

# St Helen's Church Magazine June 2025



**8<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

**15<sup>th</sup> June - Trinity Sunday**  
**and**



**and All Age Community Service with**  
**Holy Communion**  
**celebrating Churchtown School**

**PENTECOST**

## Revd. Stephen Monk - Rector of St. Helen's



10 Normanhurst Park, Darley Dale, Matlock DE4 3BQ Tel. 734257  
Email: rev.stephenmonk@btinternet.com

### Churchwardens

**Steve Walker**



01629 55863

**Dea Ayling**  
Details to come

### Joint Parochial Church Committee Members for St Helen's

Penny Dakin (Secretary)

David Wills (Treasurer)

davidr.wills@icloud.com

Chris Townsend

56622

Ann Bradley (Verger)

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Susan Young (Deanery Synod)

Sharon Hawkins (Safeguarding) [sjhsafeguarding@yahoo.com](mailto:sjhsafeguarding@yahoo.com)

Chris Long

### Church Social Committee

Roz Woodley 733033

Penny Dakin

Sandra Brown

Stephen Monk 734257

Chris Townsend 56622

Jan Rickinson

Steve Walker 55863

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

[www.darleydale-southdarley-winsterschurches.org.uk](http://www.darleydale-southdarley-winsterschurches.org.uk)

## A June Letter

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5. 22 – 23)***

We’ve just had the hottest day of the year so far (May 11<sup>th</sup>) and when we have the sun shining down, we can see the gardens starting to grow - to bloom and, sadly we have to cut the grass!! I’m not a gardener and to be honest I envy those who can walk into a garden and name all the flowers and shrubs as they look around. Living where we do in Derbyshire, we are truly blessed that we can see the beauty of nature in a planned garden or when walking in the



countryside. Different but still beautiful. But, can we take a moment to think about what is needed for the blooming of Derbyshire in our gardens and in our amazing countryside. I know I’m stating the obvious but to me you need water, sun, preparation, and ongoing care. I’m aware gardens aren’t breathtaking simply because you wish them so. You put work into them. Then you see real and wonderful growth.

Think of our spiritual growth. To grow in a spiritually healthy way and to nurture our faith, we need the Holy Spirit. In Galatians, Paul gives us a vision of what a Spirit-filled life looks like. The quote above isn’t just lofty ideals which set us all up to fail. They are tangible fruit that can grow in us when we follow Christ.

Unlike preparing a garden, this isn’t back-breaking work nor is it reliant on us alone. No, ironically, as Christians the way we can grow in service of Christ and of all people is in surrendering - opening ourselves and our hearts in times of prayer; in reading the Bible; and living in a community which is outward looking to the needs of the world. The reality is we cannot force the Holy Spirit to give us these gifts or at least some of them. No, we have to be

open, humble, and loving – then we are prepared to receive the Spirit. So, June can be a time of growth, change, building bridges and friendships with people around us.

But there's lots more happening in June. It's a time of transitions: school years end, exams are taken and then there's the waiting for results. Let's not forget to pray regularly for our young people. Life is tough for our children today, but let's also pray for parents, teachers, governors, and other school staff).

For those who carry many mental burdens June also reminds us that seasons always change. Our lives move in seasons. The darkness of winter is replaced by light and life, but we must remember we're all different. Whether you're in a season of flourishing or one of waiting, know that God, who begins a good work in us and in our communities will bring it to completion. May this summer be a time of growth in your spirit, peace in your heart and in your home, and through and in all a deep love in your heart.

With my love & Prayers for you and all your loved ones.

**Rev. Stephen Monk**

Please remember the families and close friends of **Joyce Glossop** and **Jean Colledge**, who died recently and whose lives were celebrated at memorial services on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May. We thank God for their fellowship, witness and faith.

## **St Mary's, South Darley 10.00am 1<sup>st</sup> June Celebrating their 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary**



A United Benefice Service to share in this special service and occasion.



N.B. If you would like a lift, just ask and it will be sorted out.

## St Helen's Service Questionnaire

Questionnaires were handed out during October 2024. 23 people responded by 31st October: summary results were presented to the PCC on 12th November. Questions covered attendance, ideas for improvement, and our willingness to invite others to come to a service.

