

## News from the Parochial Church Council

July's PCC meeting included an in-depth discussion with the Archdeacon of Chester, the Venerable Mike Gilbertson, about finding a new incumbent to replace Rev. Andrew Ridley on his retirement. The appointment will be a major factor in the life of St Helen's Church over the medium term and the Archdeacon offered his guidance to the process as well as answering questions.

Foremost in the views we shared with him, was our goal that our next incumbent be licensed full-time to St Helen's, rather than being shared with another parish. We were able to explain how we are seeing many opportunities to welcome people to church, to present our understanding of the gospel, to engage with the surrounding community and to increase our team of volunteers. The Archdeacon agreed that a full-time incumbent would be important to making the most of these opportunities and to lead us into fresh challenges.

Of course, the downside is that a full-time incumbent will require St Helen's to increase its Parish Share contribution by about £15,000 per year. We presented our case that we have ring-fenced sufficient funds to cover this increase in the first 3 years. Furthermore, the Archdeacon accepted our promise of a commitment to working with the new incumbent to increase our giving so that we could sustain the increased Parish Share beyond the initial three years.

The Archdeacon explained in some detail the process to appoint a new incumbent and gave guidance on specific matters to be addressed and the likely timescale to be followed.

At the end of our discussion, Mike Gilbertson said that he was supportive of our case for a full-time incumbent and he would guide the recruitment process to achieve that end.

*Andrew Jeapes, PCC Secretary*

## Diocesan Safeguarding Survey

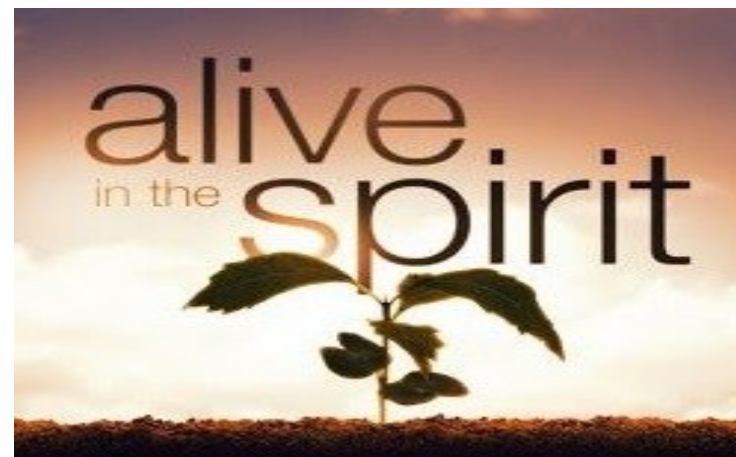
The diocese is working hard to address safeguarding issues that have plagued the Church of England in the past. In order to gauge the effectiveness of these efforts, an on-line survey has been commissioned. As a member of our congregation, you are invited to participate in the survey which you can find in the link: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/chester/> The survey is anonymous and no-one in Chester Diocese will see your individual response..

*Andrew Jeapes, PCC Secretary*



**St. Helen's Church, Witton, Northwich**

## AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



So what came next and what comes next? Last year we adopted The *Jesus Shaped People* Main Programme to help us get to the heart of what Jesus was about in his three year ministry. Through sermons and in small groups we encouraged one another to apply what we see in Jesus to our church and to the community of which we are a part. And to take practical steps to become more Jesus Shaped in our response to the needs of others. The ultimate cost of Jesus living the way he did became clear in this year's JSP Lent Course, *Cross Shaped Jesus*.

*Spirit Filled Church* answers two questions: What came next for Jesus' followers? What could come next for His followers, here, in 2025? On Sundays and in small groups between August 31<sup>st</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> *Spirit Filled Church* offers us a way to learn from the life and work of the very earliest Christians - those who formed the early Christian church in the Acts of the Apostles. How did the early disciples continue to live out the principles that Jesus had modelled and which had reshaped their lives? We will see how Jesus, so powerfully at work in the disciples' lives in the gospels, continues to re-shape them by the power of the Holy Spirit. Dynamic ministry, rapid growth and a world-changing mission followed.

Please join me on the next stage of our *Jesus Shaped People* adventure!

*Andrew Ridley, Vicar*

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## Dates for your Diary



### AUGUST

3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00am. Said Communion ('thee' and 'thou' language).

9.15am. Worship Together Communion.

2.30pm. - 4.30pm. "Tea at the Tower" and Tower Tours.

