



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

17.05.2026

Sunday after Ascension Day

Readings

Acts 1. 6-14

1 Peter 4. 12-14 + ch5 6-11

John 17. 1-11

Collect

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the Glory of God the Father.

Amen

Dear Friends,

Yesterday evening we celebrated Ascension Day in St Helen's, as Jesus ascended to the Father. He tells us he will not leave us comfortless and promises his disciples the advocate, the comforter, the Holy Spirit who will come to them at Pentecost like a rushing wind with tongues of fire to be with them always. God with us. Today - Friday, begins the ten days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost that we have come to associate over these last few years with Thy Kingdom Come, an ecumenical movement in which Christians throughout the world pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon his world, his church and the people in it.

To join in with this we simply need to set aside time to pray each day, to sit with God, listen for him and ask for the gift of his spirit upon those we love, for our churches, our communities and the wider world.

We are asked to pray for five people who we long will come to know the good news of God and his deep and generous love for them. There is an app available to be down loaded from Thy Kingdom Come which offers inspirational prayers and daily reflections to enable us to take part in this global wave of prayer. As we journey towards Pentecost, the app is a positive means of support for our prayer. It can also be ordered as a booklet from the Church of England website. [Thy Kingdom Come | The Church of England](#)

This is a liminal time as we await God's spirit and Pentecost and recall that first outpouring on the Disciples at Pentecost which led to the birth of the church and the Gospel being spread to the furthest places on our planet. The fearful disciples became bold in their witness and the church came into being and grew throughout the world. There are numerous denominations held together as one in Christ Jesus. May we sing with our lives what we proclaim with our lips, that his deep and generous love may be encountered by others.

Do join us in this prayer journey, there are many opportunities. This Sunday we meet at 9.30am for Holy Communion in Church where all are welcome. In the afternoon at 3.30pm Durham Cathedral Choir, accompanied by the Boy Choristers, are coming to sing Evensong in St. Helen's, do join us - all are welcome! The following Sunday there will be five Baptisms in church then at 3.00pm we will celebrate the festival of Pentecost. This will also be my final service in St. Helen's after 10 years of having the privilege of serving our church and community here in Low Fell, Bensham and Gateshead.

Please be assured that I will be praying each day for our churches and communities going forward especially the newly baptised and confirmed.

This year is our 150th at st Helen's of serving the community in this place and sharing God's deep and generous love with others there are many opportunities to join in with the celebrations, you are all welcome. Do check out the events in this letter and come along.

We look forward to you being with us.
With every blessing
Revd Yvonne

Post Communion Collect

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
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.***

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Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 17th May 2026
Services and Prayer

St Helen's
Sunday 17th May 9.30am Eucharist

Wednesday 20th May Eucharist 12noon St Helen's
Alcuin of York, deacon, Abbott of Tours, 804

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no morning service on Sunday 24th May.
The Pentecost service will be at 3pm in the afternoon, followed by
Revd Yvonne's retirement event in the church hall

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

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.

THY KINGDOM COME PRAYER APP

Do join us each day as we pray for God's Holy Spirit.

[Thy Kingdom Come | Thy Kingdom Come](#)

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Every year we at St Helen's support the work of the international charity Christian Aid which supports people in poverty around the world. We will have an opportunity to donate in church and also through a fundraising page this year. Please do consider supporting this vital work which is needed more than ever in countries whose aid has been reduced by the USA and the UK.

To donate on line please follow the link below:

https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/st-helens-fundraising-christian-aid?utm_medium=sharedbuttons&utm_campaign=&utm_source=copy

Thank You to all who have already given, there is still time for those who have not yet had an opportunity. You can also pick up an envelope **in church if you are not able to give online, every little helps to bring life to others.**

THANK YOU - Pie and Pea Supper 11th May

Thank you to everyone who supported our quiz at the Gateshead Arms last week, everyone has commented that it was a wonderful evening. The total amount raised was £531.00, in support of our church. St Helen's, which celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

Special thanks must go to Lynn and Kevin Oliver and to the Gateshead arms for their support – Manager, Stevie Baarrett, Quiz Master, Neil Gardner and bar staff Michelle, Sean and Theo.

Visit/Pilgrimage to Holy Island 6th June

As part of our Project 150 celebrations we are planning a pilgrimage to Holy Island on Saturday 6th June. We plan that some people will walk the Pilgrim Way and others will visit the island. We are hoping that enough of us will be able to offer lifts to those who have no transport. Although she will no longer be our priest following her retirement, Revd Yvonne will be joining us for the day.

