St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

News from the Parish

November 2026



www.stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stedmundsallestree

St. Edmund's - November 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 two options regarding bread and wine. You may either indicate that you wish to accept the wafer 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 SECOND Sunday of the month, 8th November 2026, which is Remembrance Sunday. Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 10th November. REMEMBER, THE DONATION DAY IS NOW THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

FRONT COVER: This picture was taken by Michèle Aspinal in November 2023 showing a beautiful display created by St Edmund's Flower Team.

BACK COVER: The Remembrance Sunday service at St Edmund's will be on the 8th November during the 10.00am service.

If you would like to sponsor a month's colour cover, at a cost of £35, please contact one of the editorial team or a Churchwarden.

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.

Planning a Church, Community or Charity Event?

We would be delighted to receive information regarding events taking place in our parish. Email text/photos to steds.stmatts@outlook.com and/or fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk by the 20th of a month to be in the next issue. Our Parish magazines are also on our website:- www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk.

Rev'd Sarah Watson Writes

Remember, remember ….

The title of this article often makes us think of the 5th November, but beyond Guy Fawkes November is a month that invites us to remember. Poppies appear, reminding us of the sacrifices made by so many and the freedoms we enjoy today. We remember those who gave their lives in war and conflict, those whose lives have been scarred physically and mentally by war, and we continue to pray for those serving in our armed forces. On Remembrance Sunday, we pause together to honour their sacrifice and to pray for peace in a world that still knows division and conflict.

Before our Remembrance commemorations, the Church celebrates All Saints' Day on 1st November, followed by All Souls' Day on 2nd November, days which can easily be overlooked amidst the pumpkins and costumes of Halloween, which is itself a shortening of All Hallows' Eve, the eve of All Saints' Day. Just as Christmas Eve precedes Christmas Day, so All Hallows' Eve precedes All Hallows or All Saints Day.

When we hear the word 'saint', we may think of great figures from Christian history such as St Matthew, St Edmund, St Paul or St Nicholas, whose names our churches bear. Yet All Saints' Day is about far more than famous names. It also celebrates all those who have faithfully followed Christ and now share in the fullness of God's presence. Some are remembered in history books, but many are ordinary people whose faith shaped our own lives.

Most of us can think of someone who prayed for us, encouraged us, taught us about Jesus, or showed us what Christian faith looks like in practice. Perhaps it was a parent, grandparent, teacher, friend or member of the church family. Who are the heroes of faith who have influenced your life?

The writer to the Hebrews describes the saints as a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounding us as we run the race of faith (Hebrews 12:1). We are part of something much bigger than ourselves, connected across generations by God's love and faithfulness.

All Souls' Day gives us an opportunity to remember those whom we love but see no longer. We bring our memories, our gratitude, our grief and our prayers before God, trusting that those who have died are safe in his eternal care.

As Christians we are people of hope and in the midst of remembering war, loss and sorrow, we also begin to look forward to Advent. This is a time when we remember Christ's first Advent (arrival) as a child in Bethlehem, knowing that because Jesus came to live among us, to die on the cross and rise again, death does not have the final word. Expressed in words often spoken at funerals "*In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ*."

Continued on page 4

Rev'd Sarah Watson Writes continued

But Advent is also about looking forward, we are reminded that one day Christ will come again and God's kingdom will be fully established. The prophet Isaiah gives us a vision of that future "*Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*" (Isaiah 2:4) or as the the Book of Revelation points to, it will be a time when God "*will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more.*" (Revelation 21:4)

This is the hope that sustains us. November is a season for remembering, grieving and lamenting, but it is also a season of hope.

This month I invite you to take a moment to remember those who have shaped your faith and your life. Give thanks for their example. Pray for those who mourn. Pray for peace in our world. Above all, may we be people of hope because of Jesus and encouraged by the saints who have gone before us and inspired to follow Christ faithfully in our own generation.

Rev'd Sarah, Priest in Charge in the parishes of St Edmund, St Matthew, St Nicholas and St Paul, Quarndon; Acting Archdeacon of Derby City and South Derby.

Allestree Flower Group 17th November

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th November at a different venue to our usual. Our Christmas Demonstration will be given by Nick Grounds (National Demonstrator), entitled "The Appletree (Christmas)" and will be held at Allestree Woodlands School Theatre, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2LW.



Time 6.30pm for 7.30pm.

