



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

News from the Parish

April 2026



www.stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stedmundsallestree

St. Edmund's - April 2026

While COVID has diminished in terms of its impact on us as a nation, we recognise that there will be some people who have still to be careful because they are vulnerable. If you feel you need to wear a mask, we encourage you to do so. We also gently request that if you are unwell, especially if you have COVID, you stay away to avoid infecting anyone who might be vulnerable.

For communion, normal practice has resumed regarding going to and from the rail. Please follow any directions given by the day's welcomers. At the rail you will be given three options regarding bread and wine. You may either indicate - by nodding your head - that you wish the wafer to be intincted for you by the person carrying the special intincting chalice, or you may accept the wafer only and then drink from the chalice brought after by the server. Or you may choose to just have the wafer.

There are halved grapes available for children at the rail so they join in this special feast, they will be given a prayer of blessing as normal. And if you do not feel communion is appropriate for you we encourage you to come to the rail, leaving your hands by your sides, so that we may pray a prayer of blessing over you.

Please stay for coffee or tea in the Church Hall after the service, it's a great opportunity to get to know new friends and to catch up with old ones.

FOOD BANK - The first Sunday of the month, 5th April 2026.

Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 7th April. After April, THE DONATION DAY will move to the Second Sunday of each month. This is an experiment to address a perceived reduction in donations when food bank Sunday coincides with the All Age Service at St Edmund's.

FRONT COVER: The St Edmund's Flower Team making the Mothering Sunday posies on Saturday 14 March, ready for the Sunday morning service. See page 11.

BACK COVER: Holy Week Services 2026 at our Four Churches - St Edmund's, St Matthew's, St Nicholas' and St Paul's.

If you would like to sponsor a month's colour cover please contact one of the editorial team or a Churchwarden. The cost is £35.00.

Open All Year: St Ed's and St Matt's are open regularly throughout the spring and summer months. Do pop in for some peace and space, and invite others to do the same. If you are there and people come in, please make them welcome.

Safeguarding Initiative

We have a strong Safeguarding Initiative here at St Edmund's Church.

Full details can be found on the Church noticeboards and on our website - key into your browser 'stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk' to find us.

The Revd Rachael Writes

Lent started in our schools with collective worships thinking about second chances. It's currently hotting up with RE sessions and a Beaver faith badge session across our churches using the fabulous GoChatter Lego Easter Story film, exploring aspects of the story. Then it'll be school Easter services in our churches, and Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day All Age services at one or other of our churches across the four parishes, plus more adult-focussed services.



What has struck me so far is the quality of thinking expressed by our children. They've asked some deep searching questions as well as making some very insightful comments. One young child, when discussing the tomb in which Jesus was laid we knew was owned by a rich man because these rock tombs were expensive, commented that Jesus was rich too; rich with love. A most profound insight.

The most challenging response to my questions so far, however, put the finger on the issue that has exercised so many people. In the parable of the wicked tenants, told by Jesus to the religious leaders, the owner of the vineyard sends servant after servant to collect the portion of the harvest due him, but the tenants kill each one. He finally sends his son thinking they'll treat the son with more respect. The tenants choose instead to kill the son and claim the vineyard for themselves.

I asked why the owner kept giving them second chances. The response was that the owner sent the others because he was afraid to go himself. The owner, of course, is God. Jesus's listeners are the tenants. So, did God condemn his son to death while remaining safe in heaven?

The point of Christmas is that it is God who is born in that stable. God is somehow trinity; three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God sends Godself, tearing one part of Godself from the rest to be enfleshed. And the point of Easter is that God, in Jesus, submits to death on the cross at the hands of those God has created because of the great love God has for us. And, because Jesus is all that is good, sin and death, which have reigned over us since Adam and Eve first chose to shortcut their way to all God's knowledge by eating the apple, are defeated. They cannot hold Jesus, he rose from death to new life, creating a door through which we too can walk into God's Kingdom; if we want to begin to live as he created us to live – lives marked by love for God and one another. Oh, how our world needs that love!

I invite you all to join Sarah, our colleagues and me as we celebrate this new life God offers on Easter day - and on any other Sunday (or Wednesday). All are welcome!

Revd Rachael, Associate Minister, St Edmund's Church

Churchwardens' View

A Regular Update by Ann Miller and Paul Smith

Spring is now well and truly underway and as we enter April, we come to the high point of the church year as we celebrate both the death and the resurrection of our Lord. Please do join us as we prepare for Easter and come to the great day itself. There will be the usual holy communion service with stripping of the altar at St Ed's on Maundy Thursday (2 April at 7.30pm), and on Easter Day itself we have All Age Worship with communion at 10.00 am and a choral evensong at 6.00pm. We'd love to make you welcome at any or all of these services.

On 19th April we hold our Annual Church Meeting at which we will elect new wardens, deanery synod delegates and members of our Parochial Church Council (PCC). This will take place in the hall after the 10.00 am morning service. All are welcome but you won't be able to vote unless you are on our electoral roll.

