



Pastoral Letter and Church Notices

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, LOW FELL

Easter 6

Collect

Risen Christ,

**by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.**

I have appointed you to go out and bear fruit

Dear Friends,

Tomorrow we will hold our APCM where we will share news in report form of our previous year as the living and breathing church together in this place.

There is no doubt that this has been a most challenging year, I know that many of you will be facing and grappling with unprecedented change as you come to terms with unexpected happenings in your own lives, as well as the impact of the Pandemic in our community and wider world.

As I reflect on this Sunday's readings, I am drawn to the words above

'I have appointed you to bear fruit'

Much of our focus this year has undoubtedly been in response to pandemic, however I point you to the continuing work of our PMC, that group of folk who initially came together to discern God's will for us in this place. To discern what is his preferred and promised future for this community. Can we remain open to his spirit, discern his will and work with him in bringing it to fruition?

This is God's call to us – not just those who have volunteered but all of us baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus, all who are open to the Holy Spirit and willing to be

obedient to his desire for us to abide in his love and to share the good news of his love with others, prayerfully and practically.

I recall the words of Archbishop William Temple

'The church is the only organization that does not exist for itself but for those who live outside of it'

God calls us to work in partnership, primarily with God- who is three in one, community in God's self, our primary partner in mission. God, our partner in mission, is always active, always up to something, God's very nature 'is missionary', by missionary one means the eternal crossing of boundaries to the other in love.

In John's gospel we are told 'the spirit blows wherever it will'- the spirit takes no account of what is 'proper' in terms of human processes and priorities.

We perhaps need to extend our vision and be prepared to have our dearly held views and assumptions turned on their heads, it is challenging. We are called to love one another and to abide in him if we are to bear fruit. We do this in dwelling in the word – ruminating on a piece of scripture, enabling us to remain with God's vision and not simply our own.

We are each called to play our part for it is God's people, both you and I who hold the future of the church in their hands. Jesus entrusts this to his friends. He tells us 'you are my friends if you do what I command you'.

As we reflect on the past tomorrow and look to a new future, we take heart and remain ready and open to a fresh outpouring of the spirit this Pentecost.

I pray that we will be willing to recognize our vulnerabilities, yet follow our calling into uncharted territories, as we discern new partnerships in this neighbourhood and work together that God's kingdom is made visible in our midst.

Do join us tomorrow for our worship and APCM as we journey to Ascensiontide and Pentecost reflecting on these words.

'I have appointed you to go out and bear fruit'

With an assurance of God's love for you
Revd Yvonne

Blessing

**God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator Redeemer, Sustainer
be with you and those you love this day and always
Amen**

Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 9th May 2021

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 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 or on the Gateshead Deanery Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GatesheadDeanery

Sunday 9th 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

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/85428661680?pwd=eUcyd2M5a1FaWVdiN3ZOR2l2Mm5XUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 2866 1680
Passcode: 464355

Sunday 9th 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 now in church , **if you are on the electoral roll** and would like an online copy please email Hazel at office.sthelenschurch@gmail.com

Christian Aid Quiz

Do join us on Zoom for the Christian Aid Quiz on Wednesday 12th May at 7pm. Donations to take part are welcomed in support of Christian Aid's work throughout the world at this particularly challenging time. Donate through Just Giving.

[e-envelope | Christian Aid Week](#)

Zoom Link

Topic: Christian Aid quiz

Time: May 12, 2021 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89949902239?pwd=Q3ppcFRpeU8zOU42NzNLeDEycDU0UT09>

Meeting ID: 899 4990 2239

Passcode: 946385

I hope you will be able to join us

Thy Kingdom Come Ascension Tide to Pentecost

Do join us to celebrate Ascensiontide on Thursday 13th May.

9.30am Morning Prayer

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

From Ascensiontide 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

Prayer booklets

Prayer resources for use throughout Ascensiontide to Pentecost are available in church, if you are unable to attend but would like a prayer booklet.

Please contact Revd Derek Brown 0191-4875922

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.

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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

Mailing Form

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