



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

28.05.2023

Pentecost

Readings

Numbers 11. 24-30

Acts 2. 1-21

John 20 19-23

Collect

Holy Spirit sent by the Father
Ignite in us your Holy Fire
Strengthen our 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

Dear Friends,

At Ascension the disciples watched as Jesus left them, they were told to stay in the city and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then, in the Spirit's power to go and proclaim the good news of God's deep, generous, saving love in Jesus Christ for the whole world.

That was and is and will always be the task of the church, no matter how big or small. The Lord who Ascended into heaven and reigns in Glory has given us a great commission, to show and tell the good news of Jesus. We are each on the final leg of the journey from Ascension to Pentecost and we are called to do likewise and follow the examples of those first disciples. Our God is an empowering God, at Pentecost he gives the gift of his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit blew the first Christians out of their comfort zones and into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ. They were filled to the fullness of the Holy Spirit who came with great signs full of significance and power. Receiving the Holy Spirit is not a once and for all event, but a continuous action.

Some of you may have been participating in Thy Kingdom Come. If you have been using the Novena as an aid to your prayer then you will recognise the description of this. Revd Bob Key calls it the Niagara effect. It speaks of huge waterfalls like Niagara on the American/ Canadian border or Victoria on the Zambesi river – imagine, a limitless flow of water! A huge quantity, power and array of colours, the light dances on the water, offering an awe inspiring picture of the beauty of God's creation.

We are each invited to imagine holding a cup at the bottom of the waterfall, the cup is permanently full, topped up constantly by the ever flowing river, supplying never ending thirst quenching, power-giving water. This is what God offers us as we are filled with the Holy Spirit, "As the glasses of our lives are held under the limitless dynamic powerful provision of God the Holy Spirit, there is enough to meet every spiritual need. More importantly there is overflow, to show Christ's grace, power and salvation to those around us."

We are blessed with water, I am thankful that I have access to clean, running water which keeps me healthy and satisfies my thirst. I am particularly mindful that so many in our world do not have such a privilege and suffer deeply as a consequence. There are many communities in our world suffering in a physical drought who are in need of our aid. There are also many individuals and communities suffering a spiritual drought. A thirst and an emptiness only quenched by the love of God.

May we too be an expression of the generosity of that love ever looking outwards. This Pentecost we pray that the Holy Spirit of God will be outpoured upon the church afresh and hearts and minds would be opened and filled to overflowing with the love of God. May we be ready and willing to both receive and, importantly, share that love physically and spiritually with those in need. Revd Bob Key is clear we may not be able to "Live the kingdom in our own strength, but with the Niagara effect of the Holy Spirit all things are possible."

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love.

With every blessing

Yvonne

Post Communion Collect

Eternal God Giver of love and power
Your son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
To preach the Gospel of his kingdom
Confirm us in this mission
And help us to live the good news we proclaim
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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/>

Safeguarding Training

All members of the congregation, but especially volunteers and PCC members, are invited to basic safeguarding training led by Helen Jones at St Chad's Church Hall on 5th June from 1pm. All welcome.

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Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 28th May 2023

Services and Prayer

All are welcome

9.30am Family Eucharist St. Helen's, Low Fell

12noon said Eucharist each Wednesday

10.30am Eucharist Bensham and Teams St. Chad

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 8.10 am or join us online.

Morning Prayer

We are meeting each Friday and Sunday morning for morning prayer in church, you are welcome to join us from 8.45am, to begin at 9am.

The midweek Eucharist will be at 12pm on Wednesdays.

Exploring Faith and Confirmation

If you are interested in exploring the Christian Faith or may wish to be baptised or Confirmed please contact me directly greener.yvonne@gmail.com or speak with me after a service.

The Deanery Confirmation will take place on Saturday 17th June at St Andrew's Leam Lane.

Favourite Hymns

Do you have a favourite hymn which you would like to be included in in our services?

Please add your name and the hymn on the sheet in church.

Or please let us know via the office email address: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

A message from the Right Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, on behalf of the Church of England...

I am writing to ask if you would join with us in praying for **Doubling the number of children and young active disciples in the Church of England by 2030**, the first stated bold outcome of the Vision and Strategy. Of course, this isn't about numbers – it's about young lives being won and shaped by the goodness, beauty and truth of Jesus.

Throughout 2023 the prayer meeting will be every Tuesday on Zoom from 10/1/23 for 20 mins from 1pm - 1.20pm. The link you'll need for the Zoom

(<https://cofe.io/doublecyp>) is the same every week. All are welcome to join in.

Social and Pastoral Committee Meeting Thursday 1 June

The PCC would like to invite anyone interested in the pastoral and social life of the church to be part of the above group. We are very conscious of wanting to give everyone opportunities to participate and use their gifts and talents in God's service for the growth and wellbeing of our church and community.

Please speak with or email with Helen Jones djne11026@blueyonder.co.uk

The first meeting will be in St. Helen's church hall on Thursday 1st June at 10.15am

Wednesday Drop in at St Helen's

Every Wednesday morning 9.30am-12.30am - 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

Everyone is welcome to join us for crafts and projects in the Warm Space Drop In from 10am.

Tuesday Drop in at St Chad's

Every Tuesday afternoon 1:30pm – 4:30pm - there will be a warm space, tea and coffee or a bowl of soup freely available and a welcome at St Chad's church for any who wish to come in for a cuppa and a chat, or who simply want company or to relax for a while. . Volunteers also very welcome to help us facilitate both places of welcome. We are pleased to be part of Gateshead Council's Warm Spaces Charter.

