



## *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.'*

**01/11/2026**

### *All Saints' Day/All Souls*

#### **Readings**

**Revelations 7. 9 to end**

**1 John 3. 1-3**

**Matthew 5. 1-12**

*Known as the Beatitudes, presents Jesus' teachings on the attitudes and virtues that are blessed by God and characterize life in the Kingdom of Heaven.*



#### **Collect**

God of holiness  
your glory is proclaimed in every age:  
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,  
inspire us to follow their example  
with boldness and joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **Post Communion Collect**

God, the source of all holiness  
and giver of all good things:  
may we who have shared at this table  
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth  
be welcomed with all your saints  
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;  
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](mailto:beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk) or [beth.miller@durham.anglican.org](mailto:beth.miller@durham.anglican.org)  
Mobile: 07968 034075.***

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**St Helen's Church contacts:**

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

**Tony Gunning Mobile: 07864 695115**

**Parish office: [office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com)**

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**St Helen's Worship and Notices week beginning**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2026**  
**Services and Prayer**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November All Saints 9.30am Eucharist**  
*Revd Margaret Mackay presiding*

**4pm All Souls Service**

*Revd Barry Abbott presiding, followed by refreshments in church*

The names of those who have passed in the last year will be read out and a candle will be lit in their memory. Refreshments will be served in church following the service.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 12noon Eucharist**  
*Revd Norma Clee presiding*

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Day**  
**Family Service of the Word at 10am, followed by brunch in the church hall**  
**with the Uniformed Organisations**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 12noon Eucharist**  
*Revd Barry Abbott 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](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November Low Fell's Armistice Day Service**  
**At the Boer War Memorial, Durham Road, Low Fell at 11am**  
**Please arrive for 10.45am**

*Please contact Councillor Ron Beadle if you would like to lay a wreath*

**Advent Course.**

Revd Margaret MacKay will be running an **Advent course on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 see Helen.



## *Christmas Bags of Comfort and Joy*

If you would like to donate to the bags of comfort and joy for Christmas, please bring items to the church hall on Wednesday mornings or contact Lynn on 07902 648959 **by 27<sup>th</sup> November**

### **Suggestions for items are:**

Mens and Womens Toiletries (no toothbrushes, thank you) Chocolates  
Socks Hats Scarves Gloves - for both men and women Puzzle Books  
Mindful colouring Books Notebooks and pens

*Thank you*

### **Payment Reclaim Process**

At PCC we discussed the generosity of many members of the church who pay for items for church events out of their own money and do not ask for a refund. However, we also want to make it very clear that this generosity is not expected and if anyone needs to claim back this money there is a simple, agreed and confidential process for them to do so. All that is needed are the receipts, and contact with Chris Garrett either in person after church or by email [chrisgarrett066@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgarrett066@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](#)

**A Solo Recital**

22 November, 2026 @ 14:00  
St. Helens Church  
Belle Vue Bank, Low Fell  
NE9 6BR

Including works by:  
Slapin, Bach, Paganini,  
Ysaye, Reger, Frost,  
and Pleasure

Scott Slapin, violist

**FREE CONCERT!**  
\*suggested donations to benefit St. Helens\*

Free car park access nearby  
Join us for refreshments after the performance.

[www.scottslapin.com](http://www.scottslapin.com)

**We are delighted that Scott Slapin  
will join us for another free recital on  
Sunday 22 November  
from 2pm.**

**This will be followed by scones, cake,  
tea and coffee in the church hall  
@ £3 per person**

**Donations to church projects would  
be gratefully received**

Scott is recognised as one of the most prolific and technically formidable forces in the modern viola world. Celebrated by international publications, Scott is a virtuoso soloist and expressively lyrical composer.

**PLEASE DO JOIN US**

### Pearl of Africa Choir

Sadly, we have been advised that the Choir have been unable to secure visas for their tour this autumn. To assist with fundraising, we have invited them to set up a craft stall at our Christmas Fair to assist with raising funds.

