

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

12.01.2025

The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43. 1-7

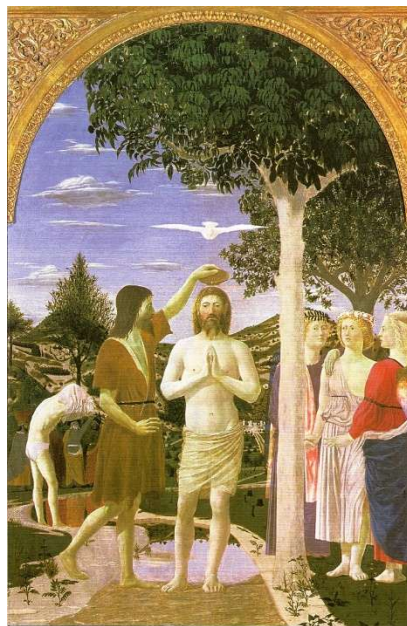
Acts 8. 14-17

Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

Collect

Heavenly Father

at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognise him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



The Baptism of Christ by Piero della Francesca

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus christ our Lord.
Amen.

Safeguarding Statement

The Parochial Church Council is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and nurturing environment for everyone, especially for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It has adopted and approved the Church of England policy for promoting a safer church. This policy deals with all aspects of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

To discuss any safeguarding concerns relating to St Helens please contact either

- *the Parish Safeguarding Churchwarden 07505105184*
- *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 - she can be contacted as follows: Address: Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham DH1 3RY

Email: beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk or beth.miller@durham.anglican.org

Mobile: 07968 034075. For further information please also see the Diocese of Durham safeguarding pages: <https://durhamdiocese.org/category/safeguarding/>

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A Prayer for Peace from Sanctuary Foundation

Lord God protector of widows and orphans, may you bring your comfort to every family and every child that is grieving, frightened or homeless because of the conflict in Israel and Gaza.

Jesus wonderful Counsellor, may you give the wisdom and grace to all
who are working to find a peaceful resolution.

Spirit of peace may you change people's hearts and minds so this conflict can end quickly
for your names sake.

Triune and Almighty God, help us to trust you at this time and serve you by showing
compassion to all those around us.

Amen.

Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 12th January 2025
Services and Prayer

9.30am Sunday Service at St. Helen's
Revd Margaret Mackay will preside

12noon Eucharist at St Helen's Wednesday 15th January

Sunday 19th January – Family Service at 10am
This will include a Christingle and we will be joined by the
Uniformed Organisations.

The service in church will be followed by brunch in the church hall.
Donations will go to the Childrens' Society for their work with children and young people.

10.30am Eucharist each Sunday at Bensham and Teams St. Chad

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

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.

Week for Prayer of Christian Unity

Do join us as we come together to pray for Christian Unity at Beacon Lough Baptist Church on **Sunday 19th January at 6pm.**

All are welcome. *Please see attached poster.*

Embrace the Middle East

A total of £415.92 has been sent to Embrace the Middle east in support of their work. Thankyou for the generous donations recived at aour Christmas Carol services.

Social and Pastoral Committee meeting Friday 17 January

The next meeting of the Social and Pastoral Committee will be held on Friday 17th January from 10.15am in the upper hall. Please contact Helen Jones or email office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com if you have anything you wish to riase, or everyone is welcome to join us.

DOUBLE CENTURY CLUB 2025

**Thank you very much to everyone who has agreed to support
The Double Century Club in 2025**

A total of £962 has been raised this year towards church funds.

**The monthly winners are 1st Prize £50 and Runner up £25
The first draw of the year will be on 12th January.**

Safeguarding Training

Church of England basic training on safeguarding is available to anyone who is interested. If you require further information please ask Helen Jones.

Safeguarding Committee Meeting Thursday 16th January

This meeting has now been re-arranged from Wednesday 8th January. Please let us know if you have any issues you would like to raise. Contact Helen Jones or email

office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

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

St Helen's Church Hall

A reminder that the church hall is available to hire for birthday parties/events on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons. We also have space for regular bookings (exercise classes, book club, craft activities etc) during the week. For further information contact :

office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

The British Red Cross Face to Face First Aid Course

To be held at

St Andrews Church Hall, Lamesley, Gateshead, NE110EU

On Wednesday 29th January 2025

Starting at 2.30pm and finishing at 4pm

This free Community workshop covers basic first aid and is also a refresher for those who feel their first aid knowledge has lapsed. The course will include CPR and how to use a

Defibrillator. If you are interested in attending please email galaxyj123@icloud.com

Or text 07957871375 and leave your name and contact details.

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 £5.

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 07847096709

Wednesday Warm Welcome Drop in at St Helen's

Every Wednesday morning 9.30am-12.30am - 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.



Dear Supporters,

Happy New Year to all our supporters. Today was our first session back after the Christmas/New Year break, with 94 people representing 57 families/couples and 37 single people attending despite the bitter weather (140 adults and 93 children).

Donations were received from several local churches, primary schools, Food Waste Champions and individual supporters. The Fareshare allocation included tomatoes, potatoes and carrots enabling all members to receive a full bag of fresh fruit and vegetables in addition to dried and tinned items and bread.

The volunteers worked tirelessly, with all of them being called on during the session for translation assistance. Today the various volunteers spoke Albanian, Turkish, Arabic, French, Farsi, Tigrinya and English. Without them we would not be able to engage so successfully with our local community.

On January 20th from 2.00 – 3.30 there will be an Open Afternoon for volunteers and supporters of the Food Co-op. You are most welcome to join us for refreshments and to meet the volunteers.

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, worshipping together through 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 12th January 2025

Sick	Sick	Sick/Other needs
Maria Barrell	Amelia Grace	Lena
Hilda Branch	Lesley Baister	Sarah Hamilton
Mark Adams	Felicity	Maryam
Lucy	Margaret Clayton	Sienna
Diane Telfer	Maureen Gibson	Atila
Roger Barrell	Alan Brownlee	Niraj
Emma	Mark	Michael
Joyce Rowell	Joyce Tindale	Nicola
Ann	George	Joe
Stan Conway		
Emily		

Anniversary of Death

Margaret Armstrong	Frank Malcolm	Joan Douglas
Sid Atkinson	Howard Gibson	Jeff Hornsby
John Lisle	Betty Hailes	Marguerite Joyce Hagen
Becky Smith	Edward Carson	Joan Hutchinson

Church

Please pray for our current Deanery vacancies.

Local Projects

Gateshead Care Homes

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

Kells Lane, Kelvin Grove and St Aidan's Primary schools

Morning Prayer/Evening Prayer Readings – 12th January

1st Sunday of Epiphany

Day/ Date	Morning Prayer	Psalm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 12 th Baptism of Christ	Acts 19. 1-7	89 v. 19-29	Mark 1. 4-11
Monday 13 th Hilary, bishop, teacher of the faith, 367; Kentigern (Mungo), missionary bishop, 603; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers) 1691	1 Cor. 1. 1-17	2	Matt. 21. 1-17
Tuesday 14 th	1 Cor. 1. 18-end	9	Matt. 21. 18-32
Wednesday 15 th	1 Cor. Ch2	20	Matt. 21. 33-end
Thursday 16 th	1 Cor. Ch.3	21	Matt. 21. 1-14
Friday 17 th Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356; Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932	1 Cor. Ch.4	67	Matt. 22. 15-33
Saturday 18 th	1 Cor. Ch.5	33	Matt. 22. 34-end

Amy Carmichael, spiritual writer, 1951			
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Here is the QR code for St Helen's website.