At that meeting, Paul will stand down as warden after a term of four years. He writes:

“This has been an amazingly busy time in which we have sadly seen the death of our much-loved previous vicar, the Revd Peter Barham but also welcomed Revd Rachael as our associate priest. We have also entered a time of closer co-operation, not only with our sister church at St Matthew's Darley Abbey (also looked after by Rachael) but also with neighbouring parishes of St Nick's, Allestree and St Paul's at Quarndon.



We give thanks for the new ideas for worship and outreach that Revd Rachael and Revd Sarah have brought, and it has been a pleasure to serve them and you, the members of our church family. No doubt new wardens will also bring new ideas and ways of working and that is brilliant. Our mission remains to bring the good news of Jesus to the people of Allestree and support all our friends in the wider community, including those we have yet to meet.

The warden role is demanding but it also wonderfully rewarding. It's humbling to think of all the previous clergy and wardens who have served at St Ed's – and all the faithful people who have gone before us and been part of God's work in this place. To everyone who has supported me in my time as warden, I'd like to say thank you. More than that, though, I could not have managed without you.

I am now working towards becoming a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) – a new start for me at the age of 70. You may well find me leading worship, preaching or ministering in other ways as I work towards this goal. A huge thank you to everyone

Churchwarden's View continued

who has encouraged me along this path, or who has helped in practical ways such as lending books or donating robes.”

In closing, don't forget our Plant Sale at church on Saturday May 16th. We hope you're planting and sowing so that we've plenty of plants to sell, and that you'll reserve the date to be sure of coming along to pick up amazing bargains, along with coffee and biscuits, and meeting friends.

And if you'd like to find out more about our worship, or any of the organisations that together make up our church life, do get in touch with one of us, or Revd Rachael personally. As usual, contact details are given later in this magazine.

Ann & Paul, Churchwardens



Dates for your Diary - March/April 2026

Monday 30th March

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 31st March

12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - St Edmund's Luncheon Club

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Wednesday 1st April

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Revd Rachael Brooks

7.00pm - Online - Evening Prayer

Thursday 2nd April - *Maundy Thursday*

11.00am - Derby Cathedral - Diocesan Chrism Eucharist (BSL) with the Blessing of the Holy Oils. (This service can be watched live by going to the Cathedral website <https://derbycathedral.org/events/special-services/>)

7.30pm - St Edmund's - Stripping of the Altar

Continued on page 6

Dates for your Diary - April 2026 continued

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday

2.00pm - St Edmund's - Last Hour at the Cross

7.30pm - St Matthew's - Reflective service

Saturday 4th April 9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

Sunday 5th April - Easter Day, 1st Sunday of Easter

Food Bank Sunday: *Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 7th April. Thank you.*

10.00am - St Edmund's - All Age Communion, led by Revd Rachael Brooks and the team

10.00am - St Matthews - Choral Holy Communion, led by David Anderson

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Joint Choral Evensong, led by Paul Smith

Monday 6th April 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 7th April

2.00-3.30pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM: A Brief History of Pantomime
by Ann Featherstone

Wednesday 8th April

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by David Anderson

Saturday 11th April

1.00pm - St Edmund's - Wedding of Kalbinder Lalli & Sarah Whitmore

Sunday 12th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by John Rice

10.00am - St Matthews - Morning Prayer, led by Clive Lemmon

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by David Anderson

Monday 13th April

2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: 44 Scotland Street
by Alexander McCall Smith

7.30pm - Community Room, Catherine McAuley House - Ascension Prayer Group

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 14th April

12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - St Edmund's Luncheon Club

Wednesday 15th April

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by Phyllis Bainbridge

Thursday 16th April

10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Friday 17th April

8.30-10.30am - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Community Café

Continued on page 7

Dates for your Diary - April 2026 continued

Sunday 19th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer, led by Clive Lemmon

After the 10.00am service will be the APCM in St Edmund's Church Hall

10.00am - St Matthews - Choral Holy Communion, led by Revd Rachael Brooks

6.00pm - St Matthew's - Choral Evensong, led by Revd Rachael Brooks

Monday 20th April

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Wednesday 22nd April

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by John Rice

Thursday 23rd April 10.30am - Allestree Park - Nature Tots

Saturday 25th April 9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party

Sunday 26th April - 4th Sunday of Easter

10.00am - St Edmund's - Choral Holy Communion, led by Adrian Thorp

10.00am - St Matthews - All Age service & the baptism of Teddy & Lily Williams
- led by Revd Rachael Brooks & the team

11.30am - St Matthew's - Burial of ashes of Jean Wight

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, service leader to be arranged

Monday 27th April

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 28th April

12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - St Edmund's Luncheon Club

Wednesday 29th April

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by Revd Rachael Brooks

Thursday 30th April

10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Parish Office Hours & Contact Details

The Parish Administrator is Caroline Audley who can be contacted by email: Steds.stmatts@outlook.com or telephone her on 552031. Office opening hours:-

Monday & Wednesday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
9.30am - 3.00pm	Closed	11.30am - 3.00pm (after Baby & Toddler Group)	9.30am - 1.00pm

If out of hours please leave a message; the answer phone is checked daily.