12 people say they attend all 4 services regularly. 6 feel we need something at StH every Sunday. There were a great range of comments reflecting the different styles on the four Sundays (and some noted the 0800 and Friday BCP services were not covered).

First Sunday: 22 say they attend regularly. People like the organ music, the use of hymn books, the fact it's Holy Communion, walking to the altar, and the tradition. A few feel more modern hymns and less churchy language would encourage them to come more often. One felt 'the majority of non-Christians would not understand what is going on'. Another wrote 'Please don't change this service: it enables me to go to all the others.'

Second Sunday: 14 say they attend regularly. Positive comments mention 'inclusivity', 'reflect on local issues', 'tries to include children and families', and 'informal atmosphere'. Not so positive: 'I don't particularly enjoy this service' and a few confused by the occasional disconnects between service leader and screen.

Third Sunday: 16 say they attend regularly. People like the informality, a mix of well-known and more modern songs, Julie's sermons, and the straightforward liturgy. Two miss the music group. One suggested more periods of silence for prayer and reflection.

Fourth Sunday (New Beginnings): 16 say they attend regularly. 'Different' was a frequent description, mainly in a positive sense: 'uplifting', 'challenging', 'takes me out of my comfort zone', 'relaxed open atmosphere'. Some would prefer 'less emotional content',

‘more human input’ and ‘fewer American videos made for children. ‘Not a fan of this type of service, but I will come anyway’.

Those open to inviting people to services had mixed views. Some thought First & Third for older people, and Second & Fourth for children/grandchildren and families. Others were open to inviting people to any service.

There were mixed views on coffee in church: some appreciate the informality, others view it as a distraction. One wrote ‘we need to get rid of church pews. Another suggested we should make greater use of the hall to reach into the community.

One quoted Proverbs 29.18 (where there is no vision, the people perish) and urged us to pray together more frequently.

Overall, there seems to be a tension between celebrating diversity and maintaining unity.

## **David Wills**

### **Review of St Helen’s Church Magazine**

The closing date for the completion and return of the questionnaire is the **30<sup>th</sup> May**.

If you still have yours, do get it filled in and give it to Tracy Tyrell or me or leave it in the box in church, provided for collecting them.

The church is open a couple of days per week, especially on a Thursday so if you don’t get it back on Sunday please drop by in the week.

Alternatively, the IT savvy among you can send an electronic copy.

Thank you

**Chris Townsend and Tracy Tyrell**

## June Diary

Open Door Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2.00 -3.00pm



**Chill and Chat with Coffee Toddler Group**  
**in St Helen's Church Hall**  
**Thursdays 9.30am to 11.00am**  
**term time only**

Coffee bar open for tea, coffee, toast and biscuits throughout the morning. Toys, activities, and snacks for the children.

### Thursday Coffee Social – most Thursdays

**12noon to 2.00pm** In St Helen's Church Hall – but you can come for a cuppa from 11.00am

A space and time to relax and enjoy good company. Everyone is welcome.

Bring a packed lunch.

For more information contact **Ann Bradley** Tel 07855 970061



## **Prayer Meeting Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am**

**(in the church).** You can pray as you feel led or prepare something in advance. You do not need to pray out loud at all, other than an Amen at the end of a prayer.



Also, don't forget there's coffee/tea and cake afterwards at the Coffee Morning! Feed the soul, mind and body!

## **The Saturday Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am to 12noon**

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! Or both!

**If you are a baker, a cake contribution would be great!**



## **Monday Lunchers are meeting again:**

**Only one date this month so open to both Salt**

**and Pepper regulars: 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**11.45am for 12noon at the Terrace Café, the Whitworth.**

Contact Ann Bradley for more details and if you would like to join one of the groups Tel 07855 970061.



## **Ecumenical Holy Communion**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 11.00 a.m.**

**at St Helen's**

Come if you can for a time of worship and fellowship with our Methodist brothers and sisters.

