

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

31.05.2026

Trinity Sunday

Readings

Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27-end

2 Corinthians 13. 11-end

Matthew 28. 16-end

Collect

Holy God

faithful and unchanging:

enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,

that we may truly worship you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Message From Revd Yvonne and Ian

Dear friends,

We want to say a huge Thank You to all of you for your love, good wishes and generosity to us, not only last Sunday when you gave such an amazing send off - (so many comments were made verbally and via email about the fabulous cakes and spread that you all contributed to and the hard work of those who put the day together), but also throughout our time here in Low Fell and throughout all of Gateshead.

The singing was amazing, accompanied brilliantly by both Keith on the organ and the band from St. John's - thank you! The spirit was truly with us.

Thank You for your many gifts, countless cards and beautiful flowers. They are all delightful - but most of all thank you for coming and making the day such a special one .

It was so troubling that Ian was not with us on the day itself, I know you have been concerned for him but I am pleased to say he is home from hospital now and recovering. Thank you for your prayers.

The travel vouchers that you bought us are such a blessing, we will look forward to using them. A holiday and a rest feel overdue.

Ian and I have loved being with you, our time here has been very special and we have built many precious friendships that I know will last.

Please be assured of our continuing prayers for you all as you move forward together, with God, into this next exciting chapter.

With every blessing
Yvonne and Ian

Post Communion Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love;
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever.
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
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 31st May 2026
Services and Prayer

St Helen's
Sunday 31st May 9.30am Eucharist
Revd Barry Abbott presiding
Wednesday 3rd June
St Helen's Eucharist 12noon **NO SERVICE**

10.30am Eucharist on Sunday at Bensham and Teams,
St. Chad's
Revd Dorothy Snowball presiding

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.

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](#)

Bishop of Durham – Installation Sunday 7 June

Rick Simpson will be installed as Bishop of Durham on Sunday 7 June at 3pm at Durham Cathedral.

For tickets and further information, please follow this link:

<https://durhamcathedral.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173666562>

The service will also be live-streamed via Durham Cathedral's You Tube channel.

Visit to St Helen's – The Bishop of Durham will attend the service at St Helen's on 20 September. Bishop Rick will meet the congregation, bless the new church doors and celebrate our 150th Anniversary. *Further details will follow*

Revd Yvonne – Retirement Event

Thank you to all the Volunteers who came together as a team to make Yvonne's Retirement Event so special.

Catering for over 100 people is an amazing thing.

Well done to all of you!!!

Helen and Tony, Churchwardens

Saltwell Park Bird Walk 28 May – Thank You

Thank You to Michael Turner for leading the bird walk in Saltwell Park on Thursday 28 May.

Thank you also to Wendy Young for organising the event for Project 150.

It was great so many people were able to attend and enjoyed the walk.



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 kevlynoliver58@outlook.com. Please ask your friends/relatives for any items. Thank you.



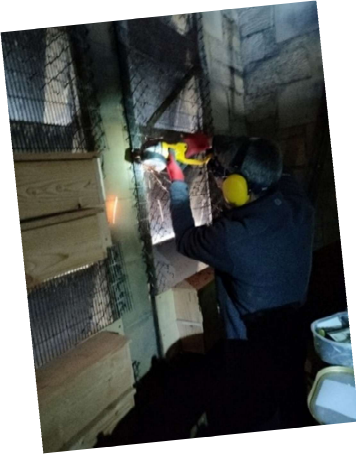
Saturday 20 June
Grainger Singers at
St Helen's Church from 7pm

Tickets £8 available on the door on the night

Raffle and Light Refreshments during the interval

Offers of raffle prizes would be much appreciated. Thank you

Swift Boxes at St Helen's



As part of our Eco church commitment, we are thrilled to have had swift boxes installed in the church tower. These will allow migratory swifts to build nests in the tower and encourage them to return year after year. We may have to wait for three or four years for them to settle in but it will be worth it.



Saturday 13 June – St Helen's Summer Fair 1-3pm

Please join us, everyone is welcome

Stalls include

**Home crafted cards
Jams & Preserves
Kiddies Corner
Tombola
Handicrafts**

**Handicrafts
Bake and Cake Stall
Plants
Raffle
Preloved Toys & Games**

Refreshments



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.