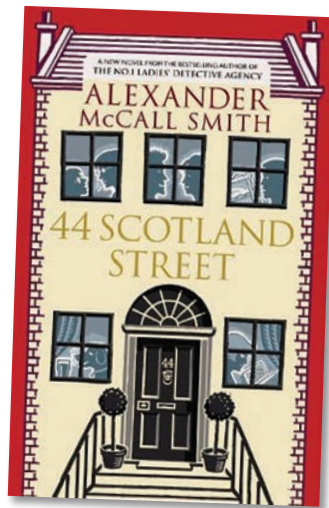
The next Bookworms Meeting is on 13th April

Bookworms meet in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm. Our next meeting is on Monday 13th April and we will be discussing "44 Scotland Street" by Alexander McCall Smith. For the remaining months the reading list is as follows:

11th May Laurie Lee - Cider with Rosie

8th June John Wyndham - The Day of the Triffids

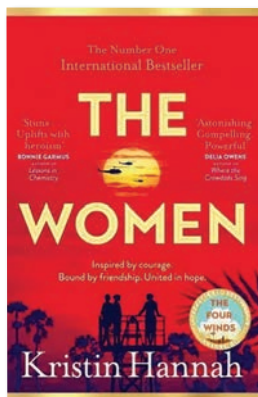
For further details please ring or text Cyra Buxton on 07719 776501 or email her on cyrabuxton@gmail.com.



Apologies to the Bookworms for the incorrect notice last month

In our March magazine the magazine artworker made a mess of the Bookworms March reading book. Instead of referring to "The Women" by Kristin Hannah, the details of the February read, "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell, were repeated. To make matters worse, the book image was of the April read - so if you think you've seen that cover before, yes, you have.

The eagle-eyed proof readers picked up the mistake but the magazine artworker forgot to correct it.



To encourage you to read the book, here is a brief synopsis:

"The Women" by Kristin Hannah is a historical fiction novel following Frankie McGrath, a wealthy Californian nursing student who enlists as an Army nurse in Vietnam after her brother is killed. The story highlights her brutal experiences as a battlefield nurse, the deep bonds she forms, and the difficult homecoming she faces in a divided America that frequently denies women's service in the Vietnam War.

Let's hope that the clever AI got that right... can't rely on the artworker...

From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

No entries have been written in the Registers since the 1st February 2026.

Book Sale News

Here is very early notice of our next big book sale! It will be on Saturday July 4th. Usual place and time: the church hall from 11.00am until 1.00pm.

This time we hope to raise money for Christian Aid*. This wonderful charity does splendid work around the world both as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee and also working on their own projects. It is now struggling because of the cuts to the government's overseas aid budget.

I have been unable to get into the book shed for much of the winter to sort what was left after the last sale because of all the rain but I am on the way with the job now. The polystyrene boxes, which were collected many years ago by Primrose when she started the book selling, have now come to the end of their lives. This has necessitated me using cardboard boxes. They are hard to come by of a suitable size (not too big, books are heavy!), and with closable lids for stacking. They do not keep the books in the best condition when the weather is wet. The ideal box would be a plastic one with a lid. So I am sending out a plea to see if anyone has such a box they could donate.

When the shed is sorted, I will be grateful for any donations of books and will leave the red box at the back of church for them to be left in. Watch that space!

Diane Bakhda

* There is more news about Christian Aid from Geoff Bailey on page 14.

Allestree History Group Meetings April 2026

The group meet twice a month at 7.00pm on the first and third Wednesdays in the Choir Vestry at St Nicholas' Church, Allestree Lane, Allestree, Derby DE22 2DS.

8th April – “Anthony Babington and the Babington Plot” by Danielle Burton

22nd April – “Allestree Park Rewilding” by Andy Honman. ★

Membership £22 per half year.

Visitors welcome – fee £5 per talk (includes a drink and biscuit)

For enquiries about the programmes, contact Andrew on 07969 295796 or visit www.allestreelocalhistorygroup.org.uk

★ Re Allestree Park: see page 23 for details of two of events taking place during April on Allestree Park that will be of interest to families or gardeners. More information on activities or becoming a volunteer can be found on the website 'friendsofallestreepark.org.uk'

Plant Sale Saturday morning 16th May

We hope you have all got a note of this date in your diaries! From 10.00am to 12 noon we'll be selling a large variety of bedding/vegetable plants and much, much more.

The sale is in St. Edmund's choir vestry and hopefully the weather will be kind and we'll have tables outside too.

We will be grateful for donations of plants of any shape or size and these can be brought to the choir vestry on Friday the 15th, 5.00 - 7.00pm or before 10.00am on the 16th.

We look forward to seeing you there, there'll be tea and coffee so do come along, chat with friends as you grab your bargains!

Mary Pollett, Events Committee



Remember 10.30am is the start time for the Wednesday Holy Communion Service

Since December last year the Wednesday Holy Communion service at St Edmund's has moved to the later start time of 10.30am. The experiment has run for a trial period to the end of March 2026 and we believe that the later start time has helped more people to attend. As a result the start time will continue to be 10.30am.