# Home Groups

**Thursday Ecumenical Home Group meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening.**

For more details contact Margaret on 735778



**Thursday Group** led by Diana Wills are looking at meeting monthly in the afternoon.

For details of when and where contact Diana on:

[dwills@doctors.org.uk](mailto:dwills@doctors.org.uk)

**To book the church hall** for any event or activity and availability and charges please contact Steve Walker on 01629 55863 or [yourlifeyourchoice2013@gmail.com](mailto:yourlifeyourchoice2013@gmail.com)

## Special Events and happenings in June

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 10.00am St Mary's 180<sup>th</sup> Celebration – see page**



**Big Church Clean – tackling the parts that can't be done regularly.**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am to 12noon**

Come and join us to help keep our church clean and welcoming. Tasks will be allocated according

to ability – we can find things to be done for those of you who need to be sitting down! All cleaning materials supplied.

Afterwards we plan to go for a pub lunch (at your own cost).

## Calling all knitters

Do you have any left-over wool/yarn that you don't know what to do with? Norma Hilton has the answer. Give it to her to be transformed into squares which are made into blankets, which are sent by charities to countries where they are desperately needed.

If you would like to get knitting yourself, speak to Norma about the size and the best way to knit them.



She would also be glad if anyone wants to help sewing them up. Some of you may well have prior experience of blanket knitting as members of the Mothers' Union. Time to get the knitting needles out again?



**All items for the July magazine to be with me by the  
15<sup>th</sup> June – [christownsend2@sky.com](mailto:christownsend2@sky.com)**

## Smile Lines

### Sweets

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there

### Notices in a church newsheet:

- Organist required: to work with small but trying priest and congregation.
- The Low Self Esteem Support Group meets Thursday. Please use the back door.
- Weight Watchers to meet at 7pm in the church hall. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- There will be a shared supper at church this Sunday – with prayer and medication to follow.
- The minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- The students will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

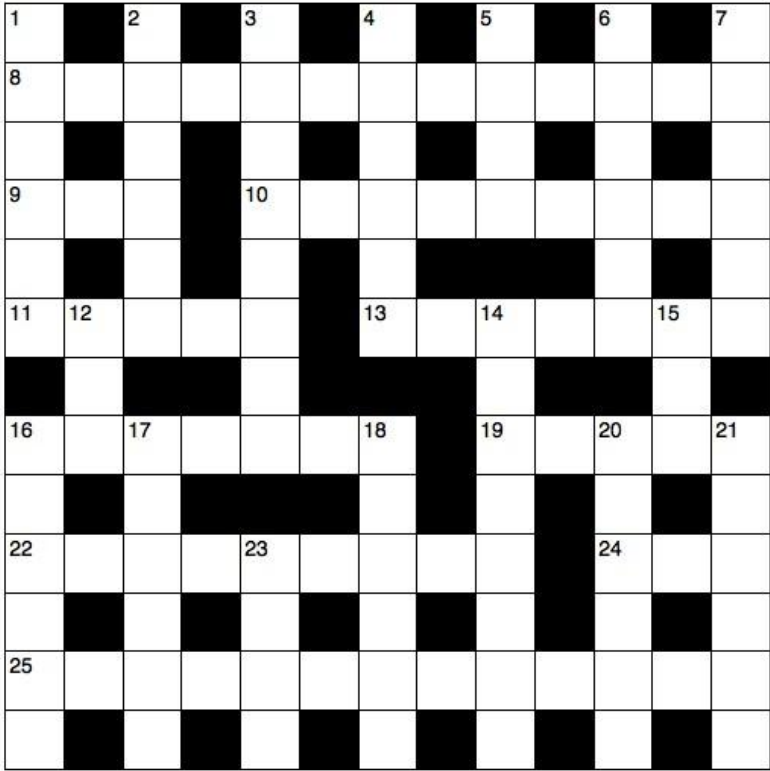
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Beware of the new Amazon scam. I asked my husband to order me some expensive jewellery, but motorcycle parts came instead! Thankfully, they fit his bike.

