



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

13.04.2025

Palm Sunday

Liturgy of Palms Luke 19.28-40

Philippians 2. 5-11

Luke 22. 14 – to end of chapter 23

Collect

True and humble King,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.
Amen

Lenten Journey

Passiontide begins this Sunday, Palm Sunday, it's not too late if you have not yet been able to join us.

Do join us St. Helen's for Holy Week. Jesus enters into his final week and he takes the whole of humanity with him, this happens every Easter in a church near you.

We begin on Palm Sunday, when we will read the Passion Gospel of Luke in Church, having processed from the church hall carrying our blessed Palm crosses.

We are not just remembering an historical event that happened over 2000 years ago, we are celebrating and taking part in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as it happens today to us, and for us.

Jesus' entry into the city begins on a huge wave of optimism, joy and hope. The people line the streets, they wave palms, they put their cloaks and garmets on the ground and they shout out his name. The crowd welcomed Jesus- Hosanna, Hosanna Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Yet how quickly they turned on him.

There is a real danger that we can get lost in Palm Sunday and Holy Week trying to get the Liturgy just right, as well as celebrating this week with real dignity and reverence. We also need to ask ourselves what it is about and what this means to each of us.

Perhaps we may ask: where am I in the unfolding drama that begins on Palm Sunday and comes to a climax on Easter Day itself.

Where am I as Jesus passes by on a donkey? Am I one of the crowd shouting his name?

Am I one of those who betrayed him or denied him? Am I like Pilate judging or condemning others, or Simon or Veronica who help him in his time of need?

Having welcomed him will I stand with the same people shouting insults -Crucify him!- ?

As we celebrate Palm Sunday and begin this journey into Holy Week, we are called to ask ourselves who and where we are in the crowd. This is a week to pray and to decide what kind of followers of Christ we are going to be.

As we begin this most Holy of weeks may Jesus be our constant companion.

May we enter into the mystery of his life, death and resurrection with faith, love and hope.

Do join us as we journey.

Every blessing

Yvonne

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,

you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation;

give us the mind to follow you

and to proclaim you as Lord and King,

to the glory of God the Father.

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 4911317 greener.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/>

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A Prayer for Peace from Sanctuary Foundation

Lord God protector of widows and orphans, may you bring your comfort to every family and every child that is grieving, frightened or homeless because of the conflict in Israel and Gaza.

Jesus wonderful Counsellor, may you give the wisdom and grace to all who are working to find a peaceful resolution.

Spirit of peace may you change people's hearts and minds so this conflict can end quickly for your names sake.

Triune and Almighty God, help us to trust you at this time and serve you by showing compassion to all those around us.

Amen.

Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 13thth April 2025 **Services and Prayer**

Palm Sunday 13th April meet at 9.15am at the church hall for
Palm Gospel and Procession of Palms, followed by service in
church at 9.30am

APCM to follow in the hall at 11am

Eucharist at St Helen's on Wednesday 16th April at 12noon

Building the Easter garden 16TH April 1.30pm St. Helen's
Children bring an adult
Refreshments and crafts

10.30am Eucharist each 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.

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 4p

Holy Week and Easter Services and activities



**COME AND HELP BUILD
THE EASTER GARDEN
Wednesday April 16th
at 1.30 with refreshments
Meet at St Helen's
ALL WELCOME**

Wed 16TH April 1.30pm

Build the Easter Garden with children's activities and refreshments

17 April **Maundy Thursday** Eucharist, Foot Washing & Vigil at 7pm

18 April Good Friday

Walk of Witness at St Chad's – meet at church for 11am for Stations of the Cross, Walk of Witness, followed by hot cross buns at St Chad's hall

Good Friday Liturgy St Helen's 2-3pm

19 April **Easter Eve** St Helen's 7pm

20 April **Easter Day** St Helen's 9.30am
(please see attached poster for further information)



**St John Passion performed by Durham Cathedral Choir and
the Avison Ensemble**

Palm Sunday 13th April from 6pm

Begin Holy Week with a poignant performance of St John Passion, performed by Durham Cathedral Choir and the Avison Ensemble.

Tickets are not required and we encourage both regular attenders and new people to hear the remarkable piece of music. You can secure a ticket by visiting: [BACH25-
@www.durhamcathedral.tivcketsolve.com](https://www.durhamcathedral.tivcketsolve.com)

Doors open at 5.15 p.m. The performance begins at 6.00p.m. and lasts just over two hours with an interval in the middle during which refreshments are available in the Cloisters.

Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Oils Durham Cathedral Monday 14th April

Everyone is welcome to attend this service and are invited to stand in silent prayer from 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be available following the service.

Royal Maundy Service at Durham Cathedral Thursday 17th April

The King and Queen will be attending the Royal Maundy Service at Durham Cathedral on Thursday 17 April, from 11am.

During the service His Majesty will present 152 recipients, 76 men and 76 women (signifying the age of the Monarch), with specially-minted Maundy money to thank them for their outstanding Christian service and for making a difference to the lives of people in their local communities.

