

St Helen's Church

September 2025 Magazine



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We do not charge for our magazine but to cover costs
we suggest a **£1** donation

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Details to come

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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

September Letter

“Maybe it’s not too late. To learn how to love
and forget how to hate.”

Words not from Jesus nor the Bible but from Ozzy Osbourne, the ‘prince of darkness’. Many Christians have condemned this terrible satanic man. The sad problem is not many of those Christians have seen Ozzy live. Yes, the bleep machine would blow up with the language, but most of Ozzy’s songs had a positive and life-giving message. I’m not trying to be topical or trendy (as an Ozzy fan I’m guessing being ‘trendy’ has passed me by). When asked about why Ozzy did what he did the response was, “All I ever wanted to do was to do something good so that my parents could be proud of me.”

Think for a moment of our young people who are still digesting their A level, GCSE and vocational exam results. Some young people will be ecstatic, others crushed. Music, any music touches one’s soul. At a funeral today, Barrie, our amazing organist played the hymn, ‘The day thou gavest Lord is ended...’ The tune, the words and even the pauses - all things can be powerful if we have as Jesus said, ‘ears to hear.’

Ozzy was a man who punished his body for many reasons. But during his final months and weeks he let people see the real Ozzy, the great love he gave and received from his family and close friends. He died with love surrounding him and he had made many people proud. A lyric that should challenge our churches is, “There are no unsavable souls”. I wonder if he saw himself in these words?

Ozzy also was a humble man. Think about the following words, “My son Jack once said to me, ‘Dad, do you think people are laughing with you or at you?’ And I said, ‘I don’t care as long as they’re laughing.” We can be very pompous in our churches and how we deal with new or different things. For years he was called the Anti-Christ and yet every night he said more than once with the greatest

passion, "I love you all, God bless you." I know the power of this as I was lucky to see Ozzy in concert twice. Imagine someone who asked God to bless between 15 – 150,000 thousand men, women and children.

I'm not saying Ozzy was a role model in every aspect of his life, but, neither am I or you. Yet, Jesus Christ can work through Ozzy, and me and you. God in Christ works through the power of the Holy Spirit in our brokenness. So, as we pick up the pace after our summer breaks let's value the gifts of humility, compassion and have the courage to look at our shadows, our brokenness and allow Christ in. Allowing Christ in is the first step to walking the path of a Disciple of Christ; working together with vastly different people all trying to build up the family of God. Whatever your taste in music, and whatever your taste in church and worship – please be open to different things as "God speaks in a thousand places."

God bless you all this September and may God especially bless our young people. Amen.

Very Best Wishes.

Stephen Monk

Parish Weekend

You may have never been on a parish weekend. You may never have fancied it. But can I please invite you to our special Parish weekend this September.

When Friday 19th Sept. – Sunday 21st Sept.

Where St Helen's Church and Church Hall

What Friday 7pm, Saturday 10am till lunch time and then a Q and A section. Talks on Church Leaders and the way they pray, lead church in challenging times and the mystics who stepped up in difficult days. Also, some of the lay people who were great examples.

Lastly on the Sunday we'll be celebrating a
Celtic Holy Communion at 11am.



Special events and services in September for your diary

Sunday 7th September - 3 p.m. Cross Licensing Service at All Saints Matlock. This will formally endorse all our ordained clergy to lead worship in any of the churches in Matlock and Darley Dale.

The logo for Macmillan Cancer Support, featuring the word "MACMILLAN" in large, bold, white capital letters above the words "CANCER SUPPORT" in smaller, bold, white capital letters, all on a green rectangular background.

MacMillan Coffee Mornings:

1. Donations will be collected for Macmillan at **St. Helen's** usual **monthly coffee morning** on **Saturday 13th September** 10.00am to 12noon.
2. There will be a benefice coffee morning at **St. Mary's** on **Saturday 27th September**, also 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Sunday 14th September: All Age Community Service



'Praying for Peace' 11.00am

(with Holy Communion)

Coffee and tea/light refreshments from **10.40am** and after service.