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It's weird, being the same age as old people.  
(Yep. Identify with this! *Chris*)

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**Across**

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

### **Down**

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)

3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)

4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)

5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)

6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)

7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)

12 Ate (anag.) (3)

14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)

16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)

17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)

18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)

20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)

21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)

23 Diva (anag.) (4)

### **Answers on Page 22**

# Looking at God – growing our faith

## Understanding the Trinity

Trinity Sunday has its place in our liturgical calendar (15<sup>th</sup> June), yet we do not often hear sermons on the Trinity. The term ‘Trinity’ isn’t found in the Bible, and the Early Church took nearly 400 years to come up with a clear understanding of it.

However, there are hints of trinitarian language in the New Testament, e.g. Jesus instructs His disciples to baptise ‘in the



name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ (Matt 28:19). Our understanding of the Trinity arises from God’s activity in our world, as reflected in the credal questions:

‘Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the One for whom we exist?’

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

So why should the Trinity be important for us? If ‘God is love’ (1 John 4:8) it means that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in a community of love together. Their relationship has been expressed as a divine dance, as they interact with one another, expressing love for each another and complementing the work each one has to do. As people made in God’s image, we are called to live this community of love in our lives and churches.

The Trinity also provides the basis for our mission, ‘As the Father has sent Me, so send I you.’ Just as God the Father sent Jesus into

the world, so Jesus sends us into the world to do the Father’s work, equipped and accompanied by the Holy Spirit. In sharing God’s love, we share the life of the Trinity. Augustine spoke about the Spirit being the love between God the Father and the Son.

‘At the heart of reality lies the love between the Father and the Son. The Spirit unites us with Christ so that we begin to experience the same depth of love that exists between the Father and the Son.’ (Graham Tomlin).



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## **Barnabas – a very likeable disciple**

This month we remember St Barnabas, whose real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he was better known by his nickname, which means ‘*Son of Encouragement*’ (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

Barnabas was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of an already caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we known as somebody who is generous to those in need around us?

Barnabas later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul’s conversion and knowing his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he ‘*saw the evidence of the grace of God*’ (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new

things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond the church; alongside strengthening people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Let's be prepared to ask the following questions: *'Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?'* and *'How can we be encouragers to others?'*

'We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your<sup>[a]</sup> faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> **if it is to encourage, then give encouragement**; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,<sup>[b]</sup> do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.'

**Romans 12.6-8**

## Some thoughts on Father's Day

*Editor: Fathers' Day is the third Sunday in June...*

### Like Father, Like Son

'Dead Ringer' is the odd phrase we use when referring to someone who looks like somebody else. Sometimes, instead, we say 'spitting image' when we see a likeness or similarity between one person and another.



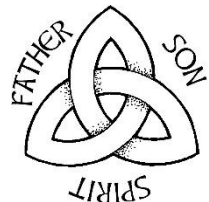
This month includes Fathers' Day (15th June) and is an occasion when dads are particularly remembered by their children. As far as the boys are concerned, how many have heard someone say 'Oh, you really look like your father'?

One day, Jesus was talking to His disciples and said, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9) What an amazing statement! Jesus was saying that He was the dead ringer or spitting image of God! At another time Jesus said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me." (Jn 14.10) These words must have shocked His hearers, for He was saying that He was equal with God. No one had said anything like this before, but certainly His miracles were proof that He was different. No-one else could do what He was doing. Some people wondered—could He really be who He said He was?

So Jesus attempted to make His position clear and said, "If you knew Me you would know the Father also." (Jn 8:19) The people were being urged to know Jesus more. They had to look, listen and believe. Were His deeds of God or not? They had to decide!

Today, we all stand in a similar position. Who is Jesus? Do we look at Him and say 'Yes, this is God in the flesh' or 'No, He was just a good person — but also perhaps, deluded or crazy?'

Thomas, the disciple with the nickname 'doubter', exclaimed: "My Lord and *my God*" (Jn 20:28). Thomas was convinced that he was in the presence of God, in human form. And when the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae he said clearly: 'It was by God's own decision that the Son has in Himself the full nature of God' (*Colossians 1:19*). Like Father, like Son!



# Looking at church

## Persecution of the Church today?

*Kenneth Harrod, Head of Theology and Media at Release International, the voice of persecuted Christians, reminds us of the realities of persecution today.*

We've all read the biblical story of Stephen, the first martyr in the New Testament. We've probably heard that Christians in the early centuries suffered all manner of atrocities at the hands of Roman emperors. We know Protestant Reformers were martyred in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.



