

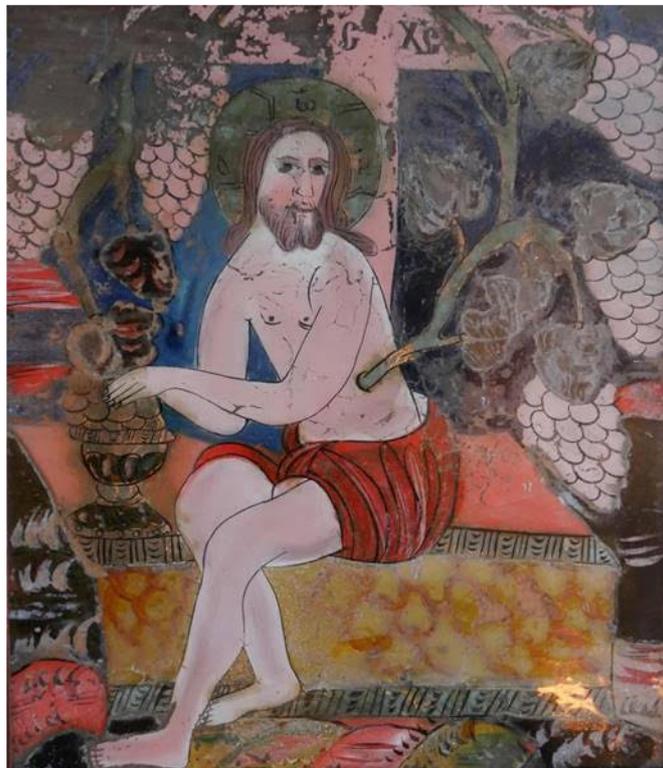
*Pastoral Letter and Church Notices*

*ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, LOW FELL*

**Easter 5**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**I am the vine you are the branches**



Dear Friends,

Our readings this morning are rich in imagery and hope. Acts 8.26-end and John 15.1-8. How wonderful to abide in God, to know the peace of his presence and the power of his love, active in our own lives and the life of the world around us.

In our Gospel reading Jesus gives us an introduction to the Great mystery of God sharing his life with us.

I am the vine, you are the branches ..... my father is the vine-grower.

Vines are distinctive trees, it is sometimes hard to separate the branches from the stem, they can seem intertwined. Not unlike God's life in us, the life that he offers as we abide in him. The life that will flow through us like streams of living water, the life we are called to offer and to share with others.

In our Acts reading we see Philip putting this into practice, Philip responds to the still small voice of God in the depths of him as he reads scripture.

He is moved to approach a stationary chariot where he finds the Ethiopian Eunuch reading the Prophet Isaiah. He invites Philip to sit with him and questions him about the passage.

As Philip proclaims to him the Good News about Jesus, we are told this man seeing water on the roadside states, 'Look here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized! '

In the ancient world man was an outcast a foreigner, and more than likely a slave, there were so many barriers to him being accepted as equal to others in society. In God's economy all are welcome.

The Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized and on receipt of the Holy Spirit, he went away rejoicing and would likely share his story, sharing the Good News offering new life to others.

Streams of living water flowing from the side of the crucified Christ, - in death new life offered for the world, that all may abide in God's love.

Jesus gave up his life for each and every one of us, there is nothing that is to prevent anyone from being baptized on receiving God's Good News.

Earlier in John's Gospel chapter 7, Jesus is at the festival of tabernacles, at the high point of the ritual on the last day of the festival. Water is brought from the pool of Siloam and poured over the altar in the Temple. Jesus stood up and cried out. 'If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and let him drink who has faith in me '.

John comments ' out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water'- only revealed after his death, rivers of living water alive with the spirit would flow out from him for all who were thirsty and had faith. This is the water of new birth that becomes a fountain of water.

The life of the spirit is offered to the whole world, regardless of creed, colour, gender, sexuality. All are welcome in God's economy, the gift of new life is for all.

In his death, through the blood and the water. God shares the gift of his life with us and as we remain in the vine, as we abide in him, he abides in us and only in him and through him will we bear much fruit.

**I am the vine you are the branches.**

**As we abide in the gift of his love may we as his church be ready to share this love with all those around us.**

**AMEN**

Post Communion Collect

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and forever.

Blessing

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
has given us the victory,  
give you joy and peace in your faith;  
and the blessing of God almighty, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
be with you and those you love always.

**Amen**



**Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**

**Good News**

I am so delighted to share the good news that Amy and Henry's daughter, Imogen Lucy, has finally arrived.

Imogen Lucy was born at 3.55am on 27<sup>th</sup> of April, weighing 7lbs 9oz

Our Congratulations to Amy and Henry, and a very warm welcome to Imogen Lucy.

We look forward to seeing you together and joining us in church when life allows, sometime in the future.

