



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

24.05.2026

Pentecost

Readings

Acts 2. 1-21

1 Corinthians 12. 3b-13

John 20. 19-23

Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

‘Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the power of your love ‘

Dear Friends,

As we approach Pentecost, we give thanks for the good news of Jesus and the birth of the church. A church which started off as a small group of believers in the Middle East which spread as each individual was empowered in the Holy Spirit to share their faith to the far reaches of the earth. This year we remember particularly our own church of St Helen in its 150th year, standing as a beacon of hope to this community whatever the circumstances of our world.

St. Helen, at the advanced age of about 80 years we think, embarked on a famous pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Whilst there she uncovered the tomb of Jesus under a pagan temple in Jerusalem.

During these excavations she was said to have discovered three wooden crosses; the one true cross was identified when a woman who was sick was instantly healed upon touching it.

Her pilgrimage led to the commissioning of both the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem. Helena became known as the Protector of the Holy Places. We at St. Helen's are thankful for the worship and witness of the church over these last years and pray that the worship and witness to God and his deep and generous love overflows in the gifts of the spirit to all who come and go and live in this parish. God's good news is for everyone; to every race and nation the way of life eternal is open. The Holy Spirit, in tongues of fire, came upon the disciples and set their world alight as they journeyed out.

I am very thankful to have been part of this journey as your Priest at St. Helen's for ten years. Now it is time for me to retire, it has been a privilege to serve you in this place and please be assured that you hold a special place in my heart.

And yet the journey continues. God promises to be with us as we journey, he goes ahead of us and lightens our way. I am encouraged that, rooted and grounded in God's love, your life together as a church and community will continue to flourish as you are nourished by his deep and generous love. There will be many opportunities to join us in worship and thanksgiving in church each Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Come and light a candle, have a quiet moment or join us in worship, and in our hall for our toddlers, our Warm Welcome drop in and our 'Boob club' – breastfeeding mums' club. (check out the website) All are welcome.

This Sunday will be my last here at St Helen's. The Eucharist will be at the later time of 3pm, following the services of baptism. All are welcome to come along at 3pm, there will be tea and cakes in the hall afterwards. Do join us.

Later in the year our new Bishop of Durham, Bishop Rick, will come to lead a service of thanksgiving, a Eucharist and dedicate our new entrance doors and ramp, the threshold is clear and all are welcome

As our journey goes on, we pray for each other and our loved ones for a fresh outpouring of God's Holy Spirit upon us at Pentecost.

'Come holy spirit fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the power of your love'
With every blessing
Revd Canon Yvonne

Post Communion Collect

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Dear Friends

We are writing to you all as Churchwardens of St Helen’s on the retirement of Revd Yvonne to formally express our thanks and appreciation for her work in Low Fell. It’s just over 10 years since Yvonne joined us at St Helen’s and we have faced many challenges together, not least of which was the Covid pandemic.

In that time Yvonne has led us to be a more outward facing church, focused on our community and mission, as well as one rooted in prayer and liturgy. We know that many of you have personal reasons to be grateful to Yvonne for her pastoral support for individuals and families in good times, such as baptisms and weddings, and sad times, such as serious illness and bereavement.

Her work with schools, encouraging children and families to feel welcome in church, has made a huge difference to them and to our existing congregation. This would not have happened without her tireless energy and focus.

We will all miss her, and Ian, when she leaves but are committed to doing our very best to continue her work as we wait for a new priest. We know she will have a full and happy retirement with her family and will soon wonder how she found the time to come to work. Thanks so much Yvonne.

Tony and Helen

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.***

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Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 24th May 2026
Services and Prayer

St Helen's
Sunday 24th May 3pm Pentecost Service
Please note there is no morning service.
***The Pentecost Service will be followed by Revd Yvonne's
retirement event in the church hall***

Wednesday 27th May St Helen's Eucharist 12noon NO SERVICE

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

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.

THY KINGDOM COME PRAYER APP

Do join us each day as we pray for God's Holy Spirit.

[Thy Kingdom Come | Thy Kingdom Come](#)

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Every year we at St Helen's support the work of the international charity Christian Aid which supports people in poverty around the world. We will have an opportunity to donate in church and also through a fundraising page this year. Please do consider supporting this vital work which is needed more than ever in countries whose aid has been reduced by the USA and the UK.

To donate on line please follow the link below:

https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/st-helens-fundraising-christian-aid?utm_medium=sharedbuttons&utm_campaign=&utm_source=copy

Thank You to all who have already given, there is still time for those who have not yet had an opportunity. You can also pick up an envelope **in church if you are not able to give online, every little helps to bring life to others.**

Visit/Pilgrimage to Holy Island 6th June

As part of our Project 150 celebrations we are planning a pilgrimage to Holy Island on Saturday 6th June. We plan that some people will walk the Pilgrim Way and others will visit the island. We are hoping that enough of us will be able to offer lifts to those who have no transport. Although she will no longer be our priest following her retirement, Revd Yvonne will be joining us for the day.