Revd Rachael Brooks

Continue to Save Your Stamps for Charity

The Derby Oxfam shop are very grateful for them - AND the stamps are covered by gift aid so the charity gets tax back. The stamps are sorted and sold in the shop so do keep your donations coming!

Please cut stamps leaving a centimetre edge all round and place them in the box at the back of church. *Elizabeth Jack*

Flowers for Mothering Sunday Service, 15th March

Another good Mothering Sunday team effort. All the posies were made during the Saturday and filled two baskets ready for handing out. All the greenery came from parishioners' gardens. There were enough posies left over to leave for passers-by at the church gate. They were very well received.

Michèle Aspinall



Allestree Flower Group 21st April 2026

Our April meeting is on Tuesday 21st. It is our AGM and there will be a Competition, Quiz and Fizz.

We meet at the Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree, DE22 2FT from 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Admission: Members £5.00 Non-Members £9.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457



Allestree W.I. Meeting on 21st April 2026

The Allestree W.I. will meet Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby. DE22 2GP.

This meeting will be the AGM and Mrs Nancy Hawksworth, in her capacity as WI Advisor will be in attendance and will present the Cup to the competition winner.

The competition is a Small Spring Flower Arrangement in an Egg cup.

Visitors welcome £5.00.pp

Enquiries can be made to Sandra on 01332 554899.

THE REPAIR CAFÉ open on 4th April

The volunteer-run Derby Repair Cafe will be open on Saturday 4th April at the West End Community Centre, Mackworth Rd, Derby, DE22 3BL.

Bring your household items for repair by our volunteer repairers for a small donation whilst you sit back and have a cuppa - A community cafe will be open for drinks and cake.

Last repairs taken at 3.30pm. Don't forget that we can only take cash for donations and refreshments.

Full details can be found on the Repair Café Facebook page.

ST EDMUND'S LUNCHEON CLUB

**GREAT FOOD &
INTERESTING, LOVELY
PEOPLE**

**Takes place every two
weeks - Look at the
Diary Dates pages**

**If you'd like to join us for
a meal please ring Anne
Madge, 07971 680377**

All Age Worship, 10am



5 April - St Edmund's

This service will be informal, interactive & suitable for all ages.

The theme will be Easter, celebrating Jesus rising, symbolising new life and hope.

All welcome

Sunday services at St Edmund's in April



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday 5 | 10 am All Age service |
| | 6 pm Choral Evensong |
| Sunday 12 | 10 am Holy Communion |
| | 6 pm Choral Evensong |
| Sunday 19 | 10 am Morning Prayer |
| | Choral Holy |
| Sunday 26 | 10 am Communion |
| | 6 pm Choral Evensong |

All welcome

All Age Worship, 10am



26 April - St Matthew's

This service will be informal, interactive & suitable for all ages.

The theme will be Moses and the burning bush when God spoke to Moses.

All welcome

Sunday services at St Matthew's in April



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday 5 | 10 am Choral Holy Communion |
| Sunday 12 | 10 am Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 19 | 10 am Choral Holy Communion |
| | 6 pm Choral Evensong |
| Sunday 26 | 10 am All Age service |

All welcome



Note for your diary: 10th to 16th May 2026 is Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is 10-16 May 2026. Please note this in your diary and if you would like to join those who go out delivering envelopes for householders to return to us, or you would be prepared to go collecting from house to house during the Week, please contact me.

A further cut to the UK aid budget for 2027 has just been announced (to finance defence spending), so the need for voluntary support for aid organisations becomes even greater. Thank you.

Geoff Bailey

01332 552724

*Rita's Recipe Page: Jersey Potatoes & Dandelion Salad

As winter turns to spring it is easy to spot the dandelions as their buds open revealing the rich yellow of the flowers. It is the fresh leaves that are needed for this recipe.

Ingredients 1lb Jersey Royals (or waxy new potatoes) - all roughly the same size.

8oz small dandelion leaves

5oz smoked streaky bacon, thick cut 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

4 shallots (or one red onion) 3 tbsp red wine vinegar

1 small bunch of fresh chives Salt & Pepper to season

Method

Wash, do not peel, & boil the potatoes for about 10-15 minutes, until just cooked.

Wash the dandelion leaves, discard any damaged leaves, chop the larger leaves in half.

Cube the bacon. Peel the shallots, or red onion, and chop finely with the chives.

Mix the oil with 1 tbsp of the vinegar, add seasoning to taste. Drain the potatoes, if large cut into half or quarters, and mix in the oil and vinegar. Stir in the chopped shallots/onion. Fry the bacon in its own fat until

browned and crisp, then add to the dandelion leaves along with any fat from the pan. Pour the remaining vinegar into the hot pan and deglaze, bubbling briefly before pouring over the dandelion and bacon. Finally, add the potatoes and mix. Serve with lightly cooked fish or chicken.



