

# St Helen's Church Magazine

June 2023



**In June –**  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June**



**First New Beginnings Service – 25<sup>th</sup> June**



*We do not charge for our magazine but a regular donation will help towards production costs.*

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**Steve Walker**



**Chris Long**

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**Please feel free to contact any member of the PCC or Social Committee if you have a question or suggestion.**

**All enquiries and more information on all services and events:  
[www.sthelensdarleydale.org.uk](http://www.sthelensdarleydale.org.uk)**

## June's Letter

'Potential' is a very interesting word. Well, it is to me. In April/May we have children doing examinations or in some schools, mocks to get ready for their 'real' mocks! The exams, mocks, GCSEs, A Levels etc. help some children focus on their potential. Especially in May onwards, as mocks give way to GCSEs and A levels and other qualifications, I cannot imagine the stress our young people are facing at this time. Sadly, then other children are overwhelmed by the future. What to do – going on to university or doing an apprenticeship or maybe going into full time work. For some children, who have SENs or are simply not able to thrive in the educational system, their potential may seem unsure. When parents think about their children's potential there's often a twofold tension between being successful (maybe another word could be secure?) or being happy (enjoying one's work and feeling a positive experience at the end of the day). Potential is also a challenge for people who have chronic or life limiting illnesses.



Think of the potential that Deborah James lived out in the end of her life? She wanted to make sure others took poo checking seriously. Imagine, when she was planning out her life, do you think that part of her 'witness' or 'success' would be dressing up as a giant poo?

During these past few weeks, I've been taking my wife, Sharon to the Weston Park Cancer Centre for Radiotherapy after a number of operations for skin cancer and cancer in her eye. As I

waited for her in the waiting room, I saw the whole of our humanity pass by - young attractive, fit men and women who were nursing staff, radiographers, consultants etc. Then people who had that emaciated look where cancer steals from one's life and weight. Then there were a few men who were in handcuffs and had prison guards by their side. One man said, 'I don't want to die in prison'. There were people who were having palliative care and there were those wonderful moments when someone walked or shuffled over to the bell on the wall and they rang it with more force than their condition seemed to allow! Everyone then stopped and clapped the 'end of treatment' bell.

In this warm month which often seems so full of life and colour and hope, there is also much pain and fear of futures which may not be in our plan. Jesus Christ sees through us and He sees our human journey. Though God sees our whole life from a place of Eternity, this doesn't mean he's taking away any of our personal freedoms. For you and me, we don't really know what tomorrow holds. God loves every one of us to the core; from the moment of birth to the moment we die. Please do hear this, "You and I are so beloved by God". Whatever each chapter of our lives involves, we are truly loved. God is present with our young people who are planning their futures and thinking about their potential. To those who are questioning their potential. What I saw in the Cancer Centre was fragile, broken people and yet as I listened into some of the conversations, there was a fragile strength, or their words spoke of hope and love. After three weeks my wife finished her radiotherapy. I don't want to sound like a service broadcaster but please be mindful of the sun. Wear sun cream (a high factor) and hats etc. I pray you know how very blessed and how very precious you are. Wherever you are in life – please think of your potential in the

context of your loved ones, your community and your faith community or school. Our potential can be dramatic or simple, ordinary, but God willing, full of love.

Remember Deborah James, has changed the world for so many with her passion for life, love, laughter and poo! In death her potential will send out ripples to many, many people. Someone else who died of Bowel Cancer spoke of the effect of faith in the final days:

“It sounds miraculous, and it was. In his last days with us, George spoke about how he had always been so logical, so scientific, so black-and-white about every situation. Now that he was dying, he told us, he could see that his logic could no longer serve him. He described - very logically - how he had switched on his spiritual brain and opened his eyes to see what had always been there.

As George spent his final days basking in the presence of the Holy Spirit, I read him goodbye messages from friends, family and work colleagues. Overwhelmingly, the theme that came through was how he had helped people see the world differently. As I watched him leave his human body, he showed me that love and death were of the same entity. It was love that connected us to God, and it was Jesus who helped us transcend death and see past the heartbreak into the beauty of heaven.”

May the love and grace of God enfold us all on our journey through life. May God bless our young people on their journey and all of us until our final chapter, when all shall be well, all shall be love.