Admission: Members £17.00 Non-member £20.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457

Allestree W.I. meeting on 17th November 2026

We meet on Tuesday 17th November 2026 at 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, DE22 2GP. The speaker will be Zoe Sellors Brown from Nat West Bank who will give a talk on "Bulding Blocks to Finance - Frauds and Scams. The competition is a "Money Box". Visitors welcome £5.00pp.

For further information telephone Sandra on 01332 554899.

Editor's Note: There is more information on Scam Prevention on pages 24 and 25 kindly supplied to us by the Editors of St Matthew's parish magazine.

November

SPOTLIGHT

on young people & families

Title: Children's and young people's participation in Acts of Remembrance in Darley Abbey and Park Farm, Allestree.

What is happening?

It's expected that adult representatives of the Royal British Legion, local councillors, representatives of the Lord Lieutenant, churches, former and serving members of the armed forces will gather for an act of Remembrance at 11am on Remembrance Sunday. But in Allestree and Darley Abbey these adults are joined by children and young people representing uniformed groups - Guides and Scouts, who meet in our village and church halls, as well as children representing their schools. Having all generations remembering together is important for community cohesion and serves to impress on our youngsters the seriousness with which war, and the inevitable losses it results in, should be taken.

The 2026 St Matthew's Church Remembrance Day service at 10am, followed by an act of Remembrance at the village war memorial at 10.45am, will be attended by the 63rd Derby (Darley Abbey) Scout Group and the 2nd Darley Abbey Guide Unit. Also in attendance will be representatives from Walter Evans Church of England Aided Primary School and the Old Vicarage School choir.

The 2026 Remembrance Day procession from St Nick's Church, Allestree, setting off at just after 12.30pm to Park Farm Shopping Centre for the Act of Remembrance at 'Tommy' will be attended by the 1st Allestree Guides, 73rd Derby (Allestree) Scout Group and the 151st Derby (Allestree) Scout Group.

Please pray for:

- **Dry weather and safe roads!**
- **That as we remember together links between groups and generations will be strengthened**
- **A positive commemoration of the sacrifices made by our armed forces**

Churchwardens' View November 2026

A Regular Update from Ann Miller and Elizabeth Jack

What have we done to further the Kingdom of God?

Recently we outlined the Warden role, so we thought we'd look at the PCC role this month, and try to answer the question, what is the PCC?

The Parochial Church Council is made up of the Incumbent(s) along with members of the congregation who are willing to volunteer to take on various roles on behalf their fellow worshippers. We are all legally trustees of the church. Between us, we cover key roles required by the Charity Commission and the Diocese. We have Church Wardens, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Parish Safeguarding Officer(s), Representative(s) to Deanery Synod, and other lay representatives who serve on committees such as Finance, Fabric, Events, Safeguarding and more. We meet every two months on a Tuesday evening. 'What have we done to further the Kingdom of God?' is the question we try to answer at the end of our discussions. Meetings begin and end with prayer, led by Rachael.

At the moment we have a total of 13 members, including Revd Sarah and Revd Rachael. Lay volunteers are: Wardens Ann Miller (Events and Fabric) and Elizabeth Jack (Events, Fabric and Choir); Paul Smith (Secretary and Finance); Chris Jack (Treasurer, Finance and Fabric); Madeleine Fullerton and Louise Whittaker (Safeguarding); Mark Halliwell (Deanery Synod and Finance); Richard Flatman (Finance and Fabric); Matt Cooper (Electoral Roll); John Aspinall (Cash Banking); Diana Mellor (Licensed Lay Minister and Deanery Synod).

Our collective aims include care of the buildings, supporting worship, looking into, approving and undertaking whatever we feel will progress the church and care for all our congregations across the ranges of age and worship preferences. In recent months we have, for example, vastly improved the children's area under the tower; undertaken the now-completed repointing of some of the stonework; taken action regarding construction of an accessible toilet facility within the vestry.

One current issue we are looking at is the temporary moving of some of the pews in the rear of the north aisle. Key drivers for this are:

1) to improve circulation space for times such as coffee after Wednesday communion, and for celebrations after eg Patronal Festal Evensong;

2) to allow more space for children - it's getting very crowded under the tower at All Age Worship (a great 'problem' to have!);

3) to give a space during services where those who find pews uncomfortable or difficult can sit more comfortably in chairs and

4) to allow space for prams and walking aids.

We're in company with many other churches in looking at north aisle conversion to

give flexibility, but we're at a very early stage. We have asked for comments from the congregation; at services Revd Rachael has been explaining the proposals and asking what you think. The good news is that we do already have the necessary permission from the Archdeacon to be able to move forward for a temporary trial period. The other good news is that the cost is negligible!