**We are also holding a cake and coffee morning, 10am to 12noon, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2027**

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 tour. Here is the link to the Just Giving appeal: [Emergency JustGiving Appeal](#)



**Raffle prizes and cakes and bakes for the stall would be very welcome. Thank you.**

### **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](mailto: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,

Please remember that there will be a short break over half term and the following week. We will be closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. We will reopen for donations on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of November and for the collection of food on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

### 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](mailto: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.

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### Intercessions Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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     |          |
| Jacqueline | Susan     |          |

### **Anniversary of Death for week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> November 2026**

|                          |                 |  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Lily Jones               | Ernest Bower    |  |
| Ethel Carr               | Jean Robinson   |  |
| Eleanor Johnson          | Audrey Thompson |  |
| William Bradbury Simmons |                 |  |

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## **St Helen's Church - Monthly Diary November 2026**

**Sunday 1 November All Saints** Eucharist 9.30am.

*Revd Margaret Mackay presiding*

**4pm All Souls Service 4pm** followed by refreshments in church

*Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

**Wednesday 4 November** 12noon Eucharist *Revd Norma Clee presiding*

**Sunday 8 November Remembrance Sunday Family Service of the Word** 10am, with the Uniformed Organisations, followed by brunch in the church hall.

**Wednesday 11 November Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Durham Road, arrive for 10.45pm**

**Wednesday 11 November** 12noon Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Martin, bishop of Tours, c.397

**Saturday 14 November St Helen's Christmas Fair 1-3pm** in the church halls

**Sunday 15 November All Saints** Eucharist 9.30am. *Revd Norma Clee presiding*

Including a baptism at 11.30am Alexander James Kevin Taylor

**Wednesday 18 November** 12noon Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding.*

Hilde, abbess of Whitby, 680; Mechtilde of Magdeburg, mystic, 1280

**Friday 20 November Social and Pastoral Committee 11am** in the church hall

**Sunday 22 November Christ the King Family service at 10am.** Followed by brunch in the church hall. *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

**Sunday 22 November Scott Slapin recital 2pm in church** followed by tea/coffee/scones and cake in the church hall. Everyone is welcome, there is no ticket charge, donations are welcome for church projects.

**Tuesday 24 November Project 150 meeting** 6pm in the church hall

**Wednesday 25 November** 12noon Eucharist *Archdeacon Katherine Bagnall presiding*  
Catherine of Alexandria, martyr, 14<sup>th</sup> century; Issac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748

**Sunday 29 November Advent Sunday** Eucharist at 9.30am. *Revd Dorothy Snowball presiding*  
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**Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November  
All Saints Day**

| Day/ Date                                                                                                                   | Morning Prayer | Psalm       | Evening Prayer            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>                                                                                                      | Luke 9 18-27   | 15          | Heb. 11. 32 to Ch.12 v. 2 |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>All Souls Day                                                                                     | Rev. Ch.1      | 2           | Matt. 1. 18-end           |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Richard Hooker,<br>priest, teacher, 1600                                                         | Rev. 2. 1-11   | 5           | Matt. 2. 1-15             |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                   | Rev. 2. 12-end | 9           | Matt. 2. 16-end           |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>                                                                                                    | Rev. 3. 1-13   | 15          | Matt. Ch. 3               |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup><br>Leonard, hermit, 6 <sup>th</sup><br>century; William<br>Temple, archbishop<br>of Canterbury, 1944 | Rev. 3. 14-end | 16          | Matt. 4. 1-11             |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup><br>Willibrod of York,<br>bishop, apostle of<br>Frisia, 739                                         | Rev. ch4       | 18 v.31-end | Matt. 4. 12-22            |

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



**Looking for a  
SPACE TO RENT  
in Low Fell.**

Contact  
[office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com)

for rooms for regular meetings  
and activities or one off parties  
and events.

Meetings & Activities   Workshops & Classes   Parties & Events   Celebrations & More

Kitchen facilities available.

St Helens Church Hall, Belle Vue Bank.   Centrally located with ample car parking nearby.

**Competitive rates.**

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

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