

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

12.04.2026

Second Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 2. 14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1. 3-9

John 20. 19 - end

Collect

Risen Christ,

for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:

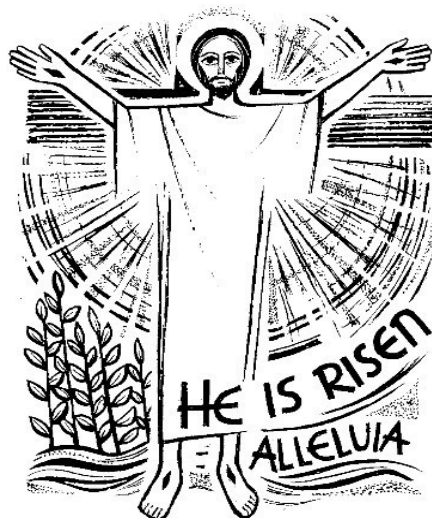
open the doors of our hearts,

that we may seek the good of others

and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,

to the praise of God the Father.

Amen



Post Communion Collect

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him;
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
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
or 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
Email: beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk or beth.miller@durham.anglican.org
Mobile: 07968 034075.***

INEQE independent safeguarding audit

Please see attached information and link to the full report.

.....
Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 12th April 2026

Services and Prayer

St Helen's

Sunday 12th April

Family Service at 10am followed by brunch in the church hall

Everyone is Welcome

(please note this replaces the Family Service on 19 April)

Sunday 19th April 9.30am Eucharist

Revd Alexander Jones presiding

Wednesday 15th April

Eucharist 12noon St Helen's

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON
WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS NOW THAT THE BUILDING WORK IS
COMPLETED. DO COME AND VISIT US.**

10.30am Eucharist on Sunday at Bensham and Teams,

St. Chad's

Revd Margaret McKay presiding

***Please note there is no warm welcome space on Tuesday 14th April,
to resume the following week Tuesday 21st April***

All are welcome to join in worshipping at St.Helen's and St.Chad's, we hope to see you soon. We will offer wafers and wine (optional) during the Eucharist and will, for the time being, stay in our places and share the Peace in non-physical ways.

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 and Evening Prayer

We usually meet each Wednesday, Friday and Sunday morning for morning prayer in church, you are welcome to join us from 8.45am, to begin at 9am, and at 3.45pm, to begin at 4pm. **However, due to building work please join Durham Cathedral on line as above.**

Deanery Confirmation 9th May 2026

We will be holding a Deanery Confirmation on Saturday 9th May.

If anyone wishes to be baptised or confirmed or want to know more about this, do speak with Reverend Yvonne.

Visit/Pilgrimage to Holy Island 6 June

The visit to Holy Island will now take place on Saturday 6 June. 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](#)





St Helen's 150th Anniversary – Community Open Afternoon and Exhibition

Saturday 18th April 1.30-3.30pm

Find out more about St Helen's Church and Church Hall

An opportunity to meet some of our regular hall groups, join in activities and view a small exhibition of the history of St Helen's in our 150th year. Including photographs of the work carried out to improve the access to our church.

Visit the Church

Come and see the beautiful new entrance doors and spend some quiet time in the church.

Open each Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 4pm

The Wednesday Warm Welcome Group – Crafts

Crafts for sale and demonstrations - try your hand at a new craft

Yogawallah

Free seated yoga taster class 2-2.30pm (in the upper hall)

Low Fell Volunteer Gardeners Plant Stall/ Garden planters and containers made from recycled materials

Breastfeeding Group 'Boob Club' and Toddler Group

Play and activities for babies and toddlers

Find out about: Brownies, Guides and Beavers – Book the church hall -

Book a baptism or wedding – Family Services

Fund Raising for Project 150 Phase 2



Refreshments – Tea/Coffee/Scones/Cake

St Helen's Church Celebration of 150 years – Save the Date!