Please will you also consider this? St Edmund's urgently needs an Eco Team. The Church of England encourages all churches to work towards net zero carbon, and asks us to remember Psalm 24:1 '*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it*'. There are many things we're already 'getting right' but we need a team of interested people to gather everything together and co-ordinate ways we can press forward and improve. If you've a bit of Eco Warrior in you, and you'd be willing to help, please will you tell one of the wardens?

We look forward together to our All Souls' service, Remembrance Sunday, Patronal Festival, Messy Church and the season of Advent which starts with our Four Churches together at St Ed's on Advent Sunday.

Ann & Elizabeth, Churchwardens

HISTORICAL TIMELINE: Parochial Church Councils evolved from the ancient parish vestry system, 13th to 19th century, which managed both church matters and local civil responsibilities (such as poor relief and local infrastructure) The ancient office of churchwarden emerged in the 13th century.

The Local Government Act 1894 stripped vestry committees of their secular duties, transferring civil governance to newly created secular civil parish councils. Church-specific business remained with the vestry.

Creation of the PCC (1919–1921): The "Rules for the Representation of the Laity" were adopted in 1919 by the Convocations of Canterbury and York. The Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act 1919 and the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1921 formally created PCCs, which replaced vestry meetings in 1921.



Image copyright: consistory.org

Modern Legislation: The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 updated and consolidated the legal duties, financial responsibilities, and corporate status of PCCs across the provinces of Canterbury and York. The Synodical Government Measure 1969 further integrated PCCs into the broader synodical structure of the Church of England, shaping how laity and clergy collaborate.

Historical details gleaned from Wikipedia and Google AI.

Dates for your Diary - November 2026

Sunday 1 November - *All Saints' Day*
10.00am - St Edmund's - All Age service & baptism of Isabell Hazard, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks and the team
10.00am - St Matthew's - Choral Holy Communion, led by David Anderson
3.00pm - St Edmund's - All Souls' service
6.00pm - St Matthew's - Evensong, led by Melonie Hambly

Monday 2 November 2.30pm - St Matthew's Standing Committee Meeting
7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 3 November
2.00-3.30pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FoSM - 'My Life as a Magistrate', by David Loydall

Wednesday 4 November
10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by David Anderson

Thursday 5 November
10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Saturday 7 November 9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

Sunday 8 November - *Remembrance Sunday (3rd Sunday before Adevent)*
Today is Food Bank Sunday. Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 10 November. Thank you.
10.00am - St Edmund's - Service of the Word, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks
10.00am - St Matthew's - Service of the Word, led by Susie Curtis
6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by Diana Mellor

Monday 9 November
2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: Still Life, by Sarah Winman
7.30pm - Community Room at Catherine McAuley House - Ascension Prayer Group
7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 10 November 12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - Luncheon Club
7.30pm - Zoom - St Edmund's Standing Committee Meeting

Wednesday 11 November
10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks

Thursday 12 November 10.00am - Allestree Park - Nature Tots

Sunday 15 November - *2nd Sunday before Advent*
10.00am - St Edmund's - Service of the Word, led by Diana Mellor
10.00am - St Matthew's - Choral Holy Communion, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks
6.00pm - St Matthew's - Choral Evensong, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks

Dates for your Diary - November 2026 continued

Monday 16 November
7.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - PCC Meeting
7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 17 November 7.30pm - St Edmund's Church Hall - PCC Meeting

Wednesday 18 November
10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by David Anderson

Thursday 19 November
10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Friday 20 November 8.30am - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Community Cafe

Saturday 21 November
7.30-10.00pm - St Matthew's Church - Derwent Singers concert

Sunday 22 November - *Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)*
10.00am - St Edmund's - Choral Holy Communion, led by Adrian Thorp
10.00am - St Matthew's - All Age service, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks and the team
6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks

Monday 23 November 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 24 November 12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - Luncheon Club

Wednesday 25 November
10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks and Diana Mellor preaching

Thursday 26 November
10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Saturday 28 November
9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party
10.00am - St Edmund's - Brass Cleaning
1.30-5.00pm - St Matthew's Church - New Opera Company Derby concert
3.00-4.30pm - St Edmund's Church Hall - Messy 'Advent' Church

Sunday 29 November - *Advent Sunday (Advent 1)*
10.00am - St Edmund's - Joint Choral Holy Communion, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks and Rev'd John Rice preaching
6.00pm - St Matthew's – Advent Procession, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks

Monday 30 November 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

WEDDINGS

24th Oct
Wedding of Amy Broad
and Adam Bennett



The photograph shows Amy Broad and Adam Bennett shortly after they were married on Saturday 24th October 1.00pm at St Edmund's Church. Lee Martin was the celebrant.