St Helen's Church Garden

As we made such a difference to the church garden last year, it's important to carry it on. We will therefore be meeting on the following dates throughout the summer. All dates are Sundays and we'll meet from 2pm for a couple of hours. We hope you can all join us at least once over the summer.

JUNE 25th

JULY 16th

AUGUST 20th

SEPTEMBER 17th.

Helen

SATURDAY
24th
June



FELLING MALE VOICE CHOIR Performing with OVINGHAM & DISTRICT CHOIR

ST HELENS PARISH CHURCH,
BELLE VUE BANK,
LOW FELL,
NE9 6BR

Felling Male Voice Choir are
delighted to bring you an
evening of Music with the
fantastic Ovingham & District Choir

Saturday 24th June @7pm

£ 10
ADMISSION

For Tickets contact:

IAN WARBURTON
07796820893

MIKE SCOTT
0191 2640276

Tickets also available on the door

Felling Male Voice Choir at St Helen's Saturday 24 June

Felling Male Voice Choir will
be performing, together with
Ovingham and District Choir,
at St Helen's church on
Saturday 24 June from 7pm.

**Please see poster (left) for
ticket information.**

We look forward to welcoming
this event - raffle tickets and
light refreshments will also be
available in church. Please do
join us.



St Helen's Church Hall for hire
Book Club, Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, Painting, Crafts, Dancing.....

Are you, or anyone you know, looking for a venue to run a club or group in our church hall?

We look forward to welcoming groups who will promote our vision of Health & Wellbeing



Need a venue for your child's birthday party? We have the space!

Our hall accommodates groups of up to 100, perfect for physical activities and large groups.

Kitchen facilities and WiFi included in the hire

Contact us now for hire rates and further information

Email: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

Belle Vue Bank, Low Fell, NE9 6BR



Dear Supporters.

This week we saw 77 families /couples and 37 single people collecting food from the Food Co-op at Corpus Christi Church (169 adults and 143 children). An exceptionally busy session that left the stocks quite depleted. We saw several new faces alongside regulars and occasional visitors. A newly arrived young woman had walked down from Beacon Lough. She was delighted to meet one of the volunteers who is not only from the same country, but from the same city. The volunteer took her under her wing, swapping phone numbers, giving her details of bus routes, the church where she attends and general information that only someone who has recently been through this experience can give. The young woman subsequently sent a message to thank us for supporting her and her father and asking to volunteer. It is refreshing to receive such a positive response.

Donations were received from several local churches, a primary school and individual supporters. Many thanks for all these items that enable the Food Co-op to continue weekly.

With grateful thanks for your steadfast support,

Kath

Charity Choice

For several years it has been our practice to give some of the church's money to charity.

PCC have agreed that we will do this again in 2023 and are seeking the will of the congregation in the choice of charities. In church on Sunday 28th May people will be given the opportunity to indicate a local charity, a national charity and an international charity they would like the money to go to. We will then vote on these choices the following week.

If you are unable to get to church at the minute but would like to indicate your preferences please do this by emailing: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

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 generously to enable this to continue.

Forms to set up regular giving can be found near the church door or from
office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

One-off donations 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 28th May 2023

Sick	Sick	Other needs
Maria Barrell	Roger Barrell	
Hilda Branch	Frank Morton	
Mark Adams	Amelia Grace	
Tom Spence	Julie Hillan	
Jessica Johnson	Marilyn Reay	
Diane Dunwoodie	Aimee	
Lucy	Joan	
Joan Huddleston	Felicity	
Jamie Lee Slassor	Joan Eke	
David Watson	Helen Preston	
Carole Dent		
Baptisms:		
Please pray for ElleTait who will be baptised at St. Helen's this Pentecost.		
Recently Departed		
Jol Maughan		

Anniversary of Death	
Lilian Foster	Redvers Pattinson
Margaret June Browne	George Waters Laidler
Leslie Taylor	Alice Jean
Laurence Liddington	Peter James Garnett
Margaret Lee Munro	

Church

Please pray for our current Deanery vacancies, especially Bensham and Teams St. Chad.

Local Projects

Gateshead Care Homes

Bensham Food Co-op, Gateshead Food Bank, Oasis, Changing Lives

Kells Lane, Kelvin Grove and St Aidan's Primary schools

Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – 28th May 5th Sunday of Easter

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 28 th Whit Sunday	Acts. 10. 34-end	87	Acts. 2. 14-21 [22-38]
Monday 29 th Ordinary Time resumes today; DEL week 8	Rom. 1. 1-17	126	Luke 9. 18-27
Tuesday 30 th Josephine Butler, social reformer, 1906; Joan of Arc, visionary, 1431; Apolo, Kivebulaya, priest, evangelist, 1933	Rom. 1. 18-end	132	Luke 9. 28-36
Wednesday 31 Visit of Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth	Mark. 3. 31-end	85	John. 3. 25-30
Thursday 1 st June Justin, martyr, c.165	Rom. 2. 17-end	143	Luke 9. 51-end
Friday 2 nd June	Rom. 3. 1-20	144	Luke 10. 1-16
Saturday 3 rd June Martyrs of Uganda, 1885-7, 1977	Rom. 3. 21-end	147	Mark 1. 1-13