



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

05.04.2026

Easter Day

Readings

Acts 10. 34-43

Colossians 3. 1-4

John 20. 1-18

Collect

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

What a surprise!

We have travelled with the Disciples through Lent and Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday as we processed together from the hall to our church and for the first time entered directly through our main doors. We walked up the newly built ramp; it felt wonderful to be making such an entry, especially on Palm Sunday. The day of the triumphal entry to Jerusalem when Jesus was hailed king with Palms waving and cries of Hosanna. Only for the week to unfold and for those same people to betray him, deny him, desert him and condemn him.

And yet in the face of all this he keeps on loving, sharing their table and washing their feet. Even in his last moments he tells the thief on the cross, 'Today you will be with me in

Paradise.' He brings together his already bereft mother, Mary, with the one whom he loved, John, telling them 'here is your mother and here is your son.' Assuring them of companionship in their grief. Always loving, and yet the heaviness of that day lingered and bore down, how could it not?

Jesus had suffered the most terrible humiliation and death on a cross for all to see. The one they had hailed king, who they had trusted with their hopes and dreams on Palm Sunday had died in front of their very own eyes. No one could deny it! Once more a huge stone had been rolled in front of the tomb, guarded by the Roman Army, to ensure his body could not be removed .

Yet God is a God of surprises. On that Easter day when Mary made her way to anoint Jesus' body for burial he was gone. This gave her no comfort. Where was her Lord? Where had they taken him? What had they done with him?

Her vision blurred by tears, she did not recognise him as he approached her, grief and confusion kept her rooted in her loss. As he called her by name it dawned who this was.

Alleluia Christ is risen! The Lord is here.

A new day was dawning, hopes and dreams were being restored.

We are each called by name and God is in the midst of us and often we do not know it. The Lord is here with us, whatever our circumstances and he calls us into new life with him. A life rooted and grounded in love and full of surprises.

For death could not hold him.

Do join us this Easter as we celebrate. Our Easter Vigil is at 7pm when we meet to bring the new paschal candle into Church. We celebrate the light shining in the darkness - for the darkness cannot overcome it.

We meet at 9.30am on Easter day to celebrate the Risen Lord bursting forth from the Tomb, with songs of joy and thanksgiving and of course chocolate - our Easter Egg hunt takes place afterwards in the garden.

Our hopes and dreams are restored as we look to the future and new beginnings!

Alleluia Christ is risen- he is risen indeed Alleluia!

Happy Easter

Every blessing Revd Yvonne

Post Communion Collect

God of Life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
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

Safeguarding Contacts

***To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact either
the Parish Safeguarding Churchwarden 07505105184
or 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
Email: beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk or beth.miller@durham.anglican.org
Mobile: 07968 034075.***

INEQE independent safeguarding audit

Please see attached information and link to the full report.

Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 5th April 2026

Services and Prayer



Holy Week and Easter Services at St Helen's 2- 5 April

**2 April Maundy Thursday 7pm Eucharist, Foot Washing and Vigil
at St Helen's**

**3 April Good Friday Walk of Witness at St Chad's 10.30am followed by
hot cross buns in St Chad's church hall**

Good Friday Liturgy 2pm St Helen's

4 April Holy Saturday Easter Eve Liturgy 7pm St Helen's

5 April Easter Sunday Celebration Eucharist 9.30am St Helen's

Wednesday 8th April

There will be no midweek Eucharist this Wednesday.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS NOW THAT THE BUILDING WORK IS COMPLETED. DO COME AND VISIT US.

10.30am Eucharist on 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, 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. **However, due to building work please join Durham Cathedral on line as above.**

Deanery Confirmation 9th May 2026

We will be holding a Deanery Confirmation on Saturday 9th May.

If anyone wishes to be baptised or confirmed or want to know more about this, do speak with Reverend Yvonne.

Visit/Pilgrimage to Holy Island 6 June

The visit to Holy Island will now take place on Saturday 6 June. Further details will follow.

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](#)

St Helen's 150th Anniversary – Open Afternoon and Exhibition Saturday 18th April 1.30-3.30pm

Find out more about St Helen's Church and Church Hall

An opportunity to meet some of our regular hall groups, join in activities and view a small exhibition of the history of St Helen's in our 150th year. Including photographs of the work carried out to improve the access to our church.

Visit the Church

Come and see the beautiful new entrance doors and spend some quiet time in the church. Built by Edward Joicey in 1876, it includes windows by Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones.