FUNERALS

2nd Oct - Funeral of Michael Smith

15th Oct - Funeral of Ian Rocliffe

BURIAL OF ASHES

16th Sept - Burial of ashes of Geoffrey Dolby

20th Sept - Burial of ashes of Mair Hughes

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.

ST EDMUND'S

All Souls' Service



1 November
3pm
St Edmund's Church

Remembering those who have died

All welcome

ST EDMUND'S

Sunday services at St Edmund's in November



Sunday 1	10 am	All Age Service
Sunday 8	10 am	Remembrance
	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 15	10am	Service of the Word
Sunday 22	10 am	Choral Holy Communion
	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 29	10 am	Choral Holy Communion

ALL WELCOME

ST MATTHEW'S

Sunday services at St Matthew's in November



Sunday 1	10 am	Choral Holy Communion
	6 pm	Evensong
Sunday 8	10 am	Remembrance
Sunday 15	10 am	Choral Holy Communion
	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 22	10 am	All Age service
Sunday 29	6 pm	Advent Procession

All welcome

ST MATTHEW'S

All Age service, 10am



22 November - St Matthew's

The theme will be Advent.

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

All welcome

Memories of musical Summer Holidays – and more



We spent our usual busy summer dashing around the country including a Prom in London and a family week in Southwold. We have continued our singing in England's cathedrals and in August had a week's residency at Truro Cathedral. Not the easiest place to get to but well worth the effort. 20+ members of the countrywide Harsnett Choir sang services in this lovely building – Evensong every day except the Thursday when, as it was the feast of the Transfiguration, we led a Eucharist service. Friday was a totally unaccompanied Evensong – hard work! – with no organ. Most cathedrals give visiting choirs a day off during the week – Thursday is a good one – but Truro's was Saturday. Admittedly we had a lovely time visiting Lanhydrock where we met our daughter Lucy and her husband, but coming back to 2 big sings on the Sunday after a day off was hard. No wonder that our musical director had to be firm with us at 9 am on the Sunday morning! Evensong that day was attended by 2 bishops (Truro and St, German) plus the Mothers Union celebrating their 150th anniversary and the licensing of the Archdeacon designate of Bodmin!

On August Bank holiday we drove (yes drove!) to London to sing Evensong at St. Paul's cathedral as we had to transport all the Harsnett choir robes. We were given permission to park outside St. Paul's! Thank you Satnav for getting us there safely. We felt very important waiting for the bollards to be lowered by a member of the security staff! And yes, the singing was as wonderful as ever with a congregation of several hundreds.

The staff at both cathedrals were friendly and helpful and, above all very grateful to us for covering services while their regular choirs are taking a well earned break.

Memories of musical Summer Holidays continued

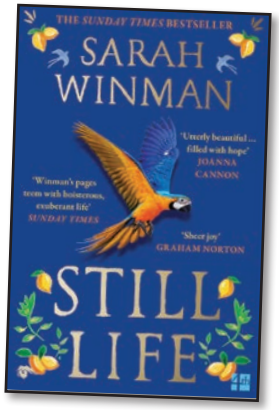
September was a busy month for St. Edmunds choir with 6 sung services at both churches. Thank you to our friends in St. Matthew's choir for the 3 joint services (Confirmation, John Rice's celebration and St. Matthew's Patronal Festival).

As we write (mid-October), we've just spend an exhausting weekend singing at Gloucester Cathedral. Sunday Evensong was replaced by a harvest service celebrating 90 years of Gloucestershire Young Farmers, in the presence of the Princess Royal. Ely Cathedral beckons this coming weekend!

Elizabeth and Chris Jack



Bookworms Meeting on 9th November



Bookworms have continued to meet throughout the year in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm.

The next session will take place on 9th November when the book under discussion is 'Still Life' by Sarah Winman.