The following people from Gateshead will receive Maundy money:

Mrs Lynn Coulson, St Alban's, Windy Nook
Mrs Helen Flint, St Edmund St James and St Bede, Gateshead
Mr Ray Shirley, St Helen's, Low Fell

Congratulations from St Helen's church to all three recipients

Members of the public are welcome to stand outside of Durham Cathedral



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THE EASTER GARDEN**
Wednesday April 16th
at 1.30 with refreshments
Meet at St Helen's
ALL WELCOME

St Helen's APCM meeting Sunday 13 April

St Helen's APCM meeting will be held in the church hall on Sunday 13 April, from approx. 11.00am.

If anyone would like to be nominated for one of the following positions:

- PCC member
- Churchwarden
- Representative at Deanery Synod

please email: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com or talk to Helen Jones in church.

Training is available.

Safeguarding Training

Church of England basic training on safeguarding is available to anyone who is interested. If you require further information please ask Helen Jones.

Lone Worker Safeguarding Policy

A reminder that St Helen's has a Lone Worker policy in place for anyone who works/volunteers in any capacity for the church on their own. A paper copy of the policy is available from Helen Jones or for an electronic copy, please email: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

'SAVE THE DATE'

Please add these upcoming events at St Helen's to your diary

All details will be confirmed closer to the events

**Performance of popular music by the Gibside Singers, Gresley Choir and
City of Newcastle Male Voice Choir Saturday 31st May 7pm**

With refreshments and raffle

Performance by Scott Slapin Sunday 1st June 1pm

With refreshments

(some of you may have attended Scott's superb performance in November last year)

Summer Fair Saturday 14th June 1pm – 4pm

Performance by the Felling Male Voice Choir Saturday 19th July 7pm

We are pleased to welcome back the Felling Male Voice Choir

With refreshments and raffle

Christmas Fair Saturday 15th November 1pm to 4pm

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

Toy Donations

The box of toys which is left outside of church is proving very popular. We would be grateful for any donations of clean toys in good working order please. These can be left in church on Sundays, Wednesdays or Fridays or in the church hall on Wednesday mornings.

Thank you!

St Helen's Church Hall

A reminder that the church hall is available to hire for birthday parties/events on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons. We also have space for regular bookings (exercise classes, book club, craft activities etc) during the week. For further information contact : office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

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 £5.

As from 8 May, the cost of the lunch club will be £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 07847096709

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.



Dear Supporters

This week 118 persons representing 75 families/couples and 43 single people collected food from Bensham Food Co-op (173 adults and 125 children). These numbers are significantly higher than the previous week when 104 people representing 65 families/couples and 39 single people collected food (164 adults and 105 children). Donations were received from several local churches, a primary school, a Food Waste Champion and individual

supporters. Thank you once again for all the consistently generous donations and for delivering the goods to Corpus Christi in a timely manner.

Today was a very busy session with all the fruit and vegetables distributed well before the close of the session. Despite the numbers, there were plenty of dried and tinned goods to offer.

Next week is the last session before we break for two weeks over Easter. We anticipate many youngsters and will distribute chocolate eggs and have been donated good quality soft toys and books to share.

Please note that The Food Coop will be closed for two weeks over the Easter period. Our last session will be Tuesday April 15th. We will be closed on the 22nd and 29th of April and will reopen on 6th May.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment.
Kind regards, Kath



THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME A BETTER WAY TO GIVE

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, worshipping together through 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**

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 13th April 2025

Sick	Sick	Sick/Other needs
Maria Barrell	Amelia Grace	Lena
Mark Adams	Lesley Baister	Sarah Hamilton
Lucy	Felicity	Maryam
Diane Telfer	Margaret Clayton	Sienna
Roger Barrell	Alan Brownlee	Atila
Joyce Rowell	Joyce Tindale	Michael
Ann	George Lackenby	Nicola
Stan Conway	Carole	Joe
Niraj	Emily	
Recently Departed: Jenefer Kirstin Llewelyn- Shorter		

Anniversary of Death

Alan Robinson	Thomas 'Tommy' Gray	
Brian Sangster	Chris Hall	
Margaret Fraser	George Bowey	
Doris Hornsby		

Church

Please pray for our current Deanery vacancies.

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 – 13th April 2025

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 13 th Palm Sunday	1 Cor. 2. 1-12	61	Luke 20. 9-19
Monday 14 th Monday of Holy Week	Luke 22. 1-23	41	Col. 1. 18-23
Tuesday 15 th Tuesday of Holy Week	Luke 22. 24-53	27	Gal. 6. 11-end

Wednesday 16 th Wednesday of Holy Week	Luke 22. 54-end	102	Rev. 14. 18- Ch15. V4
Thursday 17 th Maundy Thursday	Luke 23. 1-25	42	Eph. 2. 11-18
Friday 18 th Good Friday	Heb. 10. 1-10	69	John 19. 38-end
Saturday 19 th Easter Eve.	John 2. 18-22	142	1 John. 5. 5-12

Here is the QR code for St Helen's website.

