



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.'

25.10.2026

Last Sunday after Trinity

Readings

Deuteronomy 34. 1-12

1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

Matthew 22. 34-end

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."



Collect

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Post Communion Collect

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
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.

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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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St Helen's Worship and notices week beginning
Sunday 25th October 2026
Services and Prayer

Sunday 25th October 9.30am Eucharist

Revd Margaret Mackay presiding

Wednesday 28th October St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Revd Barry Abbott presiding

Sunday 1st November 9.30am Eucharist

Revd Margaret Mackay presiding

4pm All Souls Service

Revd Barry Abbott presiding, followed by refreshments in church

St Helen's All Souls Service Sunday 1 November at 4pm

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.

There are sheets to complete at the back of the church by 28th October if you wish to have your loved ones names read during the All Souls' Service. Or please email: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com with the names by Wednesday 28th October.

Wednesday 4th November St Helen's 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

Bishop of Jarrow announced

Downing Street has announced that the Reverend Dr Jitesh Patel has been appointed the next Suffragan Bishop of Jarrow following approval by His Majesty the King. Currently Assistant Director and Lecturer in Theology at St Mellitus College East Midlands and Associate Vicar at Holy Trinity in Leicester, Jitesh was previously Director of Contextual Training for the Diocese of Leicester, overseeing training and formation across the diocese.

Ordained in 2010, he brings 16 years of parish ministry experience, alongside seven years of leadership and teaching within theological education.

Jitesh will be consecrated at York Minster on 8 December.

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

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

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

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

We Sell Vintage Monday 26 October

We Sell Vintage are returning to the church hall on Monday 26th October, 10am to 3pm. You may have received information through your door. Please note this is an external event, not arranged by the church.

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 30th 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

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 58 families/couples and 39 single people attended the Food Co-op (154 adults and 121 children). Some members start to queue from

before 8.00, despite there always being food throughout the morning session. Donations were received from several local churches, two local primary schools (including a Harvest donation), Gateshead Food Bank and individual



supporters. The Fareshare allocation included pizzas, houmous, potatoes and cabbages, which meant that all members left with a variety of food.

With thanks for your continuing commitment, Kath



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

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 25th October 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 25th October

William Ord Grey	Mary Irwin	Neil Bond
John Alcroft	Harry Wright	Doris Ruddick
George Cutmore	Margaret Elizabeth Logan	Freda Trinder
Ann Snaith	Frances Bellatti	Margaret Taylor
Evelyn Elsley	Joan Lee	Ernest Bellatti
George Kurian	Mavis Jopling	Margaret Taylor
Joan Simmons	Arthur Parker	Alan Harrison

St Helen's Church - Monthly Diary October 2026

Sunday 25 October St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

Revd Margaret Mackay presiding

Wednesday 28 October St Helen's 12noon Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 25th October 2026

Last Sunday After Trinity (proper 25)

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 25th	Luke 14. 1-14	119 v. 137-152	2 Tim. 2. 1-7
Monday 26 th Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, scholar,	1 Tim. 6. 1-10	1	John 17. 1-5

899; Cedd, abbot of Lastingham, bishop of East Saxons, 664			
Tuesday 27th	1 Tim. 6. 11-end	5	John 14. 15-26
Wednesday 28 th Simon and Jude, Apostles	Luke 6. 12-16	116	Jude 1-4, 17-end
Thursday 29 th James Hannington, bishop of East Equatorial Africa, martyr in Uganda, 1885	2 Tim. 1 v15 to Ch,2 v 13	15	John 18. 1-11
Friday 30 th	2 Tim. 2. 14-end	19	John 18. 12-27
Saturday 31st Martin Luther, reformer, 1546	2 Tim. Ch.3	23	Rev. 19. 6-10

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

**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

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