



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

'At St Helen's church we believe that God's love is unconditional and meant for everyone. Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here. We celebrate diversity in age, background, ability, race, gender and sexuality.'

20 .09.2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings

Exodus 16. 2-15

Philippians 1. 21-end

Matthew 20. 1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.'



Collect

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Post Communion Collect

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
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.

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Safeguarding Contacts

***To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact either
the Parish Safeguarding Churchwarden 07505105184
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.***

St Helen's Church contacts:

**Churchwardens: Helen Jones Mobile: 07505 105184
Tony Gunning Mobile: 07864 695115
Parish office: office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com**

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YOU ARE INVITED
TO
ST HELENS CHURCH

Celebrating
150TH
ANNIVERSARY
1876 – 2026

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE WELCOME

THE BISHOP OF DURHAM
VISITING
St Helens All Age Service

— SUNDAY —
20TH SEPTEMBER
9.30

.....♥.....
All Welcome

150 YEARS OF
FAITH, HOPE
& LOVE

.....♥.....
*Thankful for our past,
looking to our future.*



Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 20th September 2026
Services and Prayer

St Helen's

Sunday 20th September 9.30am Eucharist

The Bishop of Durham's visit followed by brunch in the church hall

Everyone is Welcome

(please see invitation above for details)

Wednesday 23rd September

St Helen's Eucharist 12 noon

Revd Barry Abbott presiding

Sunday 27th September

9.30am St Helen's Eucharist

Revd Margaret Mackay presiding

Wednesday 30th September

St Helen's Eucharist 12 noon

Revd Norma Clee presiding

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

Sunday 20th September

Revd Barry Abbott presiding

Sunday 27th September

Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding

All are welcome to join in worshipping at **St Helen's and St Chad's**, we hope to see you soon. 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

Gordon Hunt 1930-2026

Gordon's first connection with St Helen's church was in 1962 when he and Mary brought their youngest daughter Ann to be baptised. Over the next 7 years they were not regular attendees to church but took both Gillian and Ann to Sunday school and Brownies with the two Miss Aistons.

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In 1969, Gillian was confirmed and this was when Gordon and Mary looked more at their faith and were confirmed together in 1970.

As Gordon's faith deepened so did his commitment to St Helen's and over 56 years this became a central part of his life. He became involved in many roles within the church including PCC and Deanery Synod, Churchwarden four times, covering two interregnums, choir member, Lay Assistant for 38 years and leading the development of the present church hall, as well as attending regular services and social events. Some of these skills he even used when working in the Middle East.

St Helen's church was important to Gordon. He last attended church two days before going into hospital in March but always felt part of the family through regular visits from Redv Yvonne, church members and through the prayers that were said for him.

His funeral will be held in St Helens church on Tuesday October 6 at 10.15am to which anyone who remembers Gordon is welcome to attend.

Gillian Hunt

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](#)

Dates for Your Diary

Heritage Open Days 18-20 September

There will be a photo exhibition and guided tours of the church during this weekend.

Table Top Sale Saturday 10 October - contact Lynn to book a table



Saturday 14 November Christmas Fair 1-3pm
Sunday 22 November Performance by Scott Slapin from 2pm

Wedding Dress Showcase 11-13 September



A huge thank you for everyone who lent their wedding dresses and other memorabilia for this event. Thank you also to volunteers who helped to set up the exhibition, meet visitors and serve refreshments during the weekend. A special huge 'thank you' to Lynn Oliver who organised the

event, sourced the dresses and other items, and set up the stunning exhibition. This entailed a lot of hard work, but it was most definitely a huge success! Over 100 people visited the exhibition and Project 150 received £220 in donations. Thank you everyone.



Here are just some of the photos of this lovely event.



Pearl of Africa Choir

Sadly, we have been advised that the Choir have been unable to secure visas for their tour this autumn. To assist with fundraising, we have invited them to set up a craft stall at our Christmas Fair to assist with raising funds. We are also planning a coffee morning for January 2027.

If you would like to support their emergency appeal (hoping to reach a target of £100,000 by Easter 2027) this will significantly help to bridge the funding gap created by the cancelled tour. Here is the link to the Just Giving appeal: [Emergency JustGiving Appeal](#)

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.

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 others 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.

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 £6.50

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 07847 096 709

**Come and join us for
Coffee and Company at St Helen's Church Hall
Sundays from 10.30am to 12noon
Everyone is Welcome**

Support for those in Poverty.

We are glad that the congregation of St Helen's continues to make regular, generous donations to the Corpus Christi Food Co-op. Gillian Hunt regularly takes our donations to the Food Co-op and it would be great if we could all increase our donations. As we read every week, the need for free food is not going away and anything donated is greatly appreciated. **All donations should be left at the back of church on Sunday, Wednesday or Friday.**

A LOCAL RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS - St. Anne's Church, Harlow Green, NE9 7UD Wednesday 30th September 7.00pm

We would like to invite you to a mini conference in St Anne's Church Halt, Harlow Green to celebrate the work of Green Pastures and Outreach Housing and to share our story with you.

