

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.'

27.09.2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

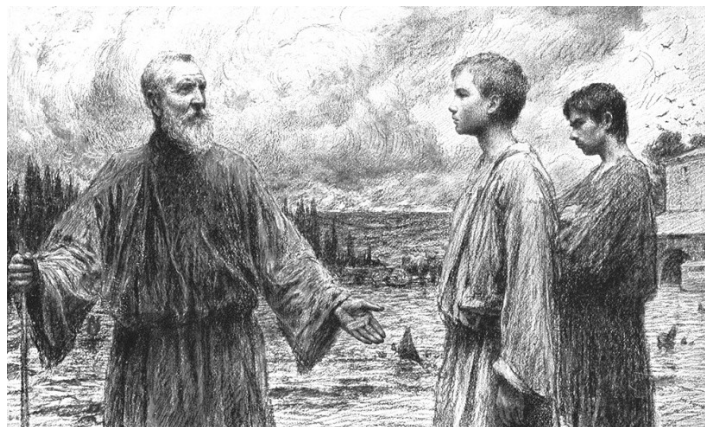
Readings

Exodus 17.1-7

Philippians 2.1-13

Matthew 21.23-32

The Parable of the Two Sons



Collect

Gracious God,
you call us to the fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post Communion Collect

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
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
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

.....

Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 27th September 2026
Services and Prayer

St Helen's

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

Sunday 4th October

10am Family Service – Harvest Festival

Revd Barry Abbott presiding

With the Uniformed Organisations

**We would be grateful for donations of food items
which will be distributed to the Food Coop. Thank you.**

Wednesday 7th October St Helen's – NO SERVICE

Bishop of Durham's Visit Sunday 20 September

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Rick to our service on 20 September, when he blessed the new church doors and ramp. He very much enjoyed meeting the congregation, especially the families and children.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. We are sure the Bishop left with a positive view of St Helen's and its community.



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

Sunday 27th September

Revd Canon Dorothy Snowball presiding

Sunday 4th October Harvest Festival

Revd Margaret Mackay 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

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](#)

Table Top Sale Saturday 10 October -
contact Lynn (see poster) to book a table



Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 14 November Christmas Fair 1-3pm

Sunday 22 November Performance by Scott Slapin from 2pm

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 63 families/couples and 23 single people attended the Food Co-op (141 adults and 104 children). Members start to queue from before 8.00, despite there always being food throughout the morning, with the session remaining steady until the close. During the session we welcomed several people who are new to the area. We also welcomed the two-month-old baby of one of our 'original' volunteers. He was well admired and the volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with mum, dad and baby. Mum had baked a cake for all the volunteers that was very much appreciated. It was a delight to see them all.

We had a brilliant allocation from Fareshare that included lemons, nectarines, onions, pineapples and tomatoes. The random non-fruit and vegetable allocation included pizzas, burgers and cooked chicken. All items were well received and all members left with a bag/s of food, household items and clothing.

Donations were received from several local churches, a primary school, Gateshead Food Bank, friends of parishioners and individual supporters. Many thanks for all the donations and for ensuring that they are delivered to the Food Coop in time for Tuesday's session. Thanks also for spreading the word about the Food Coop. That enables us to be the beneficiary of unexpected but very welcome donations.

With thanks 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 27th 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	Caroline
Joe Huddleston	Elsie Johnson	George
Jacqueline Crichton	Susan Gaddess	
Recently Departed: Gordon Hunt, Maria Barrell		

Anniversary of Death

Dennis Smith	John Goodrum	Peter McCready
Tom Lamb	Bill Lough	William Dolman
Edna Wilde	Ron Greig	Ivy Howard
Dennis Walker	Millie Rennison	Catherine Illingworth
Harry Hailes	Patrick Grisdale	Linda Atkinson

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

\

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 Margaret Mackay 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

.....

Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – 27th September
Trinity 17 (proper 21)

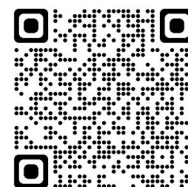
Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 27 th	Luke 11. 37-54	125	1 John 2. 22-end
Monday 28 th	Acts 21. 37 – Ch.22 v 21	71	Mark 14. 1-11
Tuesday 29 th Michael and All Angels	Acts 12. 1-11	34	Rev. ch. 5

Wednesday 30 th Jerome, translator of the scriptures, 420	Acts 23. 12-end	77	Mark 14. 26-42
Thursday 1 st October Remigious, bishop of Rheims, apostle to the Franks, 533; Anthony Cooper, Earl of Shaftsbury, social reformer, 1885	Acts 24. 1-23	78 v. 1-39	Mark 14. 43-52
Friday 2 nd	Acts 24. 24- Ch.25 v. 12	55	Mark 14. 53-65
Saturday 3 rd George Bell, bishop of Chichester, ecumenist, peacemaker, 1958	Acts 25. 13-end	76	Mark 14. 66-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.**