The Wednesday Warm Welcome Group – Crafts

Crafts for sale and try your hand at a new craft

Yogawallah

Free seated yoga taster class 2-2.30pm (in the upper hall)

Low Fell Volunteer Gardeners Plant Stall

Stock up on plants for Spring and Summer

Breastfeeding Group 'Boob Club' and Toddler Group

Play and activities for babies and toddlers

Find out about Brownies, Guides and Beavers

Book the church hall

Book a baptism or wedding

Find out about our services, including our monthly Family Services

Fund Raising for Project 150 Phase 2

To provide a disabled toilet and kitchen in the church

Find out about future 150th Anniversary Events

Cake Stall

Refreshments – Tea/Coffee/Scones/Cake

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

Wednesday 29 April Michael Turner Cabinet of Curiosities – Talk from 7pm in the church hall
(more details to follow)

Monday 11 May Pie and Pea Supper with a Quiz and Bingo. At the Gateshead Arms

6.30pm for 7pm. *(more details will follow)*

Sunday 17 May Durham Cathedral Choir in St Helen's Church from 3.30pm

Thursday 29 May – Bird Walk with Michael Turner in Saltwell Park from 9.30am. *(more details to follow)*

Saturday 13 June St Helen's Church Summer Fair

Saturday 20 June Grainger Singers in St Helen's Church from 7pm ***please note this is a change of date from 6th June***



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.

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**



Lindsey Blair, who leads runs the Boob Club in St Helen's church hall on a Wednesday morning, has been nominated for Volunteer of the Year in this year's Gateshead Awards.

Lindsey has been shortlisted for an award which is great news and recognition of the hard work she puts into this very popular group. To vote for Lindsey please follow this link:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/11178/Vote-for-your-winners>

All new mums and baies are welcome on Wednesdays, in the church hall, from 10am.

Plastic Storage Boxes Needed

We now have boxes outside the church with toys for the local children and we'd be very grateful for any storage boxes with lids you are able to donate. The boxes become easily damaged and the toys also become damaged. Thank you.



St Helen's 'Book House'

You may have seen our new 'Book House' at St Helen's. We very much hope that you will browse and borrow books, and also please donate any books which you no longer require.

Happy reading!

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

Today, 64 couples/families and 40 single persons attended the Food Co-op (161 adults and 126 children). A steady session throughout with many members staying for refreshments and a chat. Donations were received from local churches, primary schools, individual supporters and a Food Waste Champion. The fresh food from Fareshare included onions, leeks and potatoes enabling all members to leave with a healthy variety of items.

Today we were able to distribute Easter Eggs to all members. Thanks to everyone who assisted in the amazing response. All members were very pleased and surprised with their gift.

We are celebrating 10 years of the Food Co-op on Saturday 25th April when volunteers, past and present, and supporters are invited for refreshments. This will be held at Corpus Christi Church from 1.00 – 3.00. We look forward to seeing you.

We will close now for the Easter break and re-open on Monday 20th April for donations and Tuesday 21st April for the Food Co-op.

Thank you for your continued 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, 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**

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 5th April 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	
Ruth	Kirsty	

Anniversary of Death

Louie Hancock	<u>Percy Lumley</u>	Alfred Higgins Marshall
William James Mack	Ann Bryson	
Anthony Gunning	Charles Curgenvin	
Gladys Jane Snaith	Harry Futter	

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 Schools.

St Helen's Church Monthly Diary March/April 2026

Wednesday 1 April St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Wednesday of Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 2 April 7pm Eucharist, Foot Washing and Vigil at St Helen's

Good Friday 3 April 10.30am Walk of Witness at St Chad's followed by hot cross buns in St Chad's church hall.

Good Friday liturgy 2pm at St Helen's

St Chad's – *Revd Dorothy Snowball presiding*

Holy Saturday 4 April 7pm St Helen's Easter Eve Liturgy

Easter Sunday 5 April 9.30am St H Celebration Eucharist

Wednesday 8 April St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Sunday 12 April St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

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

Tuesday 14 April St Helen's Anniversary Committee meeting 6pm in the church hall

Wednesday 15 April St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Saturday 18 April St Helen's Open Afternoon/Hall Users event 1.30-3.30pm in the church hall

Sunday 19 April 10am St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

Monday 27 April Gateshead Chapter Meeting 9.30am St Helen's

Wednesday 29 April St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Catherine of Sienna, teacher of the faith, 1380

Cabinet of Curiosities Talk Michael Turner 7pm in the church hall with refreshments

.....

**Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 5th April 2026
Easter Day**

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 5 th Easter Day	Rev 15. 2-4	117	John 20. 11-18
Monday 6 th Monday of Easter Week	1 Cor. 15. 1-11	111	Mark 16. 1-8
Tuesday 7 th Tuesday of Easter Week	1 Cor. 15. 12-19	112	Luke 24. 1-12
Wednesday 8 th Wednesday of Easter Week	1 Cor. 15. 20-28	113	Matt. 28. 16-end
Thursday 9 th Thursday of Easter Week	1 Cor. 15. 29-34	114	Luke 7. 11-17
Friday 10 th Friday of Easter Week	1 Cor. 15. 35-50	115	Luke 8. 41-end
Saturday 11 th Saturday of Easter Week	1 Cor. 15. 51-end	116	John 11. 17-44



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.**