

Pastoral Letter and Church Notices

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, LOW FELL

31.07 2022
7th after Trinity
Readings
Hosea 11.1-11
Colossians 3 1-11
Luke 12 13-21

Collect

Merciful God,
you have Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dear friends,

I had started to write a reflection to share with you in this week's newsletter, but the news coming out over recent days from the Lambeth Conference, particularly news emerging on Friday feels far more deserving of our prayerful attention. We have been praying over the last several weeks for the bishops meeting at Canterbury over the coming days to discuss the issues facing our Anglican Communion in her life and mission. Some of us have even played a role in hosting the bishop who visited us here in Gateshead, sharing with him and his wife some of the beauty and deep spiritual roots of the North East of England.

Now we wait in suspense as the bishops gather together for the hard work of dialogue at Canterbury, and it feels as though the storm clouds are gathering with them. We had always expected that the preeminent question of how the Church should respond to same-sex relationships would dominate the conference. However, I was saddened to hear news on Friday night of bishops refusing to receive Communion alongside those they disagreed with

on questions of sexuality. Such a wound to the unity of our global family of Churches, dividing us even at Christ's altar, evidently cannot be fixed by any political maneuvering or gesture, but only by the Holy Spirit putting a new heart within us. If there were ever a time for a call to prayer for the future of the Anglican Communion, it is now – for that seemingly impossible healing work of the Holy Spirit among us. So let us pray daily for all those bishops gathered from this diocese, and around the world, as they spend more time in worship, fellowship, and learning together. Praying that the spirit of division at work amongst them would be overcome by the Christ who is praying for us to be one body so that the world may believe.

In the peace of Christ,

Lloyd

Post Communion Collect

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup,
we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Safeguarding Statement

The Parochial Church Council is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and nurturing environment for everyone, especially for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It has adopted and approved the Church of England policy for promoting a safer church. This policy deals with all aspects of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

To discuss any safeguarding concerns relating to St Helens please contact either

- the Parish Safeguarding Churchwarden 07505105184
- the Parish Priest, Rev Yvonne Greener on 0191 4911317greener.yvonne@gmail.com

Concerns can also be raised with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Mrs Beth Miller - she can be contacted as follows: Address: Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham DH1 3RY

Email: beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk or beth.miller@durham.anglican.org

Mobile: 07968 034075

For further information please also see the Diocese of Durham safeguarding pages: <https://durhamdiocese.org/category/safeguarding/>



Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 31 July
Services and Prayer
Eucharist each Sunday 9.30am St. Helen's Low Fell
10.30am Bensham and Teams St. Chad

Church is Open

The Parish Church is open for services each Friday and Sunday and for quiet reflection each Wednesday and Friday from 9am – 4pm

People of all faiths and none are welcome to come and enjoy a moment of quiet in this cool, peaceful and beautiful space

Evening Prayer

We are meeting each **Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 5.15pm** using the Daily Prayer App on Zoom, join us by clicking below from 5pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667671125?pwd=WXpjamxQUlk0TEVCMzdzS2JleDVCQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6767 1125

Passcode: 631102

Please note - There is no longer a requirement to book a space at St. Helen's (or St Chad's) for Sunday worship

We are mindful that risks around Covid continue, and different people will make different decisions with regard to their personal circumstances.

Whilst the government and Church of England guidance is that gathering for worship is safe, if you visit us in the building, we ask that you take into consideration our PCC guidelines.

PLEASE BE AWARE IT IS NO LONGER LAW BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING IN CHURCH, UNLESS YOU ARE EXEMPT. Thank you.

We will continue to encourage people to be mindful of social distancing and to use the one-way system in church

We will continue to provide hand sanitiser for all to use on entry and exit

We will continue to offer wafers only but not wine during the Eucharist

We will continue to stay in our places and share the Peace in non- physical ways

In line with Church of England guidance we encourage people to use the track and trace system. (It is no longer a requirement to book in advance)

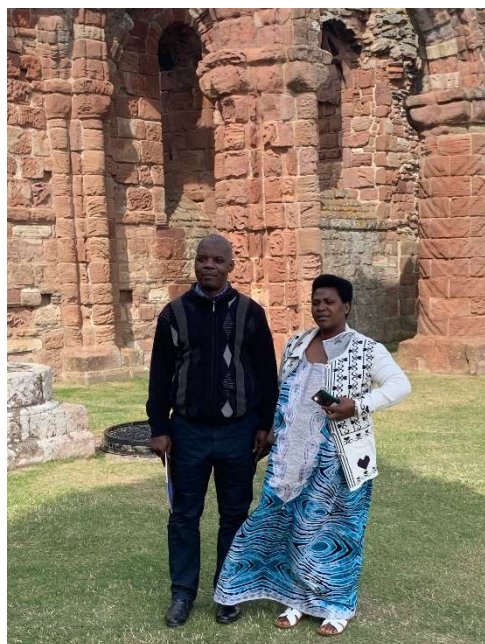
In order to care for each other. we encourage those joining us in the building to do a lateral flow test before coming to services. These are available free from local chemists including Sainsbury's.