© 'Fresh from the market' by Sarah Woodward

**Named as a thank you to Rita Wrigley for many years of contributing recipes.*



ST EDMUND'S



Join us for Holy Communion



Wednesday
1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 April
St Edmund's
10.30am

All welcome



ST EDMUND'S



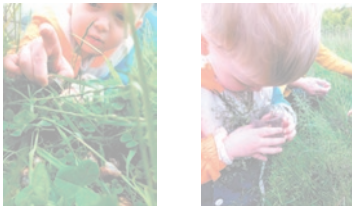
We collect for the Hope Centre on the **first** Sunday of **every** month. Donations can be left in St Edmund's Church.

Thank you.



Nature Tots

St Edmund's Baby & Toddler Group in partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



A pre-school playgroup with a difference, connecting children with nature; encouraging them to learn, play and have fun outdoors

Thursday 23 April, 10-11.30am,
Allestree Park

Park in the main carpark off the A6, DE22 2EU, walk towards the hall, a member of the team will direct you.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear as we are outside. Bring a lidded travel cup as hot drinks are available.

£2 suggested donation per child.

All welcome

Follow us on Facebook - St Edmund's Allestree Baby & Toddler Group

OPEN HOUSE COFFEE AT ST. EDMUND'S

Join us for coffee - everyone welcome. We'd love to see you!

We serve coffee and biscuits on Sunday mornings between 11.00am and 11.45am in St Edmund's Church Hall and on Wednesday mornings there's coffee inside the Church at 11.15am.

COME AND JOIN US

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (2)

The Rambler's Walks continue with The Castles, Halls & Abbeys series:

BOLSOVER AND THE STOCKLEY TRAIL

The **Stockley Trail** is a wildlife corridor running along a former railway branch line which once served pits at Bolsover and Glapwell Collieries. The trail follows the River Doe Lea, now a wetland region with a variety of birdlife, comprising **Peter Fidler Reserve** and **Carr Vale Flash** areas, both part of a dedicated Nature Reserve. The first of these, on the site of an old spoil tip, is named after a local resident,



Bolsover Castle

born 1769, who became a famous North American explorer and Chief Surveyor of the Hudson Bay Company. The second was created from subsidence 'flashes' caused by former mine and quarry workings. Both have been well landscaped from their former usage, with excellent paths and information plaques. A walk of about 3½ miles covers this area with an ascent to the spectacular castle location above (if the latter appears too daunting various other paths within the Reserve can be explored).



Miners' Terrace, New Bolsover

Bolsover Castle was built in 1612 by Charles Cavendish, son of Bess of Hardwick. It occupies the site of an older Norman castle built by William Peveril overlooking the Doe Lea valley. Begun by Charles in Jacobean style, various classical and novel features were added by his cavalier-playboy son, William, creating a unique architectural mixture. It effectively became a holiday home from the family's main estate at Welbeck Abbey. Many paintings and statues

Continued on page 17

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (2)



Carr Vale Reserve

were added, probably to impress King Charles I who was an occasional visitor in the 1630's. Grand riding stables and horse-exercise facilities were incorporated, together with a new phase of surrounding urban development. The castle suffered in the Civil War and also by transfer of stone to the Welbeck Estate. It became national property in 1945 and is looked after by English Heritage.

New Bolsover is the name of a 'model village' built in the 1890's by the local colliery



Sutton Scarsdale ruins

company as a self-sufficient community. Regarded as one of the finest colliery villages in the country, it is Grade II-listed on account of its architectural and historical significance. A relevant feature passed on the walk is a double row of terraced houses built around three sides of a grass square; coal used to be delivered each month by a 'tub' railway running between the house rows! In the last 30 years of the 19thc, the surging

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (2)

BOLSOVER AND THE STOCKLEY TRAIL *continued*

demand for coal production overtook the older industries of light metalwork and pipes and fuelled a quadrupling of the town's population.

The **River Doe Lea**, which flows through or alongside the Nature Reserves, is now completely transformed from what was one of the most polluted waters in Europe, afflicted by the former coalfields which closed in 1994. It flows northwards from the Hardwick area for about 8 miles, joining the River Rother north of Staveley. Visible across the valley on the other side of the M1 is the shell of Sutton Scarsdale Hall. Built for the last Earl of Scarsdale in 1774, it passed to the Arkwright family in 1824, then to a speculator who sold all the contents and broke up the estate, including its extensive deer park and mining rights, in 1920. The remains were saved from demolition by Sir Oswald Sitwell of Renishaw Hall after WWII and can now be freely visited

The Route starts from the Nature Reserves c/p, just off the A632 at the foot of Bolsover hill (461707). Turn R on the adjacent track which swings around the Peter Fidler Reserve with commemorative cairn on the L (a detour can be made through this area, rejoining the track further on). Continue S on the main track into Carr Vale Reserve; it bears L and R around the first lake then alongside the river and further lakes on the R (with good bird-hides). Near the end of the last lake take a f/p L through a squeeze stile, cross the Stockley Trail (461697), past a small fishing lake and follow the narrow tarmac road (Water Lane) into and along Carr Vale Road. Turn R on Bainbridge Road, then L at a f/p sign on a rising tarmac path; this crosses a road and continues steeply, bearing L at a fork and exiting near the top of Castle Lane. Turn R to visit the Castle. Then return downhill to the next bend, take a f/p R passing below the castle. At the open fields turn L down the bank to a f/p alongside terraced houses; pass L through a small jitty and across the top side of the distinctive 'square' of the old miners' terrace (466705). Another jitty in the same direction leads into and across Vale Park; then turn R on first a gravel then a tarmac path. The latter meets the Stockley Trail, where a R turn leads back to the c/p



Stockley Trail fishing lake



Concert: The Choral Pilgrimage

17 April 2026 | 7.30pm

Derby Cathedral

A programme exploring majestic music from the Spanish Renaissance alongside spellbinding works from James MacMillan and Kerensa Briggs.

