

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

**25.7.21**

*St. James the Apostle*

*Merciful God whose Apostle St. James*

*Leaving his father and all that he had*

*Was obedient to the calling of your son Jesus Christ*

*and followed him*

*help us forsaking the false attractions of the world,*

*to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay*

*through Jesus Christ Your son Our Lord*

*who is alive and reigns with you*

*in the unity of the Holy Spirit*

*one God now and for ever .*

*Amen*

**Dear Friends**

Pilgrimage has always been an important part of the Christian faith. The desire for Christians to grow in their relationship with God is often described as a journey and going on a Pilgrimage is a way of letting the outward journey of our bodies enrich the inner journeys of our hearts and minds. Our Pilgrimage continues as we remember and celebrate the life and witness of the Apostle James who left his father and all that he knew to follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Santiago de Compostela, is known as the way of St. James - The Camino.

His emblem is the scallop shell, often used at our baptisms, so it is with delight that I commend to you three of our Asylum seekers who will be baptised this morning at St Chad's church. They too have left all that they knew, their homes, their families their livelihoods in pursuit of truth and the peace that passes all understanding. Today they will declare publicly their Christian faith and as living stones they take up their place in the body of Christ being built into a Spiritual temple, a dwelling place for God.

Our Life journeys are not without challenge, perhaps we cannot imagine making the journeys they have, but each day we are called to live and love in the service of Christ and to walk his paths of peace in the communities we find ourselves.

Please remember the newly baptised in your prayers this week and do also remember all those who continue to journey and risk their lives in pursuit of fullness of life. for themselves and others. Amen

Today we give thanks for St. James  
God of Pilgrimage  
Be with us on our journey  
Through this life;  
Guard and defend us  
Shelter and feed us  
Challenge and inspire us  
Teach us and lead us  
And when our days are ended  
welcome us home at last  
to rest in your love for ever.

Amen

## **Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

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 continue to wear a mask and sanitise on entry and departure. 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 25<sup>th</sup> July - Eucharist**

**9.30am St Helen's Church** (book a place - Ray Shirley – 07703 412819)  
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There are also services of morning prayer each morning on our Gateshead Deanery website from 8am.

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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/87228291467?pwd=enUrM1Q0V2dkanpWbHI2ZDR4RERUdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 2 829 1467  
Passcode: 271082

### **Mission and Ministry**

Lockdown has presented some financial challenges for our church as we lost all our hall income and cash collections for services and occasional offices. If you are able to donate to the church no matter how small, we would be so grateful. 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.

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Tony Gunning. Tel: 0191 4874424.

Thank You so much for your generosity

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### **Passion for the Planet**

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**23 July to 3 August 2021**

**Tickets only £3 and £1 for children under 1yrs**

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Saturday 24 July 2pm and 7pm  
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By phone: 07956 891110 (£1.50 booking fee)

**Please also find attached the A5 flyer for the show.  
Please share and advertise where you can. Thank you!**

**Church Garden Project**

It was great to hear that so many people had a positive experience helping with the garden and, also that you were joined by people from the community. We are planning to have another session on Sunday August 1st from 2pm -4pm and hope that you will be able to join us and that we have another positive experience. Please do invite family, friends and neighbours to join us.

If any of you have any plants you are thinning out or have too many of, we'd be grateful to have them for planting.

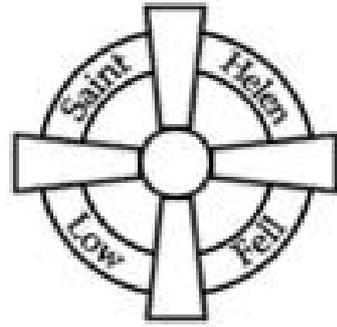
**Revd Alex Crawford**

Many of you will know that Alex, Natalie and their lovely family will soon be leaving us to take up a first incumbency in West Yorkshire.

I am sure you will agree with me when I say how much we have enjoyed having Alex as our Curate, his ministry has been a blessing. Whilst on the one hand, we are sad to see him and his family go, yet we know it is the right thing for them. May they grow in their life together and with God's guidance continue their Pilgrim journey into a new community.

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