We are a small friendly group who enjoy lively discussions centred around the chosen books. If you think you might like to join us, please ring or text Cyra Buxton on 07719776501, or email her on cyrabuxton@gmail.com

Bookworms Reading List to April 2027

14th December	Jenny Colgan – Midnight at the Christmas Bookshop
11th January'27	Deborah Moggach – The Carer
8th February'27	Bonnie Garmus – Lessons in Chemistry
8th March'27	Sebastian Faulks – The Seventh Son
12th April'27	Gill Hornby – Godmersham Park

Christmas Greetings and Goodwill to All

Following the suggestion put into this magazine last month, St Edmund's will be setting up an area at the back of the church on which everyone in the congregation can wish each other a happy Christmas by each displaying a single card and donating the money saved to charity.

We realise many people enjoy giving and receiving cards, and will continue to do so, but this is a different option and can benefit charity at the same time. You may have a charity already in mind or you could donate to one of the charities that St Edmund's is supporting this year.

Editor



Silent Night, Hungry Night

Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal

Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal this year highlights the help that was given, using funds from people like you, to an Ethiopian family who fled with their children in the middle of the night as they were being flooded out of their home, leaving behind all their meagre possessions and provisions. With your help, they were enabled to re-plant their crops and become self-supporting again. As in previous years, we will support this appeal with our offerings at the two Crib Services, mainly for children and young people and the Communion Service at midnight on Christmas Eve. Please include these services and this appeal in your Christmas planning.



Support families to rebuild what they've lost to conflict and the climate crisis. Because for too many, it's not just a silent night – it's a hungry one.

Geoff Bailey (*01332 552724)*

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (9)

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

THE WOODS AND ABBEYS OF CHARNWOOD

Charnwood Forest covers many areas of interest, such as religious houses, nature reserves, wildlife and geological sites. A walk of 6½ miles in the northern sector is described, visiting a contemporary monastery open to the public, and passing one of the designated nature sites. An extension to 9½ miles includes the ruins of one of Charnwood's ancient priories, making a rough figure-of-eight circuit with fairly easy-going paths. The starting point near Whitwick is situated 6–7 miles south of Melbourne.

Charnwood Forest in NW Leicestershire covers 67 square miles of ancient moorland, woodland and rocky knolls, with some of the country's oldest volcanic rocks dating from the Precambrian era. The highest point is Bardon Hill at 912ft. which has long been quarried for its hard stone; the views from the summit are wide ranging as also are those from Beacon Hill, the site of a Bronze Age hill fort on the eastern side. The Industrial Revolution denuded much woodland for timber and charcoal, particularly in the coalfield area, where replanting and regeneration by the National Forest project is well advanced. Charnwood contains many National & Local Nature Reserves, Wildlife & Woodland Trust areas and National Geological Sites, showing the biodiversity of the region.



Mount St. Bernard Abbey

Mount St. Bernard Abbey, 2 miles SW of Shepshed, is a Roman Catholic Cistercian Monastery run by Trappist monks. It was founded in 1835, the first permanent monastery in England since the Reformation, originating as a result of persecution during the French revolution, when monks left to found Mount Mellerey Abbey in Ireland and then Mount St. Bernard, initially using a cottage on donated land. The new monastery building commenced in 1844 with a donation from the Earl of Shrewsbury (J. Talbot of Alton Towers) and free design by the renowned architect Pugin. During construction some 2000 Roman coins were



Approach to the Abbey

unearthed, subsequently housed in Leicester's museum. However, due to lack of funds, completion was delayed until 1939 and the abbey was not finally consecrated until just after WWII.

The abbey attracted notable visitors such as Wordsworth, Dickens & Florence Nightingale. It gave succour to many Irish immigrants during the 1840's potato famine; and thousands have received charity and hospitality, including miners during the 1920's depression. In recent times, the planned M1 route was successfully challenged and its distance from the abbey increased from ½ to 2 miles. In the recent debate over a reburial site for Richard III's remains, the abbey was a possible candidate before Leicester Cathedral was finally chosen. On the north side is an elevated rocky outcrop where a 14ft high Calvary monument has been erected, reached up winding stone steps laid by the monks; like the abbey, it is open to the public for prayer and contemplation. There is a good car park with visitor facilities and down the road is the St. Joseph's Tearooms.



Grace Dieu Priory ruins



Grace Dieu Manor

Grace Dieu Priory, 2½ miles W of Shepshed, was founded by the Augustinians in 1239 and run as a religious house by its prioress and white-cloaked nuns until the Monastic Dissolution of 1538. Part of it became a private dwelling, but by 1730 much of its stonework had been robbed and left in ruins. A conservation project began in 2005 and the preserved ruins can now be freely visited. An unexplained mystery of the local 'white lady' continues, relating to a ghostly figure occasionally seen by visitors among the ruins, so watch out! The nearby Grace Dieu Manor, an impressive white building seen from Warren Lane on the walk, became a private Catholic school in 1972.

