



Pastoral Letter and Church Notices

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, LOW FELL

**Easter 3
18 April 2021**

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Dear Friends,

As I write to you our country is still marking the official 8-day period of mourning for HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

In keeping with the Covid restrictions HRH Queen Elizabeth and her family will be paying their last respects and saying their final goodbyes at St. George's Chapel Windsor.

Coming to terms with the death of a loved one is traumatic at the best of times, but in these times of pandemic it is so much more difficult to grieve. These are times when we would all pull together to comfort one another in our loss but the restrictions make that near impossible. I have no doubt that we will all have experienced the loneliness of grief, we will all have experienced loss of one form or another, I feel sure that we can each identify with the Royal Family in their grief as we can with the disciples in this week's Gospel story.

Two of the disciples had made the journey back from Emmaus to tell their friends the good news, that Jesus had risen! The eleven grappled with this in their grief when the Living lord appeared to them. This is one of the three snapshots Luke gives us of the Resurrection.

There is an early church tradition that Luke was not only a doctor, but an artist, shown in his ability to portray human beings and paint human emotions.

Luke vividly describes the shock, the fear, and the doubt that they experienced as he appeared to them once more and yet Jesus greets them with words of Peace.

“Peace be with You.” Jesus offers them Peace, healing and wholeness, a peace that passes understanding that death has no dominion over.

Luke makes the point in our reading today that the resurrection of Jesus was not merely a spiritual event in the minds of the disciples but was something starkly physical.

“Touch me and see, a Ghost does not have flesh and bones.”

When our loved ones die, when they go before us we wonder if we will ever see them again, doubt and anxiety kicks in amongst the grief. The disciples thought they had seen a ghost, but Jesus assures them and us, that death is not the end.

God has done something dramatic in the course of real human history, in conquering death through his own resurrection, Christ has opened the way to eternal life.

As we remember HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh and all our loved ones who have gone before us, may we give thanks for the life they have shared amongst us and may we be ready to comfort one another in our Grief.

May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Amen

Blessing. God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and may the blessing of God almighty the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those
you love this day and always. **Amen**
with love and prayers Revd Yvonne



Worship and notices week beginning Sunday 18th April 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 07703412819**. There are a number of places available.

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

Sunday 18th April Eucharist

9.30am St Helen's Church (book a place)

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

Followed by:

Zoom coffee morning from 11.00am:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85141754877?pwd=cE0rcEZDNFlwK09laHRVVk8xYTVRQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 4175 4877

Passcode: 736043

***To book a place for all St Helen's church services,
contact Ray Shirley 07703412819***

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/84964806955?pwd=U015dVhJV2ZuTXAzc204UWFRRnRoZz09>

Meeting ID: 849 6480 6955
Passcode: 241341

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.

With every blessing. Revd Yvonne - 0191 4911317

Mailing Form

I have attached an updated 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.