All are welcome to join in worshipping at St. Helen's .Thank you, we hope to see you soon.

You can participate in worship with Songs of Praise BBC1 at 1.15pm or Morning Service with BBC Radio 4 at 8.10 am or through using our morning and night prayer services available on the website with the attached readings and prayers.

Bishop's Visit.

It was a pleasure and a privilege to spend an afternoon and evening with Bishop Pedaculi (and Anatolie his wife from the Diocese of Burundi. We enjoyed chatting with them about our homes, families and churches. It was a lovely summers evening on Holy Island and our



visitors enjoyed visiting the Priory and Museum. We were welcomed at Evensong and the priest was very pleased to meet our visitors as she had spent time in Burundi in 2005. We all enjoyed the tradition of fish and chips in Seahouses on the way home.

Helen and Mike Jones



Support for Ukrainian Refugees.

After all the confusion and chaos refugees are beginning to arrive in the area. If you would like to support this work please could you fill in [this form](#) which includes actions such as providing meals, offering support with language. We have also produced useful guides and we will update these as the situation changes [Preparing your church to support Ukrainian Refugees - Diocese of Durham \(durhamdiocese.org\)](#)

Help needed for Toddler Group

Toddlers continues to be a successful part of our mission thanks to the hard work and commitment of Joan Jones with Elaine and Lynn.

However we can't rely solely on Joan and mustn't ever leave her on her own. We need other members of church to volunteer to be on a rota to support Joan on a Friday afternoon from 12.30 to 3.30. People who have volunteered in the past have enjoyed meeting the families

and children. Please see me or Joan if you're able to offer to go on the rota. The more people who offer the fewer weeks we'll have to do. Please do consider helping with this. It would be very sad if this successful group could no longer continue.

Thank you. Helen

St Helen's Church Garden

Sunday gardening dates are:

7th August 21 August – more details to follow

Here are a few of the events planned for the garden in the next couple of months:

Thursday 4th August Garden games and family fun

Friday 19th August Teddy Bears Picnic

Saturday 17th September Autumn Fair

If anyone wants to be involved with any of the above or has any suggestions please contact Lynn on 07902 648959

Craft and Chat Group



The jewellery making demonstration was a great success. Liz was very knowledgeable and answered all our questions, we even managed to get one gentleman there who was very interested in the process.

Our craft groups for August are on Wednesdays from 10-12:

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st

We will be continuing our current projects of knitting and sewing items for sale at the Autumn Fair and restarting the sanitary ware for the Malawi project, which needs to be handed over by the end of September.

Please come and join us to help with any of the above (all materials are supplied), feel free to bring along some of your own projects to work on or just pop in for a coffee and a chat.

The group recently completed making 330 hearts for Vicky at St Chads' for Pride Weekend





They have also been knitting and crocheting numerous items for the Premature Baby ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which were very gratefully received.

As always feel free to bring along some of your own projects you are working on, or just join us for a coffee and a chat.

The Causeway 12-20 August

2.30pm and 7pm (running time approx. 1 hour)

Tickets: Adults: £3.00 Children under 14 £1.00

Available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk

Tel: 07956 891110

In person from: Lisa's Delights, Carlisle Street, NE10 0JR

From the writers and production team who successfully brought 'Passion for the Planet' to Christ Church last summer, a new theatrical adventure for all ages with silliness, song, food and music in and around the grounds of Christ Church Felling. Join us on a whirlwind Lindisfarne-inspired tour of drama, music, dance and puppetry! Follow our heroes as they strike out across The Causeway and boldly back to Felling – of course-way in time for tea!

A brand-new site-specific production also featuring art and creative installations by our local schools and communities. A fabulously fun show for all ages exploring the themes of legacy - hilarious and heartwarming, magical and musical – a must-see treat for all the family!

Written by Tony Earnshaw and designed by Chris de Wilde. Directed by Darren Cheek.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS SHOW WHICH IS ORGANISED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
CHRIST CHURCH FELLING, GATESHEAD DEANERY**

The Lindisfarne Gospels will be on display at the Laing Art Gallery from 17 September to 3 December this year.

Craft Workshops for the Cuaseway Community Project

Everyone is welcome to come along to the craft workshops at Christ Church

Saturday 30 July 10am to 4pm

Sunday 31 July 11am to 4pm

As well as making items for the show, everyone can join in and enjoy making a range of crafts.

Bensham Community Food Co-op

Our Parish supports The Bensham Community Food Coop, it is open every Tuesday in Corpus Christi Church Bensham 11am - 1pm. Food donations can be brought to St. Helen's church on Sunday mornings or on a Wednesday or Friday. .

All donations are gratefully received in these deeply challenging times.

Thank You Revd Yvonne

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 income does not currently reflect this .

If you value the witness we offer please help us generously to enable this to continue.

Forms to set up regular giving can be found near the church door or from

office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

One off donations can be deposited by electronic transfer to or into the in-wall church deposit box, by the door. Thank you

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