If you have any questions or wish to sign up for the day please text 07505 105184, or fill in the form at the back of church.

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](#)

Age Concern Advice and Information Drop In Session at St Helen's Warm Space on Wednesday 27 May from 10.30am.

Everyone is welcome



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.



Sunday 17 May
Gateshead Deanery Evensong
sung by
Durham Cathedral Choir in
St Helen's Church from
3.30pm,

followed by light refreshments
in the church hall.
Everyone is welcome.

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



Thursday 29 May – Bird Walk
with Michael Turner in
Saltwell Park
from 9.30am.

Please meet at the Bandstand
in Saltwell Park.

Tickets: £5

**Join Michael for coffee in Saltwell Towers after the walk to chat
and ask questions.**

(please bring cash with you at the start of the walk)

The walk will take approx. 2 hours

Saturday 13 June St Helen's Church Summer Fair *(more details to follow)*

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

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**

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,

This week 89 people representing 50 families/couples and 39 single persons attended the Food Co-op (130 adults and 107 children). Some were feeling cold due to the brisk northerly wind blowing along Brighton Road, but they soon warmed up in the café area.

We welcomed a couple of new members from our community, who stayed and chatted and enjoyed the refreshments. Donations were received from local churches and individual supporters. All were gratefully accepted to enable the Food Co-op to continue operating.

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.

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Intercessions Sunday 17th May 2026

BAPTISMS

Sunday 24 May Please pray for: Heidi Rose Callander; Lottie-Mae Maria Greenwell; Lauren Jane Carss; Francis James Carss and Erin Sophia Carss on the occasion of their baptism. And 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	Eddie Clark
Ann	Les Gibson	John T
Stan Conway	Carole	Helen
Niraj	Pauline	Gordon

John	Joe	Rowan
Ritchie Robson	Sharok	Rob
Valsa	Ali Hsami	Joyce Tindale
Ruth	Kirsty	Robert Reay
Jennifer Elliott	Elsie Johnson	
Joe Huddleston		
Recently Departed: Joan Coulson		

Anniversary of Death

Joseph Bunting	Joan Brown	
Ethel Smith	Mary Atkinson	
Frank Joseph Snaith	Joan Evans	
Arthur Jones	Tom Graham	

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 School

St Helen's Church Monthly Diary May 2026

Sunday 3 May St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

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

Tuesday 5 May St Helen's PCC meeting 6pm in the church hall

Wednesday 6 May St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

St John the Evangelist

Sunday 10 May St Helen's 10am Family Service followed by brunch in the church hall

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

Monday 11 May Pie and Pea Supper at the Gateshead Arms (see details in the newsletter)

Thursday 14 May Ascension Day St Helen's 7pm Eucharist

Friday 15 May St Helen's Social and Pastoral Committee meeting at 11am
St Helen's Safeguarding Committee meeting at 1.30pm

Sunday 17 May St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist

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

St Helen's Gateshead Deanery Evensong sung by Durham Cathedral Choir
3.30pm, followed by light refreshments in the church hall

Tuesday 19 May 150th Anniversary Committee Meeting from 6pm in
the church hall

Wednesday 20 May St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Alcuin of York, deacon, Abbott of Tours, 804

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

Wednesday 27 May St Helen's 12noon Eucharist

Thursday 29 May Michael Turner Bird Walk 9.30am in Saltwell Park
(meet at the bandstand)

Sunday 31 May St Helen's 9.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

St Chad's 10.30am Eucharist *Clergy tbc*

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Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – Sunday 17th May
17th Sunday of Easter

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 17 th	Rev. 21 1-8	104 26-35	Mark 16. 14-end
Monday 18 th	Luke 7. 36-end	93	1 John 2. 18-end
Tuesday 19 th Dunstan, archbishop of Canterbury, 988	Luke 8. 1-15	99	1 John 3. 1-10
Wednesday 20 th Alcuin of York, deacon, abbot of Tours, 804	Luke 8. 16--25	29	1 John 3. 11-end

Thursday 21 st Helena, protector of Holy Places, 330	Luke 8. 26-39	24	1 John 4. 1-6
Friday 22 nd	Luke 8. 40-end	28	1 John 4. 7-end
Saturday 23 rd	Luke 9. 1-17	43	John 15. 26- Ch.16 v. 15

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.**