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



Dear Supporters,

This week 37 families/couples and 34 single people attended the Food Co-op (106 adults and 69 children). As it was half term, many children accompanied their parents. Yesterday, we received donations of a large fluffy dog and children's stationery items. We decided to hold a raffle for these items. This was well received by all the youngsters, and many went home planning on an afternoon of colouring in.

Donations were received from several churches and individual supporters. The Fareshare allocation included sugar snap peas, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots and mushrooms. Everyone left with a wide selection of tinned, dried and fresh fruit and vegetables. Grateful thanks is given for all the donations and to those who deliver the items to Corpus Christi in good time for the session on Tuesday.

Today we welcomed one of our volunteers who is now working full time in Nissan but called in on his day off. He brought his wife and young son, who was well admired. It is encouraging to hear how the young man who originally lived in the supported house in Affleck St, brought his wife over and has settled in our community. It is always a pleasure to hear how our volunteers are doing.

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 31st May 2026

BAPTISMS

Sunday 24 May Please continue to pray for: Heidi Rose Callander; Lottie-Mae Maria Greenwell; Lauren Jane Carss; Francis James Carss and Erin Sophia Carss whose baptisms took place last Sunday. Also, for their families and friends.

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	Ian
Ann	Les Gibson	John T
Stan Conway	Carole	Helen
Niraj	Pauline	Gordon
John	Joe	Rowan
Ritchie Robson	Sharok	Joyce Tindale
Valsa	Ali Hsami	Robert Reay
Ruth	Kirsty	
Jennifer Elliott	Elsie Johnson	
Joe Huddleston	Susan Gaddess	
Recently Departed:		

Anniversary of Death

Leslie Taylor	George Waters Laidler	
Laurence Liddington	Alice Jean	
Margaret Lee Munro	Peter James Garnett	
Redvers Pattinson		

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

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St Helen's Church - Monthly Diary June 2026

Sunday 31st May St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist Trinity Sunday

Revd Barry Abbott Presiding

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

Tuesday 2 June

Chapter meeting St John's Church 9.30am

St Helen's PCC meeting 6pm in the church hall

Wednesday 3 June St Helen's 12noon Eucharist NO SERVICE

The Martyrs of Uganda 1885-7, 1977

Saturday 6 June Pilgrimage to Holy Island

Sunday 7 June St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Bill Rigby presiding*

11.30am Baptism Cleo Eve Gracie Johnson *Revd John Mayes presiding*

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist tbc

Wednesday 10 June St Helen's 12noon Eucharist NO SERVICE

Friday 12 June Social and Pastoral meeting St Helen's Church Hall 11am

Saturday 13 June Summer Fair St Helen's Church Hall 1-3pm

Sunday 14 June Family Service 2nd Sunday after Trinity St Helen's 10am followed by brunch in the church hall *Priest to be confirmed*

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Revd Margaret McKay presiding*

Wednesday 17 June St Helen's 12noon Eucharist tbc

Samuel & Henrietta Barnett, social reformers, 1913 & 1936. Alban, first Martyr of Britain c.250

Saturday 20 June Grainger Singers at St H

St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Revd Dorothy Snowball presiding***St Chad's 10.30am**
Eucharist *Revd Barry Abbott presiding*

Wednesday 24 June St Helen's 12noon Eucharist – tbc
The birth of John the Baptist

Sunday 28 June St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist tbc
St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Revd Mike Dixon presiding*

Tuesday 30 June St Helen's Anniversary Committee meeting St Helen's
Church hall 6pm

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Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 31st May
Trinity Sunday

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 31 st	John 17. 1-11	86 v. 8-13	John 16. 5-15
Monday 1 st June Visit of Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth	Mark 3. 31-end	85	John 3. 25-30
Tuesday 2 nd	Luke 10. 38-end	5	Rom. 4. 13-end
Wednesday 3 rd The Martyrs of Uganda, 1885-1887 and 1977	Luke 11. 1-13	119 v. 1-32	Rom. 5. 1-11
Thursday 4 th Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion	1 Cor. 10. 1-17	147	Luke 9. 11-17
Friday 5 th Boniface, bishop, apostle of Germany, 754	Luke 11. 29-36	19	Rom. 6. 1-14
Saturday 6 th Ini Kopuria, founder of Melanesian Brotherhood, 1945	Luke 11. 37-end	23	Rom. 6. 15-end



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.