



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

10.05.2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 17. 22-31

1 Peter 3. 13-end

John 14. 15-21

Collect

Risen Christ,

by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples;

help your church to obey your command

and draw the nations to the fire of your love,

to the Glory of God the Father.

Amen

Dear Friends

As we move through the Easter season and approach Ascensiontide we are being blessed with some beautiful days.

Not only has the weather been unseasonably warm at times, the blossom on the trees in gardens, parks and roadsides has simply been beautiful. It's good to pause, to take time out, create some space and enjoy God's glory amongst us.

As I prepare for retirement and reflect on the last ten years, there have been many glorious times, some times of course have brought considerable challenge. Even in the midst of them I was conscious of God's presence and deep and generous love. I have been blessed to be here with you all, but it's not over yet.

The month ahead is packed with wonderful opportunities for worship. Our All Age service followed with Brunch at 10am this Sunday, our service for Ascension day, 14th May at 7pm;

a Deanery Evensong with Durham Cathedral Choir at 3.30 pm on 17th May and our service for Pentecost at 3pm on 24th May, which will be my final service followed by tea and an opportunity to say farewell.

Not least are the numerous opportunities to participate in social occasions as we celebrate throughout the year the 150th Anniversary of our beautiful church, St. Helen's. Check out the dates further on in the newsletter.

Over the years many have worshipped here from our local community and some travelled from further afield. This has been a place where many have made important vows before God; it is a place steeped in prayer, a place where people have worshipped God bringing him their concerns for each other and their world for 150 years. It is our hope it will be here as a beacon of hope to this Community for many, many years to come.

Life is a journey and every ending brings a new beginning, we don't always take easily to change but we are ever mindful that we do not journey alone.

The disciples were anxious and afraid after Jesus has ascended to his Father and yet they stayed as instructed, they waited in prayer in the city. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out in a new way upon the disciples who were transformed by that very same spirit and the church was enabled to grow as people responded to God's love.

The Gospel message of repentance, peace and reconciliation was, and is, available to all, new life was poured out upon the people. God's spirit, poured out at Pentecost, was with them. As we approach Ascensiontide may we be aware of endings and new beginnings, and be ready and expectant for a fresh outpouring of the spirit to fill us, to guide us and lead us to fullness of life.

With every blessing
Yvonne

Post Communion Collect

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life;
may we thirst for you,
this spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and forever.
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 [4911317](tel:4911317)greener.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.

Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 10th May 2026

Services and Prayer

St Helen's Sunday 10th May

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

Everyone is Welcome.

Wednesday 13th May, please note there will be no Eucharist

Please join us for Ascension Day Thursday 14th May

Sung Eucharist 7pm

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no morning service on Sunday 24th May.
The Pentecost service will be at 3pm in the afternoon, followed by
Revd Yvonne's retirement event in the church hall

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

Revd Dorothy Snowball

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.

Deanery Confirmation 9th May 2026

We will be holding a Deanery Confirmation on Saturday 9th May. The confirmation is at 6pm at St Ninian's, Harlow Green. Do come and support Marina Moat from St Chad's as she is confirmed by Bishop Frank. All are welcome.

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

St Helen's Safeguarding Committee Meeting Friday 15th May

The next meeting of the Safeguarding Committee will be held on Friday 15th May. Please let us know if you have issues you wish to be raised at the meeting.

Email: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

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 kevllynoliver58@outlook.com. Please ask your friends/relatives for any items. Thank you



**We would be most grateful for
donations of bottles of wine for the
raffle and quiz prizes. Thank you.**

Sunday 17 May Gateshead Deanery Evensong sung by Durham Cathedral Choir in St Helen's Church from 3.30pm, followed by light refreshments in the church hall. Everyone is welcome.

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

Thursday 29 May - Bird Walk with Michael Turner in Saltwell Park from 9.30am. Please meet at the Bandstand in Saltwell Park. Join Michael for coffee in Saltwell Towers after the walk to chat and ask questions. Tickets: £5 (please bring cash with you at the start of the walk) *The walk will take approx. 2 hours*

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*

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 58 families/couples and 35 single persons attended the Food Co-op (138 adults and 111 children). A steady session with many members staying for a warm, a chat and refreshments. After the initial flurry of activity there was an opportunity for the volunteers to talk and engage in friendly banter. They certainly create a very pleasant and welcoming environment. We had flags of the world displayed at the 10th Anniversary event and these have remained in the porch area, drawing lots of interest and comment, with volunteers seeking their flag

Donations were received from several churches, a local school and individual supporters. We appreciate people spreading the word about the Food Co-op. It really helps to maintain our stocks.

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 10th May 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	Robert Reay
Jennifer Elliott	Elsie Johnson	
Recently Departed: Joan Coulson		

Anniversary of Death

Brinley Montgomery	Dora Virgo	
Mary Mitchelson		
Norman Lakey		
Susan Kay		

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

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

Thursday 29 May Michael Turner Bird Walk 9.30am in Saltwell Park
(meet at the bandstand)

Sunday 31 May St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

.....

Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 10th May
6th of Easter

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 10th	1 Thess. 4. 13-end	73 v. 21-28	Rev. 21. 22 – ch.22 v.5
Monday 11th	Luke 6. 27-38	65	1 Peter 4. 1-11
Tuesday 12 th Gregory Dix, priest, monk, 1952	Luke 6. 39-end	126	1 Peter 4. 12-end
Wednesday 13th	Luke 7. 1-10	132	Col. 2. 20- Ch3. V.4
Thursday 14 th ASCENSION DAY	Heb. 7. 11-end	110	Rev. ch.5
Friday 15 th Mathias the Apostle	Acts 2. 37-end	147 v. 1-12	1 John 1. 1 – Ch2. V. 6
Saturday 16 th Caroline Chisholm, social reformer, 1877	Luke 7. 18-35	47	1 John 2. 7-17



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.