**Amen**

**Revd. Stephen Monk**



**Don't forget**  
**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost 10.00 a.m.**  
**United Benefice Service**  
**at St. John's, Winstar**



**David and Diana Wills are**  
**holding their second**  
**weekend of**



### **Afternoon Tea for Christian Aid.**

**2.00 – 4.00pm, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May AND Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

Meadow Cottage, Snitterton DE4 2JG

Everyone is welcome. PLEASE NOTE parking is limited. How about a car share?

Homemade cakes and scones (including Gluten Free). More information and online giving can be found on:

<https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/st-helen-s-church-christian-aid-ukrainian-fund>



Lovely venue, great view, good company and lots of scones and delicious cakes! Even if you came last Saturday or Sunday do come again!

N.B. The Blue Bin (recycling bin) has been moved from the entrance gate position. It was getting full of wine and beer bottles (definitely not from the Chair-based Exercise session or the Bridge Club and the Thursday Coffee Social sticks to coffee and tea). It was too full for the refuse collectors to deal with it, hence its new place. Steve Walker has plans to make or get a more aesthetic surround for it!

**ST HELEN'S CHURCH - DARLEY DALE**  
Invites you to  
*New Beginnings*

Starts **25th June** 2023 then every 4th Sunday of the month  
Café opening **10.30am** for an **11am** start  
All ages are welcome  
Community based, café, modern approach, Live music/worship.  
Fun, child friendly, interactive, friendship

For more info. 01629 55863 or 078178029



## **Darley Dale in Bloom Hanging Basket Competition**

There are two categories

- Hanging Basket competition - Private dwelling
- Hanging Basket competition – Commercial property

Please note the competition is only open to Darley Dale Residents.

**Forms are now available at church from Chris Townsend**

Completed forms need to be returned by 1 July: to Mrs Caroline Dale-Leech, Tally Ho, Red House Stables, Old Road, Darley Dale, Matlock, DE4 2ER

Judging will take place at the end of August and winners will be notified after this date. Prizes donated by Forest Garden Centre will be presented at the Darley Dale Celebration Evening in September 2023

## St Helen's Gallery

It was grey. It was muddy (think Glastonbury!). Thankfully, the rain held off for the whole afternoon and we had a great day on the 8th May at the Coronation Celebration in the Whitworth Park. Lots of children with Mums and Dads and Grandparents played on the Chill and Chat with Coffee mat with Diana (she's still getting the mud off her jeans and coat!) or did colouring in with Jayne or Dea. I'm still getting the mud off my shoes! Steve thought his were beyond



recovery.

The crowning glory? Roz's crown of course! Lots of photos were taken with folk standing next to it. Alas, they couldn't try it on but it was greatly admired.



We gave out lots of leaflets so keep on praying that some will come to New Beginnings.

## St Helen's Diary



### Chill and Chat with Coffee

Every Thursday, term time only:

Dates in June 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

St Helen's Church Hall

8.45 am to 11.00am for parents, grandparents and carers with children. Toys, activities and stories

(Please contact Diana Wills about availability)

11.00am to 12noon Coffee or tea with biscuits. Open to everyone.



Followed by the new **Thursday Coffee Social**

12 noon to 2.00pm in the Church Hall.

A time to enjoy some company with tea/coffee and light refreshments. Bring your own packed



lunch. **N.B. We are meeting in Half Term on the 1<sup>st</sup> June so do come along!**

## Open Door- June 4<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm



The graphic for the 'Open Door' event features a red border and several icons: 'Crafts' with drawing tools, a tablet, a target with a red heart, musical notes, a red fuzzy character, a communion set, a 'FUN!' sign, and a smiling mask. The words 'Open' and 'Door' are written in large, blue, underlined letters. Below the icons, the text reads: 'Family fun for everyone!', 'St Helen's Church, near Churchtown School, DE4 2GG.', '2pm every 1st Sunday in the month', and 'All welcome, disability friendly. GIVE US A GO!'.

**Open Door**

Family fun for everyone!

St Helen's Church, near Churchtown School, DE4 2GG.

2pm every 1st Sunday in the month

All welcome, disability friendly. GIVE US A GO!

## Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am Ecumenical Holy Communion – at Darley Dale Methodist Church

(Now once a month on a Friday, alternating between St Helen's and Dale Rd Methodist church.)

## Saturday 10th June - 10.00am to 12 noon St Helen's Saturday Coffee Morning in the Church Hall

Home-made scones and cakes and a time to relax with friends. Take time out from Saturday chores and come and join us! Bring a friend or neighbour!



**Dates for the Monday \* Lunchers\* in June  
Salt meets on the 12<sup>th</sup>**

and **Pepper** on the 19<sup>th</sup>

**11.45pm for 12noon at the Whitworth Terrace Café**

**Contact Kath for availability**

**Home Groups and Worship Group** – check with  
Home Group leaders for dates and times

**Thursday Ecumenical Home Group 14 Park Avenue**

Fortnightly – contact Margaret Long on 735778

or email [margarelong583@gmail.com](mailto:margarelong583@gmail.com)

**Thursday Home Group** – meets by Zoom, alternating with a shared meal and face-to-face study at Meadow Cottage, Snitterton - contact Diana Wills on [dwills@doctors.org.uk](mailto:dwills@doctors.org.uk)

**Worship Group** – meets every Wednesday at church.  
Contact Dea Ayling or Stephen or Jayne Walker

## In the Benefice



**Café in the Church at St John's, Winstar,  
1.00 to 4.00pm every Saturday and Sunday.**

Homemade cakes, scones and savouries, fresh coffee and tea all served to you at your table.

## Coming up in the area

**The Beavers and Cubs –July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2.00pm to 5.00pm** they are holding their **Fun Day** with activities in the Scout Hut and on the Church Field. They would love to see us there.

**Darley Dale in Bloom – judging day by East Midlands in Bloom** representatives is on the afternoon of **11<sup>th</sup> July**. I will be asking for volunteer help nearer that date to get the Peace Garden and other garden areas looking good.

### Services to note in June

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 10.30am Churchtown School – school service. All welcome to attend.**

### Growing our Faith

**Father's Day – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

**Celebrating Fatherhood**

*Editor: By Canon Paul Hardingham*



*'What is a Christian? The richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father. If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child and having God as his Father.'* (J I Packer, *Knowing God*)

The month we celebrate fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity the celebrate God's fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, as Jesus came out of the water: *‘heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’* (Matthew 3:16,17). What can we learn about Jesus’ relationship with His Father, the role of fathers and our relationship with God?

- *The Father’s presence*

When Jesus was baptized, the Father made His presence real by the Holy Spirit. It’s the Spirit who enables us to call God *‘daddy’* (abba, Galatians 4:6). God is with us and knows our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. In this way, dads can relate to their children.

- *The Father’s love*

The Father described His Son as *‘beloved’*, who like us, is subject to His unconditional love. Dads should be constant in assuring their children of their love.

- *The Father’s pleasure*

The Father tells Jesus that He is *‘well pleased’* with Him. We also need to hear this, if we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. This can arise with harsh words spoken by our parents. Fathers should use every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.

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*Editor: Continuing our series by Canon Paul Hardingham.*

## **Spiritual Disciplines: Simplicity**

*‘Clutter is not just the stuff on your floor. It’s anything that stands between you and the life you want to be living.’* (Peter Walsh).

The spiritual discipline of ***simplicity*** is about living more simply and ensuring that possessions don’t end up possessing us! Jesus expresses the heart of simplicity in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:19-34). He emphasises trusting God, not worrying about

material things but *‘seeking first his kingdom and his righteousness,’* (Matthew 6:33).

*‘The Christian Discipline of simplicity is an inward reality that results in an outward life-style. Both the inward and the outward aspects of simplicity are essential.’* (Richard Foster).

What happens in our hearts impacts the way we live our lives. But what does this look like in practice? Richard Foster lists a number of outward expressions of simplicity in his book ***Celebration of Discipline***. These include:

- Buy things for their usefulness rather their status value e.g., cars, clothes.
- Reject anything that is addictive to us e.g., drinks, TV, social media.
- Develop the habit of giving things away to others who need them.
- Don’t get caught up with buying the latest electronic gadget.
- Develop a deeper appreciation of creation.