Spain's Siglo de Oro, the Age of Gold, gave rise to some of the greatest sacred choral music of the Renaissance. We devote our latest Choral Pilgrimage to pieces by two outstanding Spanish composers, exploring majestic works by Cristóbal de Morales, famed throughout Europe and in the New World, and the exquisite polyphony of Sebastián de Vivanco, whose intricately crafted counterpoint adorned services at the cathedrals of Ávila and Salamanca during the late 1500s.

The programme also features spellbinding settings of words by Saint John Henry Newman: Sir James MacMillan's *Nothing in Vain* for soloists and double choir and the world premiere of Kerensa Briggs' *Lead, Kindly Light*, specially commissioned for the Choral Pilgrimage.

Ticket Prices: £15.00 - £30.00

Book through the link on the Cathedral website - <https://derbycathedral.org/events/concerts/the-sixteen-choral-pilgrimage-concert-2026/>



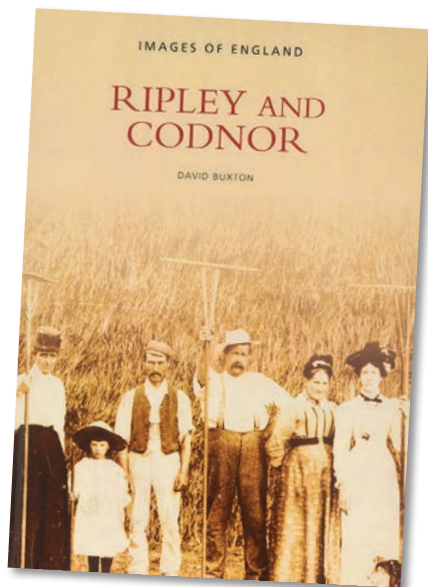
Book Review

“Images of England: Ripley and Codnor” by David Buxton

Pub Softback by The History Press, 2013

ISBN 978 0 7524 0042 6

(First published 1994 through Ripley & District
Historical Society)



Books of historical photographs, especially if they are well researched and captioned, tend to be at least intriguing. They can provide unique insights into local history in all its aspects, and this one is no exception, illustrating life in these two now ex-mining communities, not far north of Derby and surrounded mainly by agriculture. Ripley and Codnor were both in many ways fortunate still to have expanding populations after the pit losses of the mid-twentieth century, because of the continuing need for employees of the industrial giant Butterley Company.

The work is divided into chapters, covering Ripley and Codnor's Shops and Streets, Trade and Industry (inevitably given the multiple Butterley enterprises there is overlap here also with Transport), Sports and Leisure, Schooldays, Out of Town, Ripley Cottage Hospital, Carnivals and Special Events, and one slightly unusual one to end with.

Starting with the “Shops and Streets” category, this place-pairing is only partly logical. The two communities were never contiguous until very recent times, and while Codnor was smaller and much more rural, Ripley was already quite a substantial town for its time. There was, though, interaction between the two, mainly through workers for the Butterley Company, and to a lesser extent shared church and chapel congregations (disappointingly, not a separate chapter here). Anyway, one notable feature of Ripley's shopping streets is the multiplicity of groceries, butchers, bakeries, stationers and other basic suppliers in harmonious juxtaposition; another is the relatively small number of families running them. One example is the Allsops, who had a grocery on the High Street (p 14), a stables on Slack Lane (p 15), and among other ventures they also owned a pit-ponies business on the Marketplace (these photos range in date from about 1910 to the early 50s). The 1930 photo is especially interesting, since a whole staff in an interior is rare at this period and suggests more resources for lighting than many had.

The Schools are, as you might expect, less varied, with rows of children standing to attention; one instance is Ripley's old Shirley Road Primary, in around 1912 (p 156).

Book Review continued

The Carnivals are much more interesting, often involving gigantic bonfires (p 136), occasionally the arrival of a circus by train, one in 1912 (p 137), or a Whit Walk such as in 1909 (p 139) – this one to Codnor Monument and consisting entirely of girls. (Their expressions uniformly suggest a funeral, not an afternoon of fun !)

It's impossible to cover every section, but one virtually unique one covers “Ripley Zoo”, an unusual venture by the Marshall family starting in the early 1900s. The plates are many, since John Marshall “could turn his hand to anything”, and one hobby was photography. He extended several buildings on Oxford Street, and added viewing platforms on two extra storeys, perhaps not very safely. Exhibits included an aviary (p 66), a bear (p 70), two dogs, a parrot and a cockatoo (p 67) and a sealion (p 68). Perhaps the most extraordinary item formed part of a small waxworks collection; it was called “Bifiz”, and alleged to be a hermaphrodite, two-headed woman (p 72, see also back cover). How believable this was seen to be at closing-down time in 1915 one can only guess ...