Other ancient religious houses of Charnwood were **Ulverscroft** and **Charley Priories** to the south, beginning as Augustinian hermitages in 1139 but dissolved in 1539. Also of interest in the area are a few

Continued on page 18

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (9)

THE WOODS AND ABBEYS OF CHARNWOOD continued

Nature Reserves (eg Ulverscroft) but access is restricted and generally requires a permit from the Wildlife Trust. One such site passed on the walk is **Blackbrook Reservoir**, built in 1796 to feed the old Charnwood Forest Canal. Its earthwork dam failed only three years later, flooding large areas and bringing an early end to the canal; it was later replaced with a stone version. The reservoir has an SSSI label because of the rare varieties of plant life around its margins.



Fenney Windmill

The Route commences from Cademan Wood c/p* (443168), Whitwick. Turn SW on Swannymote Road, L & R at the junction (Oaks Road) onto the Ivanhoe Way (initially a drive, then bearing ½R through a wood) leading via metal gate and jitty to Leicester Road. Turn L and take the next f/p L, passing Scouts HQ and Forest Rock Wood, then turning E alongside Ratchet Hill. When the f/p splits continue SE around the old Whitwick Quarry. Beyond this bear L at a yellow post (453157) through a small wood and alongside a field with views L of the Abbey. Turn L at a cottage on a bridleway to visit the Abbey. Leave by the c/p exit, turn R on Oaks Road and take the 1st f/p L signed Blackbrook Reservoir, sloping down and across the E end of the water, to Charley Road (468174). Turn L for ½ mile towards Fenney Windmill; just beyond, turn L at Mill Cottage and immediately L at a stile, where a f/p joins Sandhole Lane. Follow this to a gate (for the Severn-Trent Water facility – but private!); bear R up a rising f/p to a large field and follow it around two sides to a lane (451175); turn R then L on Swannymote Road back to the c/p.

For the **Extended Route** go straight across Swannymote Road and follow Warren Lane for ¾ mile to Grace Dieu Wood, where a metal gate R gives access to a National Forest trail; follow this in a W/NW direction, exiting on a paved track (National Cycle Trail 52) which follows an old rail line N. At a viaduct pass L under the arches and follow the Grace Dieu Trail signs, leading sharp R through a gate to the priory ruins. Either return the same way, or climb up the adjacent embankment and follow the railway back, in both cases joining Grace Dieu Road. Turn L (SE direction) then briefly L on Carr Hill Road to a f/p R, sloping up to join the Ivanhoe Way (435169) with yellow posts heading E through Cademan Wood. Just before reaching the c/p, the rock outcrop of High Cademan with summit trig point is worth a short climb for the view.

The Rambler

* *Reached from M1 jcn.23, R on A512, L at Blackbook Farm (to Whitwick).*

St Matthew DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S

Join us for
Holy Communion



Wednesday
4, 11, 18 & 25 November
St Edmund's
10.30am

All welcome

St Matthew DARLEY ABBEY

The Parishes of
St Edmund, Allestree &
St Matthew, Darley Abbey

Messy Church

Saturday 28 November
St Edmund's Church Hall
3-4.30 pm



Join in with Messy Advent.
It will be fun, it may get messy & there will be a sprinkling of Jesus.

All welcome

Please e-mail steds.stmatts@outlook.com if you'd like to come.

St Matthew DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



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

Thank you.

St Matthew DARLEY ABBEY

ST MATTHEW'S

Remembrance Day



8 November
10am
St Matthew's Church

All welcome

Book Review

"Stalin Ate My Homework" by Alexei Sayle

Published by Sceptre, Softback, 2011
ISBN 978 0 340 91959 0
(Also available in e-book format)



Alexei Sayle is a unique voice in standup, having been among the first few to rise through early iterations of the Comedy Store, alongside the likes of Ben Elton, Jennifer Saunders and Paul Merton. These days he is also occasionally on-screen in a character part in a serious drama (one instance being an eerily eccentric psychiatrist in a "Miss Marple"). Part of his distinctiveness is the strong Scouse accent, and this book tells of his childhood and early development in Liverpool.