### **How can we simplify our life?**

**Step 1:** Find something that needs simplifying e.g., decluttering the house or limiting the time-consuming TV or social media. It’s about stopping whatever prevents us from making the kingdom of God our top priority.

**Step 2:** Take time to reflect and write down how we will embrace simplicity in that area e.g., stop using the phone one hour before bed and keeping it outside the bedroom.

**Step 3:** Ask someone to keep us accountable!

*‘Always remember the essence of Christian holiness is simplicity and purity: one design, one desire: entire devotion to God.’* (John Wesley)

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## **Reflecting faith – the Lectern (part 2)**

*Editor: from The Revd Dr Jo White*

Why not have a good look at the lectern in your church, to see what it was made from and if it has a particular design.

There seem to be two distinct styles for lecterns, either a 'simple' plain book holder or one in the shape of a bird. Both styles are usually made from either wood or gilt metal (brass).

The bird is an eagle - often holding the world in its talons. The intention being that the eagle is known as the most powerful bird, which can fly the highest and longest without pausing and so can take the Word of God - the Bible that it holds - to all the places in the world.

There are 44 mentions of eagles in the Bible, but just two to include here:

In Exodus after the Israelites have left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea they camp in the wilderness, where they are not surprisingly worried about what will happen next. Shall we say 'there's a bit of grumbling and groaning' going on?

So, God calls to Moses with words to encourage them,

*'The Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.'*" (Ex 19: 3- 5)

And the second is one to uplift us all when we are in need of support:

Isaiah in chapter 40 is trying to describe how awesome and powerful God is and concludes that even our youth will grow weary in comparison. However, *'those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.'* (Is 40: 30 – 31)



So perhaps as we hear the words of the Bible passage read to us from that symbolic figure we are reminded to both trust in the Lord and to gain inner strength.

*This month*

As you hear the Bible passage(s) read from the lectern during this coming month, listen not just to the words themselves but reflect on their intention to encourage you.

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*Editor: Does everyone who attends your church actually believe in God? It may seem an odd question, but Dr Peter Brierley has some unexpected statistics. Definitely food for thought AND prayer!*

**‘Yes, I’m an atheist churchgoer’**

An English vicar had a regular church attender who came to church on average twice a month, and who volunteered to keep the church hall tidy. He also frequently helped out by doing practical repairs or improvements. But – he didn’t believe in God, in Jesus or the Bible!

In another church, while the PCC was discussing worship, the lady church treasurer suddenly said, “Yes, that’s all very well, but what about those of us who don’t believe?”!

An American university survey undertaken in 2022 by the Public Research Institute found that 29% of people who said they were atheists “sometimes” went to church. Another survey by *Christian Today* found that 1% of atheists went to church regularly, even weekly!

The obvious question to these findings is “Why does someone who clearly doesn’t believe in God go to a church set aside for the worship of God?”

An article published in *Backyard Church* on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 suggested three reasons:

- 1) Some go to keep their spouse happy, usually the wife dragging the husband along.
- 2) Some go for the sake of their children, to increase family bonding.
- 3) Some go because they want to feel part of a community, and church communities are usually very friendly, welcoming and open.

In the 2021 Census, while 37% of English people said they had No Religion (which is not the same as being an atheist), just 14,000 (0.02% of the population) wrote in the word 'Atheist' in answer to 'other religion'.

Sadly, no survey in Britain seems to have ever asked atheists if they go to church!

In a 2011 study, 12% of the UK population said they were spiritual AND religious and 34% said they were spiritual but NOT religious. Clearly this is a debatable topic!

(Last Sunday we were given two books on Prayer – a Novena and a Prayer Journal, as part of the THY KINGDOM COME initiative. We can still use them to pray for those we love who are atheists or agnostics!)