**Resuming Sunday worship in St. Helen's**

If you would like to join us in worship, **please do book a place with Ray Shirley 07703 412819.**

**Whilst it will be wonderful to gather together for worship, the Clergy and Churchwardens must encourage you not to gather outside after the service but to continue to maintain social distancing both in and out of church, as well as remembering to sanitise and continue to wear a mask.**

**Our buildings may be closed midweek but we are still here for you.**

**God is with us**

The direct link to join us on a Sunday for the Deanery Service is on the Gateshead Deanery website [www.gatesheaddeanery.com](http://www.gatesheaddeanery.com) or on the Gateshead Deanery Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/GatesheadDeanery](https://www.facebook.com/GatesheadDeanery)

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May Eucharist**

**9.30am St Helen's Church** (book a place - Ray Shirley – 07703 412819)

**10.30am St Chad's Church** (book a place - Margaret Hope – 07817 524852)

There are also services of morning prayer on our St Helen's Low Fell Facebook page - **go live at 8.30am Tuesday and Thursdays**

[www.facebook.com/St-Helens-Church-Low-Fell-Gateshead-2137151649845299](https://www.facebook.com/St-Helens-Church-Low-Fell-Gateshead-2137151649845299)

You can participate in worship with Songs of Praise BBC1 at 1.15pm or Morning Service with BBC Radio 4 at 8.10 am or through using our morning and night prayer services available on the website with the attached readings and prayers.

### **Evening Prayer**

We are meeting each **Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 5.15pm** using the Daily Prayer App on Zoom, join us by clicking below from 5pm.

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481908142?pwd=TmpVWE5mU1p4TUVxbDZRZ3Y1ekZoZz09>

Meeting ID: 894 8190 8142

Passcode: 952082

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May APCM**

Our **APCM** will take place on Sunday 9th May in church at 10.45.am following on from a shorter Eucharist. (There will be no sermon)

Due to Covid rules and regulations, places will need to be booked by contacting Ray Shirley - 07703 412819

There are two places available for new PCC members, please prayerfully consider whether you may be being called to serve in this way. Do speak with a Churchwarden or one of the Clergy for further information.

Annual Reports are available this Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> after the service, **if you are on the electoral roll** and would like an online copy please email Hazel at [office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com)

### **Thy Kingdom Come Ascension Tide to Pentecost**

Do join us to celebrate Ascensontide on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

9.30 Morning Prayer

10am Eucharist (Please book a place - Ray Shirley – 07703 412819)

From Ascensontide to Pentecost we undertake 10 days of pray as we pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us, our church and our community.

Each morning we will lead Morning prayer on Gateshead Deanery Facebook page – do join us.

### **Opening the Church and Hall**

Please pray that we have sufficient resources to enable our work to continue and flourish, that we may continue to worship God, carry out his will and welcome others into this sacred space.

If you are able to contribute by giving freely of your time, energy or financially, this would be received thankfully.

If you currently give via envelope and would like someone to collect your envelopes, please contact a member of clergy or our Churchwarden Tony Gunning.

Tel: 0191 4874424.

### **Pastoral Network**

We continue to call people regularly. If you would like a regular call or are willing to support by calling others do let one of the Clergy or churchwardens know.

Please contact the person who rings you if you are unwell or have any concerns.

Alternatively contact one of the ministry team. We are here to help.

If you wish, and are able, to make a financial or food donation to support the food co-op in these difficult times do contact the clergy or wardens.

Our Hospitality Group meets every two weeks, please contact Dorothy Shirley if you would like to join or for more information. Tel. 0191 4870403.

### **Pandemic**

Please continue to pray that this pandemic subsides, especially throughout our world where communities are overwhelmed and medical infrastructures are fragile.

Pray for generosity and support with the vaccine, oxygen and necessary resources.

We especially pray for India at this time

If you are grateful for the medical care you receive, I encourage you to pay it forward by donating to an international Charity such as OXFAM or Christian Aid in support of this.

With every blessing. Revd Yvonne - 0191 4911317

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**Mailing Form**

I have attached an updated consent to mailing form, please return the completed form, via email, to [office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com) to ensure you receive the most recent updates, opportunities and communication of church life.

### **INTERCESSIONS 2.05.21**

#### **Sick**

Emily Rhodes  
Maria Barrel  
Vera Robinson  
Tony & Hilda Branch  
Jane Marshall  
Helen Hillar  
Ian  
Shirera  
Wendy Brown  
Sue Coates  
Janine Bainbridge  
David Young  
Lindsey  
Charlotte Alice Lorraine

Marilyn Reay  
Emma  
Mason  
Derek Gunning  
Don Lloyd  
Mark Adams  
Jane  
Anne Foster  
Joan Todd  
Lucy  
Tony  
Kevin  
Natalie Crawford  
Crystal  
Jeremy

#### **Other needs**

Stephen  
Pat  
Jenna

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#### **Recently departed**

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#### **Anniversary of death**

Edmund Harrison  
Isaac Jones  
Thelma Bennett  
Clifford Oliver

Julia Elizabeth Smith  
Lilian Ancrum  
Robert Bryson  
Martin McIntosh

Brian Wright  
Harry Todd  
Annie Mai Johnson

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#### **Local Projects**

Gateshead Care Homes  
Bensham Food Co-op, Gateshead Food Bank, Oasis, Changing Lives

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#### **Local schools**

Kelvin Grove Primary, Kells Lane Primary, Dryden School,  
St Aidan's Church of England

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