6<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday : Feast of Transfiguration - *read St Luke 9.28-36.*

7<sup>th</sup>

Thursday : 10.30am.-12.30.pm. : 'Let's Talk' & *MIND* Group.

9<sup>th</sup>

Saturday : 10.00am. - 12 noon - Church open for Coffee & Cake.

Saturday : 12 noon : Beth & Craig's wedding rehearsal.

10<sup>th</sup>

#### Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9.15am. Holy Communion with hymns.

14<sup>th</sup>

Thursday : 10.30am.-12.30.pm. : 'Let's Talk' & *MIND* Group.

16<sup>th</sup>

Saturday : 10.00am. - 12 noon : Church open for Coffee & Cake.

17<sup>th</sup>

#### Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9.15am. Holy Communion with hymns.

20<sup>th</sup>

12 noon - Holy Communion in the Holy Cross Chapel followed by CAMEO Lunch.

21<sup>st</sup>

Thursday : 10.30am.-12.30.pm. : 'Let's Talk' & *MIND* Group.

23<sup>rd</sup>

Saturday : 10.00am. - 12 noon : Church open for Coffee & Cake.

24<sup>th</sup>

#### Tenth Sunday after Trinity : St Bartholomew's Day

9.15am. Holy Communion with hymns.

28<sup>th</sup>

Thursday : 10.30am.-12.30.pm. : 'Let's Talk' & *MIND* Group.

29<sup>th</sup>

Friday : 3.00pm. : Beth & Craig's wedding.

30<sup>th</sup>

Saturday : 10.00am. - 12 noon : Church open for Coffee & Cake.

31<sup>st</sup>

#### Eleventh Sunday after Trinity : 'Spirit Filled Church' Wk. 1

9.15am. Holy Communion with hymns.

1.00pm. Holy Baptism.

### SEPTEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup>

Tuesday : 10.30am. : Worship Leaders' meeting at the Vicarage.

3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday : 7.30pm. : PCC Standing Committee - Vicarage.

4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday : 10.30am.-12.30.pm. : 'Let's Talk' & *MIND* Group.

6<sup>th</sup>

Saturday : 10.00am. - 12 noon : Church open for Coffee & Cake.

7<sup>th</sup>

#### Twelfth Sunday after Trinity : Spirit Filled Church Wk. 2

8.00am. Said Communion ('thee' and 'thou' language).

9.15am. Worship Together Communion.

2.30pm. - 4.30pm. "Tea at the Tower" and Tower Tours.

## Tiny Steps



We are supporting Northwich based charity 'Tiny Steps' on Saturday mornings and at 'Tea at the Tower' this month and next. It's a small charity aiming to provide a sensory centre & social cafe for children & young people with additional needs and their families. ([tiny-steps.co.uk](http://tiny-steps.co.uk)).

## Place of Welcome



"Place of Welcome" is on a three month break, re-opening on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. "Let's Talk" and the *MIND* Bereavement Groups meet weekly this month on Thursdays, 10.30am. - 12.30pm.

## Vacancy



After almost 5 years as PCC Secretary, Andrew Jeapes has decided it is time to give up the role (although he is willing to continue as Treasurer). If you feel you could help St Helen's Church by undertaking this role Andrew is willing to describe what it involves. Talk to the Vicar & Churchwardens, too. A role description is posted on the noticeboard at the back of church.

## Flowers



Thank you for donations towards the cost of pedestal flowers this month: 3<sup>rd</sup> August Rev. & Mrs Gowler; 10<sup>th</sup> August George Miller; 17<sup>th</sup> August Keith & Pat Wilson; 24<sup>th</sup> August Anon; 31<sup>st</sup> August Anon. The following dates are still available: 21<sup>st</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> October.

Pat Wilson

## Tower Room



Please pick up a leaflet about this exciting project. A self-contained, independently-heated meeting room will be really useful for smaller meetings and reduce gas and electricity consumption and our carbon footprint.

## Working Party



The next Churchyard Working Party will be held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 9.00am. - 12 noon-ish; refreshment break included!

## Noticesheet & Newsletter

Read the weekly Noticesheet and monthly Newsletter online at [achurchnearyou](http://achurchnearyou) website and Facebook at *St Helen's Northwich*. September's Newsletter will appear on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The weekly deadline is Thursday mornings. September's deadline is the 4th. News items, please, to [arridley1@gmail.com](mailto:arridley1@gmail.com).