## Smile Lines

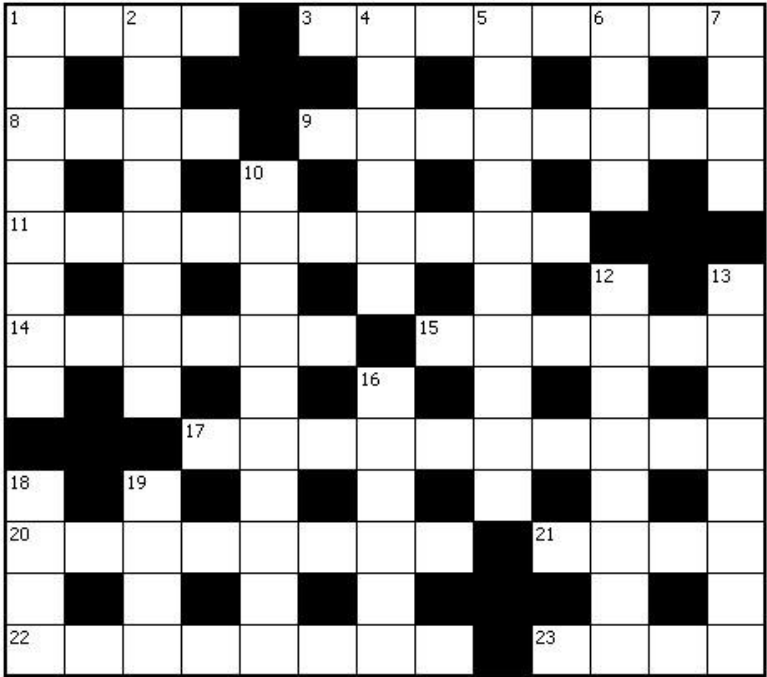
### Church bulletin notices that didn't quite work...

~ The Revd John Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.

~ A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in memory of his wife.

~ The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

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**CLUES**

**Across**

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)

23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

**Down**

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet'(2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

**ANSWERS on Page 27**

**Food for thought**

Have you ever noticed the difference in the Christian life between work and fruit? A machine can do work; only life can bear fruit. -  
*Andrew Murray*

## **And some more Smile Lines.....**

### **Grandmothers**

Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are not just all-wise, but also prehistoric.

### **Better by half**

As the music swelled at the end of a wedding in our church, my hopelessly romantic husband squeezed my hand, leaned in, and whispered fervently: "You are better looking than half the women here."

### **Gardening**

Overheard at my gardening club meeting: "I never knew what compost was until I met my husband."

### **DIY**

Our churchwarden has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any DIY job that needs doing around the church. For example, in the church shed are still pieces of the church lawn mower that she once tried to fix. So, our vicar wasn't surprised the day he found her in the vestry, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "This thing won't cooperate," she complained.

The vicar thought for a moment: "Why don't you drag it out to the shed and show it what you did to the lawn mower?"

### **Man and wife**

With Bible in hand, I read to my Sunday school class: "'For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife.'

Okay," I said, "from this Scripture, what do we learn is important in marriage?"

A voice at the back blurted: "Cleavage!"

## In the (church) News

### Russia is ‘weaponising religion’ and persecuting churches in Ukraine

A new report claims that Russia is ‘weaponizing religion’ in its conflict with Ukraine.

The report, by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), states that since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russian soldiers or occupation authorities, have closed or taken over 76 places of worship, looted, desecrated or destroyed 13 of them, and have killed or seized 29 religious leaders in occupied Ukraine.

According to the Institute for the Study of War, Russia's primary target is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), which continues to assert its independence from the Moscow Patriarchate. 34 per cent of the reported acts of persecution are against the UOC.

The report warns: “Russia will continue to weaponize the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and religion to incite social tensions in Ukraine and influence battlefield realities.”

The ISW also warns that Russia may try to eradicate religious organisations that remain independent of Kremlin control. Russian forces did the same with the Crimea's Muslim Tartar population, after occupying the peninsula in 2014.



Release International urges Christians in the UK:  
“Please pray for the Christians of Ukraine, that they may weather the storm.”

## **An estimated 15.7 million Ukrainians need humanitarian assistance**

Christian Aid is warning that since the Russian forces invaded Ukraine, “An estimated 15.7 million Ukrainians need humanitarian assistance. This includes 7.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in private homes with host communities and in collective centres.”

Millions of Ukrainians are living in damaged homes or in buildings which are inappropriate for their needs. Winter temperatures can plummet to as low as -20C in parts of the country.