Wednesday 29 April Michael Turner Cabinet of Curiosities – Talk from 7pm in the church hall
(*more details to follow*)

Sunday 17 May Durham Cathedral Choir in St Helen's Church from 3.30pm

Thursday 29 May – Bird Walk with Michael Turner in Saltwell Park from 9.30am. (*more details to follow*)

Saturday 13 June St Helen's Church Summer Fair (*more details to follow*)

Saturday 20 June Grainger Singers in St Helen's Church from 7pm ***please note this is a change of date from 6th June***



Wedding Dress Exhibition

As part of the 150 Anniversary Project we will be hosting a Wedding Dress exhibition in Church between 11th – 13th September, to coincide with Open Heritage week.

We are looking for anyone who was married at St Helen's and still have their wedding dress or photographs/ memorabilia from their special day and would be willing to lend us these items for display.

Please contact Lynn Oliver Mob: 07902648959
email kevlynoliver58@outlook.com. Please ask your friends/relatives for any items. Thank you.

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

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**



Lindsey Blair, who leads runs the Boob Club in St Helen's church hall on a Wednesday morning, has been nominated for Volunteer of the Year in this year's Gateshead Awards.

Lindsey has been shortlisted for an award which is great news and recognition of the hard work she puts into this very popular group. To vote for Lindsey please follow this link:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/11178/Vote-for-your-winners>

All new mums and babies are welcome on Wednesdays, in the church hall, from 10am.

Plastic Storage Boxes Needed

We now have boxes outside the church with toys for the local children and we'd be very grateful for any storage boxes with lids you are able to donate. The boxes become easily damaged and the toys also become damaged. Thank you.



St Helen's 'Book House'

You may have seen our new 'Book House' at St Helen's. We very much hope that you will browse and borrow books, and also please donate any books which you no longer require.

Happy reading!

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 Elaine 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.



Dear Supporters

We are closed now for the Easter break and re-open on Monday 20th April for donations and Tuesday 21st April for the Food Co-op.

Thank you for your continued commitment.

Kind regards

Kath

THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME A BETTER WAY TO GIVE

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**

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 12th April 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	Eddie Clark
Ann	Les Gibson	John T
Stan Conway	Carole	Helen
Niraj	Pauline	Gordon
John	Joe	Rowan
Ritchie Robson	Sharok	Rob
Valsa	Ali Hsami	Joyce Tindale
Ruth	Kirsty	

Anniversary of Death

Alan Robinson	<u>Thomas 'Tommy' Gray</u>	
Brian Sangster		
Margaret Fraser		
Doris Hornsby		

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

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 April 2026

Wednesday 1 April St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Maundy Thursday 2 April 7pm Eucharist, Foot Washing and Vigil at St Helen's

Good Friday 3 April 10.30am Walk of Witness at St Chad's followed by hot cross buns in St Chad's church hall.

Good Friday liturgy 2pm at St Helen's

St Chad's – *Revd Dorothy Snowball presiding*

Holy Saturday 4 April 7pm St Helen's Easter Eve Liturgy

Easter Sunday 5 April 9.30am St H Celebration Eucharist

Wednesday 8 April St Helen's 12noon Eucharist – NO SERVICE

Sunday 12 April St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Revd Margaret Mackay presiding*

Tuesday 14 April St Helen's Anniversary Committee meeting 6pm in the church hall

Wednesday 15 April St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Saturday 18 April St Helen's Community Open Afternoon/Hall Users event 1.30-3.30pm in the church hall

Sunday 19 April 10am St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

Monday 27 April Gateshead Chapter Meeting 9.30am St Helen's

Wednesday 29 April St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Catherine of Sienna, teacher of the faith, 1380

Cabinet of Curiosities Talk Michael Turner 7pm in the church hall with refreshments

Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 12th April 2026
2nd Sunday of Easter

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 12th	1 Cor. 5. 6b-8	81 v.1-10	Mark 15. 46 – Ch.16 v.8

Monday 13th	Col. 1. 1-14	19	John 20. 1-10
Tuesday 14th	Col. 1. 15-end	8	John 20. 11-18
Wednesday 15th	Col. 2. 1-15	30	John 20. 19-end
Thursday 16 th Isabella Gilmore, deaconess, 1923	Col. 2. 16 – Ch.3. v.11	28	John 21. 1-14
Friday 17th	Col. 3. 12 – ch4 v 1	61	John 21. 15-19
Saturday 18th	Col. 4. 2-end	84	John 21. 20-end



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.