But what about today?

We live in a country where Christianity has been an accepted 'part of the furniture' for centuries. Church buildings are obvious and visible landmarks in our towns and villages; Christian festivals are part and parcel of the calendar year—even for people who profess no Christian allegiance. In many ways, we enjoy the fruit of God having blessed gospel ministry in this land in times past.

But in many parts of our world, life can be very different for Christians—particularly for those who seek to obey the Great Commission of Jesus Christ by proclaiming Him.

In some countries, opposition to the Christian faith might come from extremists of another religion; in other countries it might be the authorities themselves. Christians can suffer on-going oppression and violence. Christians may be forced to flee. Christians can find themselves languishing in prison for no other reason than the fact that they *are* Christians. In some places in our world today Christians may pay the ultimate price—martyrdom.

What is our response to all of this?

One of the New Testament images used to describe the Church is that of the 'Body of Christ'. In his first letter to the Corinthians the Apostle Paul wrote of that body: 'If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.' (1 Cor. 12:26; ESV)

Out of sight should not be out of mind. Spiritual brothers and sisters suffering because they love and worship the same Saviour that we do should be of concern to us.

Release International is a UK-based ministry called to love and serve those who suffer persecution for Christ and the gospel. To find out more about this ministry; about where it works, how it works and how you and your church could get involved, go to: [releaseinternational.org](http://releaseinternational.org).

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*Editor: We continue to look at the top countries in the world to persecute Christians. The data is from Open Doors World Watch List for 2025.*

### **Fourth Most Dangerous Country in the World for Christians**

After North Korea, Somalia, and Yemen, where in the world is it most dangerous to be a Christian?

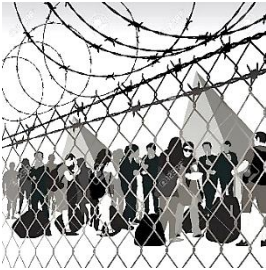
The World Watch List puts Libya in fourth place.

Libya has a population of nearly 7.5 million people. Of those, 35,500 are Christians (0.5%). The official religion of Libya is Islam, and its government is currently in some crisis, with two groups fighting for control. There are also numerous violent clashes with nearby Sudanese forces.

In Libya, following Jesus is a huge risk for anyone. Libyan Christians with a Muslim background face violent pressure from their families and communities to renounce their new faith. Foreign Christians

are targeted by Islamist militant and criminal groups, who may kidnap and even kill them.

Christians in Libya are at risk everywhere, but the city of Sirte is notorious for the presence of radical Islamist groups. Groups linked to the now-defunct Islamic Dawn Coalition control areas around the capital city, Tripoli, and parts of the city itself. In the east, radical groups are present in Benghazi city.



Migrant Christians trying to reach Europe often end up in overcrowded detention centres around Tripoli, or are handed over to criminal officials or human traffickers.

Open Doors works with local partners and churches in North Africa to provide leadership and discipleship training, livelihood support, legal aid, trauma counselling, Bibles and pastoral care. If you want to help, please go to: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

## Looking at you

### Are bananas really good for you?

On the one hand, bananas offer good things. They count as one of your five a day, carry only about 90 calories, and are packed with the essential mineral potassium (good in lowering blood pressure.) But they are not perfect...



So, here are some pros and cons of bananas:

Pro: High in potassium, good for heart health, lowers blood pressure, has Vitamin C, helps digestion, provides energy, full of fibre, cholesterol-free.

**Cons:** Can raise potassium levels too much (avoid them if you have kidney disease), can lead to wind and bloating, cause blood sugar spikes, weight gain, and disrupt sleep.

Overall, experts recommend eating no more than two bananas a day.

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## How many steps a day is enough?



Counting steps has, for many of us, become a part of our lives. We feel triumphant when we hit 10,000, and guilty when we notch up less than 2,000 a day.

But daily steps, which are really no more than regular daily exercise, are not just a gimmick.