Christian Aid is working with partners to provide hope and to ensure people survive and rebuild. Its partner organisations provide shelter, distribute lorryloads of food, and give out life-saving medical equipment, hygiene kits, baby incubators, lifesaving drugs, thermal blankets, and trauma kits. They also offer a shelter for refugees, where women and children are prioritised so that they don’t need to sleep at overcrowded railway stations.

**Christian Aid says: “Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to the people of Ukraine. By joining us, you can give hope to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.”**

If you can help, go to: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>.



See Page 6 about a direct way to help by making a donation via David and Diana’s Afternoon teas – by attending on the 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> or by using the online giving link.

## World Vision help children in war-torn Sudan

As the fighting between Sudan’s military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan’s capital Khartoum, continues, millions of people are living in fear and great need. Humanitarian activities to help them have been greatly interrupted, due to widespread insecurity.



Emmanuel Isch, World Vision Sudan Country Director, says, *“The escalating violence is putting the lives of innocent civilians, particularly women and children, at risk. Many Sudanese, particularly in Khartoum and South Darfur have been stuck in their homes for days, running out of food and water and facing increased insecurity.”*

**World Vision** has local teams in surrounding countries who are ready to help children and families who urgently need food, water and shelter.

If you can help, please go to: <https://www.worldvision.org.uk>

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*Editor: This is the first in a short series on how some refugees have found life in the UK. These stories come from conversations in the Diocese of Canterbury, and simply represent the experiences of the refugees who have chosen to contribute. Sent in by John Barton.*

## In celebration of Refugee Week, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June

How are the refugees who have come to the UK getting along?

Refugee Week, a UK-wide annual festival which celebrates the contributions and resilience of refugees, provides a programme of

arts, cultural, educational and media events, though which refugees can find their voice in the UK.

This year the refugees have chosen to share their experiences on the theme of 'what compassion looks like in action'.

*Hanna from Ukraine tells her story:*

We are all very traumatised, even if it doesn't show. Every day we read news about our country, talk with relatives there. We are also trying to work, study English, manage our home, raise children, and understand the UK culture. People in Ukraine are constantly in danger. Those who have left feel guilty. It tires and exhausts.



Life has changed for everyone; the whole world feels the worsening economic situation due to the war, yet you in the UK continue to support us. It's incredible.

My heart is torn in half. I am afraid for everyone who stayed in Ukraine. I am angry with Russia for everything she is doing. My anger will pass. What remains unchanged is a feeling of deepest gratitude to the British for opening their hearts and families to us. Your kindness and mercy help us not to despair. We understand that without you, we would not exist long ago. Perhaps this is how God created people.

*Canterbury resident Richard Llewellyn writes of his experience:*

I had volunteered to be a 'mentor' to a young man from Chad, so two years ago I met Adam from Chad, to help him learn English. Since then we have tried to meet weekly for about an hour simply to have a conversation about whatever seems appropriate at the time. I am not able to tell you anything about how, why, and when Adam became a refugee and arrived in England. In the training I received I was told never to ask, but only to wait until the refugee wants to tell his or her story. I am still waiting.

I know Adam wants to stay here, and train as a plumber. I also discovered that he is a devout Muslim, saying his prayers five times a day and going to the mosque on Friday. I told him that I am a committed Christian and therefore we have something very important in common, in that we have put our trust in the same God – the only God. With a puzzled expression he asks me, "Then what about Jesus?" I reply that for Muslims Jesus is a Prophet, and for Christians something more than a Prophet, but that we both worship the same God. I don't think that he was entirely convinced but, for all our differences, we have remained good friends.

*Sahed, 18 last month, has been living in a small English town for a year, after she and her family fled Jordan.*

I came here with my parents and my two brothers and little sister, and I arrived knowing only 'Hi' and 'How are you' in English. So I set myself the goal of learning the language online, going to college and volunteering at the local library.

Now I am virtually fluent, which means that I am the only one to act as interpreter for my family. It's vital, as my 20-year-old brother has a severe mental health illness, which means frequent hospital admissions.

Some of our neighbours, alarmed at the noise my brother was making during an episode, called the police. They were actually very kind and just wanted to make sure everyone was alright; in fact, all our neighbours are kind and welcoming - except one who is always very rude.

I want to get my GCSEs, and then go to university - maybe York or Manchester. I want to study business management.