If you have any questions or wish to sign up for the day please text 07505 105184, or fill in the form at the back of church.

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](#)

**Age Concern Advice and Information Drop In Session at St Helen's
Warm Space on Wednesday 27 May from 10.30am.**

Everyone is welcome



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

St Helen's Church Celebration of 150 years



**Thursday 28 May – Bird Walk
with Michael Turner in
Saltwell Park
from 9.30am.**

**Please meet at the Bandstand
in Saltwell Park.**

Tickets: £5

**Join Michael for coffee in Saltwell Towers after the walk to chat
and ask questions.**

(please bring cash with you at the start of the walk)

The walk will take approx. 2 hours



Saturday 13 June – St Helen's Summer Fair 1-3pm

Stalls - Raffle - Tombola - Refreshments and lots more!

Further details will follow soon



**Saturday 20 June
Grainger Singers at
St Helen's Church from 7pm**

**Tickets £8 available on the door on
the night**

Raffle and Light Refreshments during the interval
Offers of raffle prizes would be much appreciated. Thank you.



Swift Boxes at St Helen's

As part of our Eco church commitment, we are thrilled to have had swift boxes installed in the church tower. These will allow migratory swifts to build nests in the tower and encourage them to return year after year. We may have to wait for three or four years for them to settle in but it will be worth it.



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**



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,

This week 94 people, representing 58 families/couples and 36 single people attended the Food Co-op (146 adults and 128 children). A steady session. Donations were received from several churches, individual supporters and a local primary school.

The café area was lively with volunteers providing refreshments and chatting to all who came. We are fortunate that the volunteers will always stay until the end of the session, tidying, hoovering and cleaning the kitchen area.

The constant demand has had an impact on stocks, so we are making a fresh appeal for food donations. Items particularly appreciated would be tuna, sardines, chickpeas, kidney beans, tinned tomatoes, rice pudding, cereal, long-life semi-skimmed milk, pasta, biscuits, dried spaghetti and rice.

With thanks for your continued commitment.
Kind regards, 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

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 24th May 2026

BAPTISMS

Sunday 24 May Please pray for: Heidi Rose Callander; Lottie-Mae Maria Greenwell; Lauren Jane Carss; Francis James Carss and Erin Sophia Carss on the occasion of their baptism. And for their families and friends.

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	Robert Reay
Jennifer Elliott	Elsie Johnson	
Joe Huddleston	Susan Gaddess	
Recently Departed:		

Anniversary of Death

Marie Robey Garrett	Margaret June Browne	
William Tindale		
Ethel Liddle		
Lilian Foster		

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 School

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St Helen's Church Monthly Diary May 2026

Sunday 3 May St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

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

Tuesday 5 May St Helen's PCC meeting 6pm in the church hall

Wednesday 6 May St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

St John the Evangelist

Sunday 10 May St Helen's 10am Family Service followed by brunch in the church hall

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

Monday 11 May Pie and Pea Supper at the Gateshead Arms (see details in the newsletter)

Thursday 14 May Ascension Day St Helen's 7pm Eucharist

Friday 15 May St Helen's Social and Pastoral Committee meeting at 11am

St Helen's Safeguarding Committee meeting at 1.30pm

Sunday 17 May St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

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

St Helen's Gateshead Deanery Evensong sung by Durham Cathedral Choir 3.30pm, followed by light refreshments in the church hall

Tuesday 19 May 150th Anniversary Committee Meeting from 6pm in the church hall

Wednesday 20 May St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Alcuin of York, deacon, Abbott of Tours, 804

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

Wednesday 27 May St Helen's 12noon Eucharist – **NO SERVICE**

Thursday 28 May Michael Turner Bird Walk 9.30am in Saltwell Park (meet at the bandstand)

Sunday 31 May St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*
St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 24th May
Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 24 th	Acts 10. 34-end	87	Luke 24. 44-end
Monday 25 th Venerable Bede, monk at Jarrow, 735; Aldhelm, bishop of Sherborne, 709	Luke 9. 18-27	126	Rom. 1. 1-17
Tuesday 26 th . Augustine, first archbishop of Canterbury, 605; John Calvin, reformer, 1564; Philip Neri, founder of the Oratorians, 1595	Luke 9. 28-36	132	Rom. 1. 18-end
Wednesday 27 th	Luke 9. 37-50	119 v.153-end	Rom. 2. 1-16
Thursday 28 th Lanfrance, archbishop of Canterbury, 1089	Luke 9. 51-end	143	Rom. 2. 17-end
Friday 29 th	Luke 10. 1-16	142	Rom. 3. 1-20
Saturday 30 th Josephine Butler, social reformer, 1906; Joan of Arc, visionary, 1431	Luke 10. 17-24	147	Mark 1. 1-13



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.sthenschurch@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.