I found this book hard to put down, not least because of the variety of subjects. Less fortunately, the quality of the photographs is highly variable, for reasons that range from amateur and uncertain use of cameras to movement from wind, coughs or animals – and the vast amounts of steam emitted by Butterley trains. Best of all, they send the really interested reader in the direction of more in-depth local historical writing, and one very good example is Tim Castledine's History of the Butterley Company, a much longer and richly authoritative volume published by the Ripley & District Historical Society. Warmly recommended - and that applies, unusually, to both books.

Kate Smith

Late September 2025

!! Magazine Contributors Urgently Needed !!

Do you go to any of the clubs, social events or church services that take place in Allestree? In St Edmund's parish? Do you have a camera phone?

If the answer is yes, then take a photo of where you are, of what's going on, of people taking part. Write a few words describing the photo and send to this magazine.

We need more contributors - young and old, active or inactive. You may have enjoyed a walk in the countryside, gone to a really memorable event... share that with us.

This magazine is the Parish's magazine - and it needs you to be part of it. Forget the modern media of Facebook and TikTok... send to your local magazine instead!

Please email articles and photos to both fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk and Chris Willis at c.willis246@btinternet.com



SPOTLIGHT

on young people & families



Title: Easter

What is happening?

As we approach Easter, there is lots going on for families and young people with the all ages services, Easter egg hunts and a new and interactive all age Good Friday Service taking us through the events of Holy Week (details in this publication). There is also lots going on in schools with Collective Worship and visits to our church buildings for the Lego Easter Trail (which also includes one of our Beaver troops) and for Easter services.

Please pray for:

Our young people & families especially at Easter that they may encounter the good news of the Easter story afresh and decide for themselves how to respond to Jesus.

See Church Websites for more details



Be a Boar

Saturday 18th April
2pm - 4pm

Free!

Join us for a 'boaring' time in Allestree Park, mimicking wild boar rooting around in the soil (using tools, not snouts!), to disturb dormant wildflowers and encourage them to grow.

All Welcome!

Meet at 2pm in the Main Car Park off Duffield Rd (A6), DE22 2EU where we'll lead you to our boaring site.

Please wear gloves and sensible footwear!



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Introduction to Healthy Soil

Friday 24th April
10am-12:30pm or 1:30pm-4pm

Free!

Join us for a Healthy Soils Workshop as part of the Allestree Park Community Rewilding Project.

Learn why healthy soils are important and how to carry out physical (colour, texture) and chemical (pH, carbon & water content) tests to determine soil health. This training is **beginner friendly**, no experience is needed, just an interest to learn more!

Spaces are limited. To secure your place, please email with your preferred timeslot - allestreepark@derbyshirewt.co.uk

Meet at 10am or 1:30pm at the Main Car Park off Duffield Road, DE22 2EU



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If you have young children, you may be interested in ... St Edmund's Baby & Toddler Group

WHAT? St Edmund's Baby & Toddler Group is a small friendly group where parents & carers can enjoy a tea or coffee with a biscuit whilst their little people (up to pre-school age) can play with a variety of toys or head to the craft table. There is



Here is a picture the children made on the craft table for Valentine's Day last year.

squash and fruit for them to enjoy too. We always wrap up the session with a story and some songs including the Hokey Cokey.

WHERE? St Edmund's Church Hall, Allestree (DE22 2FN).

WHEN? Every Thursday (term time) 10-11.30am (other than the 2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month when we meet for Nature Tots).

COST? We suggest a £1 donation per child.

PLEASE PRAY? For a session filled with fun and laughter.

For more details, please check the Diary on pages 5, 6 and 7 or visit St Edmund's website: stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

Community Pop-in Café

Coffee
Tea
Toast

Fellowship Room
St Matthew's Church
Darley Abbey
Friday 17th April 2026
8.30 - 10.30am

All welcome
Share time with friends

SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?



Would you be interested in joining a German conversation group?

I'm a native German speaker and hold a conversation group in Belper every Tuesday from 2.00 - 3.30pm.



We talk about all sorts of topics that people are interested in and the atmosphere is very informal and relaxed.

The level is approximately A2 - B1.

There is a small charge which includes a hot drink and cakes or biscuits.



If you are interested or you would like further information please call, text or send a Whatsapp to Barbara Clark on 07788 179683.

Help to Choose St Edmund's Charities 2026

Dear all,

St Edmund's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) donated to seven charitable causes during 2025, based on proposals made by members of this parish. The PCC is now looking for appropriate charities to support in 2026. You can nominate charities covering mission, children's charities, education, training, community, medical charities, etc., and your input can be for a local, national or overseas charitable cause.

Please submit your nomination and why it should be supported by **10.00am Sunday 5th April 2025 at latest**, either by email to me at **markhalliwell10@gmail.com**, or by putting in the 'H' pigeon hole at the back of church addressed to me, in either case responding to the prompts in the form below. We'll look forward to seeing your proposals!