We will be introducing and supporting **SAT-7**, who do wonderful work to provide the churches and Christians of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) an opportunity to witness to Jesus Christ through inspirational, informative, and educational television services. We can support this in the UK through giving, prayer and influencing. Come and find out more.

£ Do bring cash to donate if you would like to. £

Craft activities will be available for children and the young at heart!



The Parish Weekend - St. Helen's on Friday
19th September, Saturday 20th September
finishing with a united churches Holy
Communion Service on Sunday 21st September.
See Page 4

Regular events and services in September

Open Door:

**Open door welcomes everyone back on
Sunday 7th September 2.00-3.00pm**

Saturday Coffee Morning:

Saturday 13th September 10.00am – 12noon

Great company and delicious homemade
cakes



**Donations to Macmillan Cancer Support most
welcome.**

Monday Lunchers is meeting to lunch on: 8th September

**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.

Look out for information next month on a new children's playgroup.



Home Group

The Thursday Homegroup will be meeting on the following dates:

Thursday 4th September 7.30pm

Thursday 18th September 7.30pm - HC

Thursday 2nd October 7.30pm

New people welcome to join us. For more details contact Margaret at margaretlong583@gmail.com



Looking ahead



Open Door in October will be having 2 dates. These are October 5th and the Light Party on October 26th. All are welcome.

School Services in Church

- **Thursday 9th October 10.30 am**
- **Thursday 13th November 10.30 am**
- **Thursday 18th December 2.30pm. End of term.**

If you are free do come along to support our school and to build stronger links between church and school.

Harvest services:

St. Helen's and St. Mary's on **Sunday 12th October**

The service at St. Helen's will be followed by a Harvest Lunch.

St. John's on Sunday **19th October.**

The yearly **Bereavement Service** will be held at **St. Helen's** at **3.00p.m. on Sunday 2nd November.**

The Toy Service at St. Mary's will be held on Sunday 16th November.

And coming in December – yes, it's the C word!!!

Time to brave the sales for potential Christmas present bargains!

St. Helen's Carol Service is to be held on Saturday 20th December at 7.00p.m.

- St. Mary's Carol Service will be on Sunday 21st December at 4.00p.m. and St. John's also on 21st at 6.00p.m.
- There will be the usual Crib Service at St. Helen's at 4.00p.m. on Christmas Eve.
- It is intended that there will be a Christmas Tree Festival at St. John's, date to be confirmed.



More information on all the above in future magazines and newsletters.

And in the News – articles from Parish Pump

For your information and prayers. I would encourage you to read the following but it's your choice. I won't be standing at the front of church the Sunday after the magazine comes out to test you! Chris, Editor

The following article may be of interest as background to our focus on SAT-7 in the All Age Community Service on 14th September. The archbishop in Jerusalem recently addressed General Synod. Here are some highlights of what he said...It is a long article but this is to provide you with as full a picture as possible.

Gaza food system 'like Hunger Games' - Archbishop Hosam

The leader of the Anglican church in the Holy Land has urged Christians to “speak out in the face of injustices” – including the “horrificing’ current arrangements for food aid in Gaza” – as he called for a permanent ceasefire to end the war.

The Most Revd Hosam Naoum, the Archbishop in Jerusalem, was addressing the General Synod in July. He said that at that time, hospitals were being bombed in Gaza, medical supplies were in short supply and that there was a ‘horrificing’ system of food distribution, comparable to the dystopian series *The Hunger Games*, with three sites open one hour a day for two million people.

Calling for a restoration of humanitarian supplies including food and medicine, under UN supervision, Archbishop Hosam said there should be no targeting of civilians, especially emergency workers and medical staff.

He called for the release of all hostages and captives and a permanent ceasefire for the end of the war and rebuilding of Gaza –

“not ethnic cleansing that is presently being discussed by the Israeli and US Government.”

The church is committed to peace building and reconciliation – a message that he has repeated “time and time again” – but these are “alien terms” that people across both sides of the divide refuse to talk about or even listen to, he said.

“I realise that as a church we live and embody the Gospel and we are not politicians.

“However, we need to speak out in the face of injustices and be prophetic for the sake of our people and our calling as Christians.