Medical research has found that your daily step count, especially when taken over years, really can make a huge difference to your health and life expectancy. The Government's official statistics cite physical inactivity as responsible for one in six otherwise preventable deaths.

So how many steps do you need to achieve different levels of protection?

2,000 to 3,000 steps a day – or just over a mile. This can help reduce your risk of heart disease.

4,000 to 5,000 steps – can reduce risk of chronic disease and helps reduce risk of cognitive decline. (People who walked this far were found to have a 25 per cent lower risk of dementia.) As a scientist at the European University of Madrid, said: "This is likely because of improved blood flow to the brain, reduced brain inflammation,

better metabolism of glucose in the brain, and an increase in beneficial brain chemicals which stimulate neuron growth.”

7,000 to 8,000 steps, about three miles, can provide a 31 per cent lower risk of depression, and it can also lower your risk of cardiovascular disease by 51 per cent.

10,000 steps - about five miles, achieves a wide range of health benefits. But even just 8,800 steps a day has been found to reduce risk of premature death from many diseases by 60 per cent.



As a scientist at the University of Sydney explained: “It’s about setting initial targets that are achievable, and then gradually working your way up to more daily steps, as you build up your capacity to handle more activity.”

### **Answers to Crossword Page**

#### **ACROSS:**

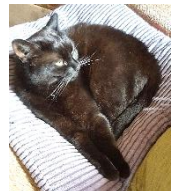
8, Grandchildren. 9, Pro. 10, Marvelled. 11, Strut. 13, Startle. 16, Babysit. 19, Orate. 22, Eucharist. 24, Map. 25, Commissioners.

#### **DOWN:**

1, Egypt’s. 2, Favour. 3, Edomites. 4, Thorns. 5, Blue. 6, Armllet. 7, On edge. 12, Tea. 14, Adoption. 15, Lot. 16, Breach. 17, Become. 18, This So. 20, Armies. 21, Expose. 23, Avid.

## **Ed’s Endings**

Stephen came across this and sent it to me so for all cat lovers and my commiserations to those who aren’t – well no-one is perfect!



A thank you prayer for cats:

Our beloved meow-makers and purr-producers are some of our greatest gifts.

The cats in our lives paint our hearts with joy and our homes with fur.

We give thanks for the ways we feel peace as we pet their backs  
And talk with them as if they are our children.

Whether it be hairballs left on the floor or scratches in the furniture,  
We know their imperfections still delight our souls.

May their health be well,  
May their temperaments be...whatever “normal” cat-like behaviour is.

May they enjoy looking out for insects and rodents for us  
(But not leave them as “gifts” on our doormats),

May they stay away from anything that could poison their well-being.

And may they find joy – even when they seem like they are ignoring us.

We bless the cat-parents, the foster-families, and the ones who care for our felines.

May their hearts appreciate their beloved pets,  
As they rub their heads against our hands,  
As they sit upon our laps,  
And as they follow us around the house.

God of all Joy,  
Bless these beautiful beings,  
Their stripes of many colours  
Their fur of various lengths,  
And meows of many volumes.  
Amen



My cat Cirrus and yes she is sitting on her scratching post!!!

## **Sunday Services in the United Benefice June 2025**

**Sunday 1st: 10.00am 180th Celebration Service**

**at St. Mary's South Darley  
for the United Benefice**

2.00pm Open Door at St. Helen's Darley Dale

**Sunday 8th June: 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

at St. Helen's Darley

10.00am Family Service at St. Mary's South Darley

4.15 pm Informal Service at St. John's Winster

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June: 11.00am Ecumenical Holy Communion**

at St. Helen's

**Sunday 15th June: 10.00am Holy Communion Service at St. John's**

11.00am Holy Communion Service

at St. Helen's

**Sunday 22nd June: 10.00am Morning Worship**

at St. Mary's South Darley

11.00am New Beginnings at St. Helen's,

Café open 10.30am Sunday

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June: 11.00am Holy Communion at St. Helen's**

**Sunday 29th June: 10.45am United Service at All Saints, Matlock**

**Monday evening Zoom Service 7.00-7.30pm** (not Bank Holiday Mondays)

For information and invitation access: [christownsend2@sky.com](mailto:christownsend2@sky.com)