that will make these plans public, I wanted to ensure you, as neighbouring deanery colleagues were aware of this as a large project and change in your area. I also want to ask for your prayers for all involved please, praying for wisdom and guidance as we strive to serve God and his people well in this new way. I am happy to answer any queries or questions you may have regarding this or how things might look, especially if you feel they may directly impact you.

In the meantime, please do be assured of my continuing prayers for you all as you serve your parishes faithfully.

Best wishes

Katherine
Ven Katherine Bagnall
Archdeacon of Sunderland

Intercessions

Thank you very much to those who have agreed, or who have expressed an interest, in leading the Intercessions at St Helen's. It will be great to have more members of the congregation taking on this important role in our services. Ray and Helen will meet with those of you who are able on **Monday 3rd August at 7pm** in the church hall to discuss with you what is required. This is an open meeting for anyone who's interested. If you can't make this date, please let Helen know.

Visit by the Bishop of Durham

The Bishop of Durham will attend the service at St Helen's on 20 September. Bishop Rick will meet the congregation, bless the new church doors and celebrate our 150th Anniversary. *Further details will follow*

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](#)

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 10 October Pre-Loved Table Top Sale 1-3pm

(change of date from 3 October)

Saturday 14 November Christmas Fair 1-3pm

Sunday 22 November Performance by Scott Slapin from 2pm

Wedding Dress Showcase - In St Helen's Church

***Friday 11 & Saturday 12 September 10am to 4pm,
Sunday 13 September 12-2pm***



FUN AND GAMES

At St Helen's Church & Church Hall Low Fell

Monday 17 August 1-3pm

Teddy Bears Picnic and a Bear Hunt
bring your favourite bear, doll or soft toy



Crafts Lego Table Activities
Outdoor Games
in the church grounds, weather permitting

Snacks provided or bring your own picnic
Everyone is Welcome

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.



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

**Sundays from 10.30am to 12noon.
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.

Specialist Dementia Day Club at the FACT Centre

A new Specialist Dementia Day Club at the FACT Centre in Wrekenton, providing a warm, welcoming and engaging community for people living with dementia is opening

Monday 3rd August at 12:00pm

FACT Centre, Springwell Road, Wrekenton, Gateshead, NE9 7AY

Regular club sessions will then run every Monday from **12:00pm to 3:00pm**,
starting on **Monday 10th August**.

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 £6.00

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 078470967

Support for those in Poverty.

We are glad 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,

On the second week of the school holiday, 40 families/couples and 34 single people attended the Food Co-op (114 adults and 84 children). As we had had such a great response to the request for small toys and games, these were distributed to all who came this week – with some remaining for next week. Thank you to all who contributed.



Donations were received from several churches, Gateshead Food bank, fresh garden produce from an allotment, and individual supporters. Thank you for all the donations and to those who deliver them to Corpus Christi in time for the session on Tuesday. All donations are very much appreciated.



Next Tuesday 4th August will be the last session before the Summer break. We will open again on Monday 7th September for donations and Tuesday 8th September for food distribution.

Thank you for your continued 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 mums 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 2nd August 2026

Sick	Sick	Sick/Other needs
Maria Barrell	Amelia Grace	Sarah Hamilton
Mark Adams	Felicity	Michael
Lucy	Margaret Clayton	Maryam
Roger Barrell	Ollie Sutcliffe	Sienna
Joyce Rowell	Tom Spence	Ian
Ann	Les Gibson	John T
Stan Conway	Carole	Helen
Niraj	Pauline	Gordon
John	Joe	Rowan
Ritchie Robson	Sharok	Joyce Tindale
Valsa	Ali Hsami	Robert Reay
Ruth	Kirsty	Linda Richardson
Jennifer Elliott	Elsie Johnson	
Joe Huddleston	Susan Gaddess	
Michael Mion	Jacqueline Crichton	
Recently departed: Valerie Russell		

Baptisms: Please pray for Edward Lawrence Gibson, Ezra Theodore Blair, Tristan August Blair, and their family and friends on the occasion of their baptisms on 2 August.

Weddings: Please pray for Harriet & Jonathan, Paul and Deborah on the occasion of their weddings on Saturday 8 August, also for their families and invited guests.

Anniversary of Death

Matthew Kurian	Margaret Stephenson	Stan Hornsby
Alex Daley	Margaret Avery	Gwendoline Sell
Evelyn Young	William Bennett	Richard Morgan
Violet Taylor	Lilian Harrison	Sally Hewitt

Church

Please pray for our current Deanery vacancies
 Bensham and Teams St. Chad
 Eighton Banks St. Thomas
 Gateshead St Edmund and St James and St Bede
 Low Fell St Helen's

Local Projects

Gateshead Care Homes, Bensham Food Co-op, Gateshead Food Bank, Oasis, Changing Lives. Kells Lane, Kelvingrove & St Aidan's Primary Schools

St Helen's Church - Monthly Diary August 2026

Sunday 2 August St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Margaret McKay presiding*
 Three baptisms at 11.30am: Edward Lawrence Gibson; Ezra Theodore Blair,
 Tristan August Blair

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding (incl. a baptism)*

Wednesday 5 August St Helen's 12noon Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*
Oswald King of Northumbria, martyr, 642

Sunday 9 August St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Archdeacon Katherine Bagnall presiding*

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Wednesday 12 August St Helen's 12noon Eucharist *Revd Norma Clee presiding*

St Helen's *time tbc* **Patronal Festival 150th Anniversary**, followed by brunch in the church hall. *Revd Barry Abbott presiding* **St Chad's** 10.30am Eucharist *No priest for service. Revd Barry Abbott taking baptism at 12noon*

Wednesday 19 August St Helen's 12noon Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Sunday 23 August St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*
Two baptisms at 11.30am: Finlay James Martin & Theo Oliver Martin
St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Service of the Word tbc*

Wednesday 26 August St Helen's 12noon Eucharist *Revd Norma Clee presiding*

Sunday 30 August St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Canon Michael Hampel presiding*

Baptism at 11.30am: Jude Lorcan Harvey

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding*

Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 2nd August
9th After Trinity
(proper 13)

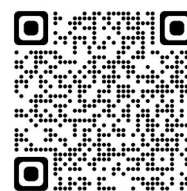
Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 2 nd	2 Peter 1. 1-15	85	Acts 13. 1-13
Monday 3 ^r	Acts 1. 1-14	44	Mark 1. 1-13
Tuesday 4 th Jean-Baptiste Vianney, spiritual guide, 1859	Acts 1. 15-end	48	Mark 1. 14-20
Wednesday 5 th Oswald, King of Northumbria, martyr, 642	Acts 2. 1-21	119 v. 57-80	Mark 1. 21-28
Thursday 6 th Transfiguration of Our Lord	1 John 3. 1-3	27	2 Cor. Ch.3
Friday 7 th	Acts 2. 37-end	51	Mark 2. 1-12

John Mason Neale, priest, hymn writer, 1866			
Saturday 8 th Dominic, priest, founder of The Order of Preachers, 1221	Acts 3. 1-10	68	Mark 2. 13-22

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 come
along to a Sunday service – check our website for times.**