



Pastoral Letter and Church Notices

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, LOW FELL

26.06.2022
2nd after Trinity
2 Kings 2 1-2,6-14
Luke 9.51-end

Collect

Let us pray that ...

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Dear Friends,

As I enter the final week before my ordination to the priesthood, I've been given the opportunity here to share with you a brief reflection on this momentous step. I've been discerning a call to the priesthood since I became a Christian at the age of 18, so for me this is the consummation of a 9 year journey, in which I have served in more than half a dozen different churches.

I've worked alongside a great many priests while discerning whether God was calling me to share in that vocation - some have been brilliant, but all have been flawed. One of the struggles most of us

come up against while figuring out what priesthood will look like for us is the temptation to compare ourselves with those priests we have known. But in truth, every one of us is called to inhabit our vocation with the unique quality God has created in us. Whether it's priesthood or prayer or parenting, the temptation to comparison lurks ever at the door, unless we remind ourselves that God has called us to our vocation in all our glorious uniqueness.

Needless to say, at the heart of priesthood, and at the heart of the Christian faith, is the Eucharist. This for me has been the cornerstone of my Christian life since I first crept through a church door at university. It has also always been the place where the many flaws of the many priests I've known have been least visible. As if, in the radiancy of Christ's presence, even the one celebrating the Mass fades out of focus and Christ is all in all. I hope and pray that my priesthood would be such a giving way to the presence of Christ. That in it I would always be saying 'he must increase and I must decrease.' That by God's grace I might become just another piece of stained glass through which his light shines on his Church.

This is not something I can do in my own strength, so please pray for me and all those being ordained alongside me, that we would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the heart of Jesus,
Lloyd

Post Communion Collect

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 26 June

Services and Prayer

**Eucharist each Sunday 9.30am St. Helen's Low Fell
10.30am Bensham and Teams St. Chad**

Confirmation

If anyone is considering Confirmation or would like to explore the Christian Faith do speak with myself or Lloyd. We are hoping to begin a group in the beginning of June to meet at St. Chad's each week.
The Confirmation will be on Thursday the 14th of July.

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/86927504595?pwd=zrzTSdjpW8hjWzd_RbdHyjLGAeWHV_.1

Meeting ID: 869 2750 4595

Passcode: 046588

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.

Confirmation and Exploring the Christian Faith

If anyone is considering Confirmation or would like to explore the Christian Faith do speak with myself or Lloyd. We will meet at St. Chad's Rawling Road Bensham at 4.45pm each Wednesday until the 13th of July

The Confirmation will be on Thursday the 14th of July.

There will be a final session the 27th of July

Church Open on Fridays

The church is open each Friday 12noon until 3.45pm for personal quiet reflection and prayer. For Ukraine and other circumstances and situations.

Durham Cathedral Ordinations 2 July at 5pm

Revd Fr Lloyd Brown, our curate, will be Ordained Priest this Pentecost in Durham Cathedral on Saturday July 2nd at 5pm. All are invited to the service in the Cathedral in support of Lloyd and to share in the joy as he take his vows as a Priest in God's church.

If you would like to come please sign the list at the back of church indicating if you need transport (if enough need we will organise a coach to Durham).

You may wish to travel by public transport (buses X21, & 21, and Arriva X12 from the Cannon, Low Fell, no. 21 from a wider range of stops)

Once in Durham, you can catch the Cathedral Bus (no. 40 from the Market Place, stop next to the statue) to the cathedral in Palace Green.

Please find timetable attached and note the bus service ends at 17.19 (no return bus following the ordination)

Please arrive at the cathedral by 4.30pm to take your seat by 4.45pm.

Lloyd will celebrate his first Eucharist at St. Helen's at 4pm on the feast of St. Thomas, 3rd July, after which there will be a shared tea in the church hall. (Please note there will be a service of the word instead of a Eucharist on the morning of 3rd July at the usual service time of 9.30). All are welcome.

Sunday 4th July Celebratory Tea

We are looking forward to Lloyd's Ordination and are celebrating with tea together after his first Eucharist on the 4th July at 4pm.

We would value contributions of food to be brought to the hall for 3.30 so that it can be set out before the service.

Please bring a sweet and/ or a savoury dish as you are able, do let us know what you are bringing by signing the sheet in church.

All are welcome.

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 providing meals, offering support with language. We have also produced useful guides and we will update these as the situation change [Preparing your church to support Ukrainian Refugees - Diocese of Durham \(durhamdiocese.org\)](#)

Garden Project.

Garden project will be on the following dates between 12 noon and 2pm:

Sunday 26th June: Completing the tidying of dead plants and clearing more borders and also re-panting herbs from the raised beds to near the gate.

July dates to follow, and we will be asking if anyone would be interested in having a plant/seed swap at these sessions.

Any queries or suggestions please contact Lynn Oliver on 07902648959

Craft and Chat Group

Our craft classes for the remainder of this month are as follows and will be 10am till 12 noon:

Wednesday 29th June - Project TBC

Please feel free to bring your own craft along too.

We have been knitting and crocheting Hearts for Pride weekend and have completed 300 which are ready to be sent to St Chads.



Dear Supporters

This week we have seen 41 families and 32 single people collecting food from Corpus Christi Church. The majority have been refugees. However, nineteen were from the local community. Donations were received from several local churches and individual supporters. Grateful thanks are given to all donations that enable us to continue providing food for so many people.

Today we had a good attendance from our pool of volunteers with people from Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Congo, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran assisting. Apart from helping members with their food choices, there was quite a bit of banter amongst the volunteers and all agree that the two young women on the teas and coffee do an excellent job.

This week we have been celebrating Refugee Week. This is a celebration of all refugees' contributions to art, culture and society and the theme this year is 'Healing'. Healing means recovering from painful experiences or situations so we can continue to live. Many of our members are going through the asylum system where healing is made harder by poverty, housing difficulties and their uncertain future.

For Refugee Week, we asked some of the members to write about their hopes for the future. We had a variety of responses, from studying carpentry to being Prime Minister of Sudan! Whatever the response, the members engaged with each other (getting help with spelling) and just having a conversation about the future.

Last year a fairly new member produced some marvellous paintings for Refugee Week. This year he produced 5 paintings that are displayed at Corpus Christi. We are very fortunate to have a member with such natural talents.

With thanks for your continued commitment,
Kath



Bensham Community Food Co-op

The Food Coop is open every Tuesday. Food donations can be brought to church on Sunday mornings or on Friday afternoons .

All donations are gratefully received in these deeply challenging times.

With thanks. Revd Yvonne

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA)

'Do you have a problem with Alcohol?' Call FREE on 0800 9177 650 help@aamail.org

Locally, you can contact the following in confidence: Paul 07554665116 or Ryan

07745 273686

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