“But where a church is wounded and constrained, we need the wider body of Christ to help us to be the church in brutal and damaging times.”

The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum is the 15th Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, a role he has held since 2021. He was born in Haifa and grew up in Shefa’amr in Galilee.

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is home to about 7,000 Anglicans worshipping within 28 different congregations. It is also responsible for more than 30 institutions, including hospitals, schools, clinics, and rehabilitation centres. The Diocese is scattered across five separate countries or territories: Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Israel.

Editor: We regularly support our local hospices and Macmillan Cancer Care. I feel the following article is something we would all agree with and support.

General Synod calls for a funding of palliative care instead of 'unworkable and unsafe' assisted suicide law.

General Synod has called on the Government to improve funding for “desperately needed” palliative care, rather than putting vulnerable people at risk through “unworkable and unsafe” legislation to introduce assisted suicide.

Members of the Synod recently backed a call by the Bishop of London for the Government to increase funding for palliative care and palliative care research to enable people to live their lives in full until they die.

The debate heard speeches opposing a change in the law and backing increased funding for palliative care from a range of different Synod members including clergy who work in hospice care, NHS consultant surgeons, GPs, and a psychiatrist.

Bishop Sarah Mullally, who is a former Chief Nursing Officer for England, said she was “deeply concerned” by the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which would legalise assisted suicide, being brought by Kim Leadbeater Bill MP.

And she called on General Synod members to pray and to "engage" with peers in the House of Lords as the Bill goes to the House of Lords.

She told the Synod the Bill was "unsafe and unworkable" and would put vulnerable groups at risk, including terminally ill people who cannot access the end-of-life care they need.

"Successive governments have failed to reduce inequalities in health," she said. "These inequalities mean that some people will have up to 20 fewer good years in health than others and certain groups face persistently worse health outcomes than others.

"These inequalities are also pronounced at the end of life, with only one in four people who need end-of-life care being able to

access it, and there continues to widespread misunderstanding and distrust of palliative care.

"It is into this context that the Terminally Ill Adults Bill is being proposed. So, with only a third of all hospice care being funded by the NHS, the proposals are accompanied by a government commitment to fund in full an assisted suicide service should the bill be passed.

"Rather than funding assisted dying, the Government should be funding palliative care and palliative care research to enable people to live their lives to the full until they die."

Bishop Sarah said the Government's own equality impact assessment recognised that some vulnerable people may choose an "assisted" death either because they cannot access the care that they need, or because they may feel pressure to end their lives due to the cost of the care.

Summer, September, and Autumn on the horizon

Did you spot many butterflies this past summer?

***Editor:* My friend Erica Fretwell registered our church 2 years ago with the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) as a small site for butterfly surveying. She visits weekly and sends her results to them. We were the first church to register as a small site and UKBMS were really thrilled. One small step to becoming an ECO church.**

The wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is deeply worried about our butterflies. Or rather, the lack of them. It seems that more than

80 per cent of our species have declined sharply in number since 1970s.

Each summer sees the Big Butterfly Count, when the public is encouraged to send in the number of butterflies they have seen over a short period of time. Last year saw the lowest number of butterflies spotted in the count's 14-year history. Even the familiar species like the small white, common blue and small tortoiseshell had their worst summer ever. And a record number of people saw no butterflies at all.

Butterflies have been hit by climate change, the use of pesticides, and damage to their habitats. The drought this summer will have been bad news for their caterpillar offspring, which need growing plants to feed on.

So, this autumn, why not plan a happier year for butterflies in 2026? As you prepare your garden for winter, go to <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/butterflies-in-your-garden> for some ideas of how to make your garden butterfly-friendly.

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Editor: attention all dog owners!

Dog walkers warned of deadly risk

It has not been a good summer to let your dog go swimming.

The hot and dry weather this spring sparked a rise in toxic blue-green algal blooms which have affected lakes and rivers across the UK. Blue-green algal blooms are triggered when colonies of bacteria use warmth and sunlight to reproduce rapidly. The colourful scum they produce can make people very ill and can kill dogs.