What a unique couple his parents were. Molly was from a numerous Jewish family and Joe a Latvian Communist who worked as a guard on the railways. Little Alexei, always an only child, starts life with the (for many) triple stigmas of being a Jew, a Scouser and a Communist. He describes his life as "subject to all kinds of restrictions, caveats and provisos". The first example given is at the age of six, when the new film Bambi is about to be shown at his local cinema; all the local kids are talking about it excitedly, but he knows he'll never be allowed to see it because Mum and Dad are ideologically opposed to the Disney organisation. Instead, he is taken "for a treat" to see Eisenstein's 1938 Alexander Nevsky, with its "several scenes of ritualistic child sacrifice" and various other horrors. Molly and Joe are happy that honour has been satisfied; it never occurs to them that this might be far more psychologically damaging than a cartoon deer. (Much the same happens slightly later, in the form of the Red Army Choir instead of a Beatles concert.)

The railway job (including Union Repping) and the Communist Party membership allow Joe and his family untold free rail travel, and no holiday is complete without an inexpensive visit to Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary and other mainly then-USSR countries. While at their various destinations, the family are almost always put up for free at the homes of fellow Communists or their friends. Sayle writes with wry resignation about the physical privations and shortages in some of these places at the height of the Cold War, as well as the often precarious nature of train and human connections.

At school the author finds himself no great academic performer and often bullied, but he gradually finds that he can perform and enjoys taking part in plays. Meanwhile we get to know Molly in particular, and she is quite capable of screaming her views in public places and embarrassing all who see her, not least her son.

Book Review continued

Sayle experiences morning Assemblies in school, and despite his parents' best efforts is drawn into singing hymns. He also spends time in Liverpool's two cathedrals (the Catholic one, locally known as "Paddy's Wigwam", was completed in 1967 when he was about 15). He remarks that "five years at forced Christian worship did at least make me one of the few atheist Communist Jews who knew all the words to "All Things Bright and Beautiful … " (p 225).

After his mid-teens, Sayle's trajectory is more and more into Communism, combined with anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, of which there were a lot in Liverpool since in 1968 it was the only UK city outside London with a USA Consulate. He also ventures several times into performance poetry, and, having been expelled from school, has ambitions to go to Art School. His interview for this institution is scheduled for when he plans to be away in the Netherlands, so in the end it's agreed that Molly will go to the interview on her son's behalf. She does well and gets him in, and the memoir ends with his first few days at the Art School in Southport.

This book is quite unlike anything I'd previously read; it has a self-deprecating yet engaging flippancy of style which is somewhere near unique, and some totally hilarious situations which had me laughing out loud. The Sayle voice is unmistakable, and the writing fluent, highly literate and quite fast to read.

The wit is never far away, but there is a pretty constant undertow of half-grudging but loving respect for his extraordinary parents, and a strong impulse to help the reader understand his constantly-contradictory upbringing and the person he has grown up to be. A surprisingly enjoyable and recommended read – especially for anyone beginning to feel sorry for themselves, since the writer won't allow that for a single moment.

Kate Smith Early April 2022

Wednesday Holy Communion Services 10.30am start

Remember the Wednesday Holy Communion service at St Edmund's has moved to the later start time of 10.30am.

Rev'd. Rachael Brooks

St Edmund's Groundforce

St Edmund's Groundforce meets throughout the year to keep the churchyard and hall grounds in good order, usually on the first Saturday in the month. **The next session is on Saturday 7th November, followed by 5th December**. If you would like to know more please contact Steve Burton on 07914 884197.

63rd Derby Scout Group: Preloved Sale and Café Saturday 7th November

2.00pm to 5.00pm at Darley Abbey Scouts' Hall

SALE OF PRELOVED ITEMS AND HOME-MADE BAKES.

FREE ENTRY.

All proceeds in aid of the Scout Hall Fund – Save Our Scout HALL!!



Darley Abbey Scout Hall Saturday Social, 21st November

At a loose end? Fancy a natter over a cuppa with biscuits? Like to play some games or browse our papers and magazines? Then come along to Darley Abbey Scout Hall (DE22 1DT) on Saturday 21st November 2026, 1.30-3.30pm, and join in the fun!

If you have never been before then you should know that we have a small car park and the Hall is fully accessible to wheelchair and mobile scooter users.

We hold our Saturday Socials every third Saturday of the month, free of charge thanks to the Co-op and its customers. For your diary, the last Saturday Social of the year will be on 19th December 2026.