Outreach Housing is a small provider of Supported Housing and works in partnership with Green Pastures, a national Christian charity which seeks to end homelessness in the UK by partnering with local churches.

Please RSVP by 21st September at christopher.warren@diocesehn.org.uk



Dear Supporters,

This week 99 people, representing 60 families/couples and 39 single persons attended the Food Co-op. Donations were received from several local churches, the SVP, two primary schools and individual supporters. The Fareshare allocation included apples, pineapples, cabbages and tomatoes, ensuring all members left with a good selection of fresh food to accompany dried and tinned items.

A very busy session. We are updating our records so signing in was a bit slower than usual. Hopefully, in the long term, it will mean this process will be more streamlined. The refreshment area was popular as usual, with many people stopping for tea or coffee and biscuits and a good chat.

With many thanks for all the donations that are appreciated by members and volunteers. Thanks is also given to all who deliver the items to Corpus Christi in good time for the session on Tuesday.

With kind regards for your steadfast support.

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 [St Helen's Low Fell Gateshead - 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 20th September 2026

Sick	Sick	Sick/Other needs
Mark Adams	Michael Mion	Sarah Hamilton
Lucy	Brian Carr	Michael
Roger Barrell	Margaret Clayton	Maryam
Joyce Rowell	Tom Spence	Sienna
Ann	Les Gibson	Ian
Stan Conway	Carole	John T
Niraj	Pauline	
John	Joe	Rowan
Valsa	Sharok	Joyce Tindale
Ruth	Ali Hsami	Linda Richardson
Jennifer Elliott	Kirsty	
Joe Huddleston	Elsie Johnson	
Jacqueline Crichton	Susan Gaddess	
Recently Departed: Gordon Hunt, Maria Barrell		

Anniversary of Death

Barney Anderson	Gillian Robinson	Georgina Patterson
Thomas Lamb	Flo Baker	Albert Livick
Doreen New	William Robert Hewitson	
Raymond Tunstall	Colin Clifton	

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
 Low Fell St Helen's

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 September 2026

Tuesday 1 September St Helen's PCC meeting at 6pm in the church hall

Wednesday 2 September St Helen's 12noon **NO SERVICE**

The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 & 1942

Friday 4 September St Helen's Social & Pastoral Committee at 11am in the church hall

Sunday 6 September St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding with a baptism at 11.30am. Harriet Ren Shannon*

St Chad's 10.30am Service of the Word

Tuesday 8 September St Helen's 150th Anniversary Committee meeting at 6pm in the upper hall

Wednesday 9 September St Helen's **NO SERVICE**

Charles Fuge Lowder, priest, 1880

Friday 11 September **Wedding Dress Exhibition** in the church 10am to 4pm

Saturday 12 September **Wedding Dress Exhibition** in the church 10am to 4pm

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Sunday 13 September St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Kathryn Tiernan presiding*

Wedding Dress Exhibition in the church 12-2pm

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Wednesday 16 September St Helen's **Eucharist 12noon** *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Ninian, bishop of Galloway, apostle to the Picts, c.432; Edward Pusey, tractorian, 1882

Friday 18 – Sunday 20 September Heritage Open Days in the church, will include guided tours of the church

Sunday 20 September St Helen's **9.30am** All Age/Family Service, Blessing of new doors, celebrating St Helen's 150th anniversary

The Bishop of Durham presiding

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Wednesday 23 September St Helen's 12noon Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Sunday 27 September St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

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

Wednesday 30 September St Helen's 12noon Eucharist *Revd Norma Clee presiding*

Jerome, translator of the scriptures, 420

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Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – 20th September

Trinity 16 (proper20)

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 20th	Rev. 14. 1-5	119 v. 153-end	Matt. 6. 19-end
Monday 21 st Matthew, apostle and evangelist	2 Tim. 3. 14-end	49	Matt. 19. 16-end
Tuesday 22nd	Acts 19. 21-end	48	Mark 12. 35-end

Wednesday 23rd	Acts 20. 1-16	119 v. 57-80	Mark 13. 1-13
Thursday 24th	Acts 20. 17-end	57	Mark 13. 14-23
Friday 25 th Lancelot Andrewes, bishop of Winchester, 1626	Acts 21. 1-16	51	Mark 13. 24-31
Saturday 26 th Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army	Acts 21. 17-36	68	Mark 13. 32-end

TO DONATE TO ST HELEN'S please follow this link:

[St Helen's Low Fell Gateshead - A Church Near You](#)

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.**