Best wishes,

Mark Halliwell

on behalf of St Edmund's PCC

Detach Here

Your name:
Phone number or email contact:
Full Name of nominated Charity:
Purpose of Charity:
Why you believe St Edmund's should support this charity. Also please state any specific objective or project within the charity that the money should be used for, and any donation amount requirement.
Return form to: Mark Halliwell, St Edmund's Church Allestree



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April 2026

Bishop Malcolm writes...

Let's not be April fools.

At school I was taught that the French say 'Cocorico' instead of 'April Fool'. I have believed this for years - but it turns out to be fake. I may be the last credulous victim of a long running prank. The French equivalent of 'April Fool' is not 'Cocorico' but 'Poisson d'Avril!' or 'April Fish'. All a bit fishy, anyway.



Nonetheless, 'cocorico', or 'cockadoodledoo' can be a bit of a tease too. There's history here. In Edmond Rostand's 1910 play *Le Chantecler* the rooster's self-important delusion is that it is his duty to announce the day – that if he fails to do his duty the sun cannot rise and day will not begin.

And in the gospels, Jesus tells Peter that by the time the cockerel crows he will deny knowing Jesus three times. When this happens, Peter weeps bitterly. The truth about ourselves is sometimes hard to swallow.

Cockadoodledoo is a mocking signal of untruths told and loyalties lost. Of moments missed, and opportunities wasted. Wake up! Wake up! Wake up to what is going on around you! Don't sleepwalk into disaster. The events of the first Easter, and the events that lead up to it, are remote from our 21st century world, but they are real. And they are relevant as ever.

They are real because of the places they happened, still there today. A so called 'Holy Land' brutalised by violence, hatred, and division. Jerusalem, towards which Jesus set his face, to the city and the confrontation that would inevitably happen there. To the upper room, where he would break bread and share wine with them. Where their weary, dusty feet were washed by the one who would next day give his life for the world. To the place also where Jesus, three days later, would suddenly appear, behind locked doors, and startle them all with his greeting, 'Peace!'

Not dead at all, but alive, with them: a new beginning, and a whole new world.

This is the city where Jesus gave himself in love. 'Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing.' Whilst they could be a comment on current events, these words were Jesus' prayer for his torturers and executioners, and for all who colluded with the scandal of an innocent man condemned to die. God is with us the suffering and death of Jesus. God is with us in the joy of resurrection, and in the new creation that springs from the love of God in Jesus.

How we long for Easter peace this year! How we pray for the peoples of the Holy Land, and for real, just, and lasting peace! We think especially of the people of the Anglican churches across the Middle East at this time. We don't know how or when this prayer will be answered. Though, as the writer to the Hebrews says, 'but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.' Hebrews 2.9

+ Bishop Repton

The Rt Revd Malcolm Macnaughton Bishop of Repton

If in addition to praying for peace in the middle east you would like to give, please join Bishop Libby and me in contributing to the Good Friday appeal for the work of the Al Ahli hospital in Gaza, serving the sick and injured of that community at this time? Donations can be sent directly via this link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24585#!/DonationDetails>

ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE

If you are a local trader, or have an event to promote, why not place an advertisement in the St Edmund's Church magazine. It is an inexpensive way to reach the local population of Allestree and Darley Abbey.

Contact Caroline Audley,
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for details on cost
and publication dates.



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St. Edmund's Parish

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For all enquiries regarding weddings, baptisms, funerals and parish events contact the Parish Administrator, Caroline Audley: email: Steds.stmatts@outlook.com / telephone 552031.

Office opening hours:- Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9.30am – 3.00pm
Thursday: 11.30am – 3.00pm The office is closed on Tuesday

If out of hours please leave a message; the answer phone is checked daily.

In an emergency, please contact one of the churchwardens.

Directory

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Rainbows, Brownies & Guides:	Alwyn Young	07740 201963

St. Edmund's Parish Magazine Editorial Team: Chris Willis and Fiona Fraser.

Please EMAIL magazine articles and photos to both fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk and Chris Willis at c.willis246@btinternet.com

Magazine Distribution: Chris Willis 558136

DEADLINES: 20th April for May magazine & 20th May for June 2026 magazine.

Our Parish magazines are available as printed copies in Church and as a PDF on the website:- stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES



St Edmund's, St Matthew's, St Nick's & St Paul's

WHEN	SERVICE	WHERE
29 March 10 am	Palm Sunday services	St Edmund's, St Nick's & St Paul's
	All Age service	St Matthew's
30, 31 March & 1 April, 7pm	Evening Prayer	Online
2 April 7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday - Stripping of the Altar	St Edmund's
3 April, 2 pm	Hour at the Cross	St Edmund's
3 April, 3 pm	All Age service	St Nick's
3 April, 7 pm 7.30 pm	Good Friday Reflective services	St Nick's St Matthew's
5 April 10 am	Easter Day - Holy Communion	St Matthew's
	Holy Communion All Age service	St Edmund's, St Nick's & St Paul's
5 April, 6 pm	Joint Choral Evensong	St Edmund's