The Dogs Trust says: “We’re urging all dog owners to avoid letting their dogs swim in or drink from lakes or rivers that look green, scummy, have surface foam, or have warning signs nearby. Blue-green algae is not always easy to spot, so if in doubt, don’t let your dogs swim in or drink from the water.”

Blue-green algal blooms often persist for several months and do not disperse until cold weather arrives. The blooms have been found from Norfolk and Essex to Birmingham and the Lake District.

Symptoms of blue-green algae poisoning in dogs can begin within minutes and include vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, muscle tremors, seizures, breathing difficulties, and collapse.

Affected dogs should be taken to a vet immediately. The condition can be fatal as the toxins attack the liver and neurological system, and there is no antidote. Smaller dogs only need to consume a small quantity to be at high risk of death.

The pet charity Blue Cross warns: “Even small quantities of water or licking contaminated water off the coat can be dangerous.”

Ed’s Endings

St Helen’s church magazine

It was decided at the PCC meeting on 19th August that the magazine would be bimonthly. As Stephen writes a monthly letter, I will produce a short Newsletter in between to ensure you don’t miss this. I will include any details of special events and services and the monthly service diary (don’t forget there are always the flyers at the back of church with all the service details on them).

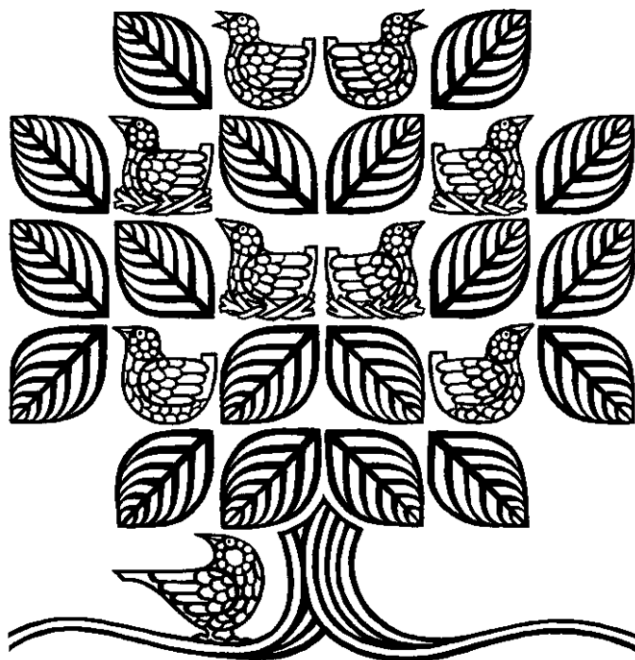
I know a fair number of people would like to see more community information in the magazine. This is possible but it needs to be provided, sent in a format I can use in the magazine.

Don't forget, because of data protection any personal details – births, weddings etc. will need to have the consent of the family in question.

If you do want something to go in the magazine or newsletter, send it to me by the middle of the previous month.

Blessings

Chris



The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed - it is the smallest of seeds, but when it grows, it is big enough for the wild birds to come and build nests in its branches.

Matthew 13:31-32

Services in the United Benefice September 2025

Sunday 7th 10 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mary's South Darley
(**N.B.** No morning Service at St. Helen's)
2 p.m. Open Door at St. Helen's Darley Dale
3 p.m. Cross Licensing Service at All Saints Matlock

Friday 11th 11 a.m. Ecumenical Holy Communion at St Helen's

Sunday 14th 8 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at St. Helen's
11 a.m. All Age Community Service at St. Helen's
4.15 p.m. Café Service Holy Communion
at St. John's Winster

Sunday 21st 11 a.m. United Churches Holy Communion
At St Helen's for the Parishes Weekend

Friday 26th 11 a.m. Holy Communion at St Helen's

Sunday 28th 10 a.m. Morning Worship
at St. Mary's South Darley
11 a.m. New Beginnings at St. Helen's,
Café open 10.30 a.m.

Monday Zoom Service 7.00 – 7.30pm (Not Bank Holidays)

Access from 6.55pm.

Access invitation from christownsend2@sky.com

www.darleydale-southdarley-winster-churches.org.uk