



Editor: Virginia Lloyd  
ginia.lloyd@outlook.com

### A Letter from Rev'd Helen Scanlan

#### 2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith not sight.

I was Licenced to the Heaton's Team on the 31st July 2012, nearly ten years ago, and what an experience it has been! For me that is, though I expect it's been a journey for you too.

We have accomplished many things together, from the Fashion shows to the Gin festival, from the Crib services to the joint Christingle services with the United Church with lots of things in between. The Playgroup was such a blessing to the ministry here, along with Men in Sheds.

I can't name all the things we have done, but I will say we have done them together, embracing the changes as we moved forward, and looking back at some of the photographs, we have had a ball. I have been trained on how to arrange Pew Ends, (essential training for any new vicar!) Also, the fundraising for the tower and Pew removal were just some of our large projects accomplished in my time here.

I would not have been able to do anything without the support and love of the PCC and you in the congregation. It was such a wonderful experience when I moved into Glenfield Rd to find a homemade lunch and chocolate cake waiting for me, that was what I had come into, care and love to build up the church.

You have seen me through several close bereavements including my Mum, Sister and Brother, you cared for me as a family member. I have been told that Bishop Mark asked you to cherish me, well I have been cherished and loved, so job well done! I suppose that's why it's going to be really difficult to leave you emotionally and spiritually, but to thrive and grow we all have to move on and embrace the next stage of our ministry.

My new role is both exciting and daunting. It gives me the scope as your Area Dean to come into contact with you from time to time, but this cannot overshadow your prayerfulness as you look to your next team vicar, whoever that may be.

It will be an exciting time for you, as you plan out the future and move forward carrying on the hard work and determination which you have always shown. Which is why I have chosen this bible reading **For we walk by faith not sight.**

I feel God is calling me to this new role, and I had to discern for many months—was it the right thing to do. I do feel that it is, and that God is calling you as a church, to adapt and to change into 'A Church for a Different World.'

May I go with your blessing and prayers, that they will always be there as we each take a different path on this next stage of our journey with God.

Every blessing and my abundance of love for you all  
*Helen*

*With Ascension and Pentecost in mind these prayers are from the Gelasian Sacramentary (c 500AD). This is the oldest official prayer book of the Western Church.*

#### **Ascension**

O God, we give you thanks that your Son Jesus Christ, who has shared our earthly life, has now ascended to prepare our heavenly life. Grant that, through coming to know Him by faith on earth, we may come to know Him by sight in heaven.

#### **Pentecost**

We beseech you, O Lord, to ignite our souls with love, faith and hope by the fire of your Holy Spirit. And may the wind of your Spirit so inspire our minds, that we may proclaim your gospel to others in words which they can understand.

*Parish Pump*

*Pope Gelasius 1 492 –496*

## Current Services at St Paul's

**Sunday: 9.00 am** Service of the Word on Zoom  
**10.45am** Parish Eucharist in church—please remember to wear a mask.

**Wednesday: 9am** Morning prayer on Zoom

**Tuesday & Friday: 8.30pm** Compline on Zoom

For further details please contact Revd. Liz 07763 188149

### Choral Evensong is returning!

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, the choir will sing Evensong at 6.30pm.



**Helen's final service will be on Sunday 16th May at 10:45 at St. Paul's, this will be a team service and will be a ticketed event - please contact Revd. Liz 07763 188149 for a ticket.**



There will be a Gardening Day on **Saturday May 15th 10 am—1pm**. All Welcome.  
Please bring a flask as we cannot provide refreshments.



## Our Helen

## An Appreciation by John Prag

With the retirement of Christine Marshall in 2010 St Paul's began the uneasy year's interregnum that seems customary in the Church of England. I was privileged to be one of the selection panel for her successor, and I think we were not optimistic about the likely field. The first few enquiries did not bode well. Then into the interview room came a curate-in-training called Helen Scanlan. It must have been a scary experience for her, but it is the only job interview in which I have been involved where the panel were unhesitatingly unanimous in their decision. 'Cherish Helen. She is special' said the bishop. 'I'll mentor her through her training' said the archdeacon.

Helen came to ministry from a career in child care, and we have gained from that in all kinds of ways, as she has nurtured us and tolerated (some of) our little ways. She has understood when to foster our strengths and encourage us, and when to take us by the scruff of the neck and make us grasp the way of the real world, whether it is supporting our crumbling tower or the needs of our community, or to show us how we can use our place in Heaton Moor both spiritually and physically to help and encourage those inside the church and also those who would not normally come inside – 'Men in Sheds', 'Ground Force', concerts and recitals, Tai Chi, Zumba, whatever next! There is still a long way to go, and the pandemic has been another challenge (who would have thought that we would be Zooming our way to God, guided by the archangel Helen flanked by her acolytes Liz and Jane?) but I believe we have been shown a sense of direction along the way ahead. Like a true good shepherd she has led us and encouraged us, and even encouraged her dogs to guide us – we now have St Paul's dog walks and pet services, whatever next?.

We learned long ago not to be fooled by those blue eyes – they are steel blue, not forget-me-not blue, and what shines out through them is Helen's deep and convinced faith. As I know from my own experience, Helen is there when you need her, never obtrusive, never too busy to listen, but always a caring and comforting presence. One of the most moving and reassuring moments in any service I have been to anywhere, ever, was listening to Helen quietly praying with us at Zoom Compline last week.

I hope we have cherished Helen as the bishop asked. She has certainly cherished her flocks in the Heaton. Her new role as the first dean of the much enlarged area deanery will be exciting:

*'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown"*

*And he replied:*

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."* (Minnie Louise Haskins 1875-1957)

Our Helen, go out there with our love!