*Please pray for these refugees, and others, and for those who, in Christ's name, are providing sanctuary.*

For more on Refugee Week, please go to: <https://refugeeweek.org.uk>

## Nigeria: the slaughter of Christians continues



The growing death toll among Christians in Nigeria is now in the tens of thousands.

Recent reports have put the number of Christians killed in attacks by terrorists and militants at between 30,000 and 50,000. And the violence continues unabated.

The Stefanos Foundation, which has been working in Nigeria for 20 years to help victims of violence, calculates that from 2001, when the current violence erupted, to 2021, there were more than 30,000 killings at the hands of Boko Haram terrorists and Fulani militants.

The report goes on to say that the violence ‘escalated out of control from 2012. Fulani militancy leads with the highest frequency of violence in Nigeria... Terrorism, banditry, militant herdsman attacks, and kidnapping have become rife.’

The Nigerian NGO Intersociety has also published a report into the escalating violence. Intersociety calculates that 1,041 Christians were killed in the first 100 days of 2023 alone.

It finds that since 2009, 52,250 Christians have been killed by jihadists, including Boko Haram and Fulani militants. According to Intersociety, militants have attacked 18,000 churches, 2,200 Christian schools and 800 Christian communities.

**While we can and do thank our God that we are not experiencing some of the horrors our brothers and sisters around the world are, we can pray for them.**

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. - *Matthew Henry*

**(Some good news for a change. Roz Woodley and I are going to Tatton so there may be pictures in the next Magazine!)**

### **The Bible Society to sponsor a garden at RHS Tatton Park**

The Bible Society says it is “excited” to be sponsoring a garden based on Psalm 27 at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park in July. Psalm 27 is a profound meditation on loss, fear and faith.

Inspired by designer Ollie Pike’s reflections on burial grounds – “scenes of sadness, but also of hope and spiritual refreshment” – the Psalm 27 Garden will aim to lead visitors on a journey through pain to peace.



Ollie Pike first heard the psalm when attending a funeral. “Its hopeful message was very comforting at a time of sadness,” he said. “The psalm speaks to me of protection and to be hopeful. It gives a feeling of comfort in difficult moments and to have faith that things will improve.”

The garden follows the Bible Society’s sponsorship of Sarah Eberle’s Psalm 23 Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2021. The Psalm 23 Garden won a gold medal, Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction.

The Bible Society hopes to use this garden to “introduce people to biblical wisdom, and to help them see that the Bible can speak to them today.”

#### **Crossword Answers**

**Across** 1 care; 3 paradise; 8 null; 9 profaned; 11 legalistic; 14 closed; 15 stores; 17 missionary; 20 covenant; 21 Thai; 22 trade-off; 23 Eden  
**Down** 1 conflict; 2 religion; 4 arrest; 5 affliction; 6 Iona; 7 Eddy; 10 allegiance; 12 preached; 13 Assyrian; 16 a son of; 18 Scot; 19 DVLA

## United Benefice Services in June

### St Helen's:

- 4<sup>th</sup>** 11.00am Holy Communion  
2.00pm Open Door
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup>** 11.00am Ecumenical Holy Communion  
At Darley Dale Methodist Church
- 11<sup>th</sup>** 8.00am Holy Communion BCP  
10.00am Family Service at St Mary's
- 18<sup>th</sup>** 11.00am Holy Communion
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** 11.00am Holy Communion
- 25<sup>th</sup>** 10.30 Meet in Church Hall for coffee/tea  
11.00am New Beginnings in Church

### St Mary's:

- 4<sup>th</sup>** 10.00am Holy Communion
- 11<sup>th</sup>** 10.00am Family Service
- 18<sup>th</sup>** 10.00am Joint H C at St John's
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>** Family Service with school
- 25<sup>th</sup>** 4.00pm Evensong in house or join St John's

### St John's:

- 4<sup>th</sup>** No service
- 11<sup>th</sup>** No service
- 18<sup>th</sup>** 10.00am Holy Communion  
(Joined by St Mary's)
- 25<sup>th</sup>** 3.00pm Wakes Service

**Monday evening (not Bank Holidays) Zoom service 7.00pm**

Details and invitation from Chris Townsend:

[christownsend2@sky.com](mailto:christownsend2@sky.com)