63rd Derby Scout Group: World-wide Malt Whisky Tasting Saturday 28th November

7.00pm for 7.30pm at Darley Abbey Scouts' Hall

Tickets MUST be purchased in advance

To celebrate St Andrew's Night, we will be offering 6 malt whiskies from around the World. Also available Driver's Tickets which include soft or hot drinks instead of whisky. Everyone receives mineral water, cheese & biscuits (vegan option available).

Tasting tickets (£25) and Driver's tickets £12 each – available from 63rdderbyscouts.tickets@gmail.com or text 07925- 633877. Tickets must be purchased in advance & shown at the door (over 18s only). Payment by cash or BACs transfer to secure your tickets.

We have a small car park and the Hall is fully accessible to wheelchair and mobile scooter users (please let us know if you will be bringing yours).



Thank you CTD News

For as long as I can remember CTD News at Blenheim Parade have taken 20 copies of our magazine for sale in their shop, faithfully handing over the sale money on receipt of the subsequent month's batch of magazines. The family is retiring and the business has been sold, but I want to say such a Big Thank You to them for their support and love over the years.

One of the family, Rebecca, is launching a floristry business with the charming name of The Wandering Wren, and she may well advertise with the magazine presently.



Photo © Derby Telegraph

I know now that the new proprietors are willing to continue holding copies of the magazine, which is a great relief.

In the meantime – thank you again, all at CTD News – and good luck in the future.

Chris Willis

St Matthew Darley Abbey

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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 12 November, 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

Community Pop-in Café

Coffee Tea Toast

Fellowship Room
St Matthew's Church
Darley Abbey
Friday 20th November 2026
8.30 - 10.30am

All welcome
Share time with friends

FRIENDS AGAINST SCAMS



Download the new app!

The *Friends Against Scams* app is all about empowerment, giving people the confidence, knowledge, and tools to take action against scams before harm is done.

Friends Against Scams is a *National Trading Standards Scams Team* initiative which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to take a stand against scams.

Friends Against Scams is designed to inspire action, highlight the scale of the problem, change the perceptions of why people become victims of scams and make scams a community, regional and national topic.

The *Friends Against Scams* app brings together training and technology, much of it available on their website, into one simple, accessible platform—a National Trading Standards tool that is free and available on the *App Store* and *Google Play*.

Which?
Ask Silver

It provides interactive scam awareness training and real-time alerts from *Which?*

It also features '*Ask Silver*', an award-winning AI tool to analyse suspicious messages, images, or website URLs.

First release of the app (December 2025):

The app focused on three easy-to-use features:

1. Scams Awareness Training

   The app includes clear, accessible training on how to protect yourself from some of the most common scam types including:

   - Doorstep crime
   - Telephone fraud
   - Mail fraud

   This training session is ideal for refreshing your knowledge or learning the warning signs from scratch.

2. Image & Screenshot Analysis

   Not sure whether that email, text message, or letter is legitimate? Users can upload screenshots or photos directly into the app. The integrated *Ask Silver* AI analyses the content and provides a report on how likely it is to be a scam, offering fast, practical guidance when you need it most.

3. Website Checking Tool

   If you've come across a website that doesn't feel quite right, the built-in *Ask Silver* AI scams checker can help. Simply submit a URL and receive an assessment of whether the site appears trustworthy, helping users avoid malicious or fraudulent websites.

Updated version of the app (June 2026)

The updated app also includes the following features:

- Notifications and direct access to scam alerts from Which?
- Monthly scam quizzes to test knowledge of current scam trends
- Resources for practitioners and the public, including toolkits and educational materials
- Additional learning modules for professionals supporting scam victims

Users can continue to check potential scams using the *Ask Silver* AI checker and complete the *Friends Against Scams* training directly from their phone.

To promote this new version of the app there is a social media pack that can be shared online and posters that can be put up in public spaces.

Thank you to Lisa Arnold, Fair Trading Officer, Derby City Council

Scams Awareness Campaign

Citizens Advice provides another line of defence. Every year, it runs a *Scams Awareness* campaign, aiming to create a network of confident, alert consumers who know what to do when they spot a scam.

The 2026 Scams Awareness campaign will run from 12th October to 25th October, with a focus on supporting consumers around trader scams. A resource pack will be available two weeks before the campaign launch.

It's important always to keep an eye out for scams—they can and do affect anyone. If you think someone might be trying to scam you, it's important to act straight away. Take a look at the advice pages at *citizensadvice.org.uk/scamsadvice*. If you need further advice and support you can call the Citizens Advice consumer service on 0808 223 1133.



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November 2026

The Revd Sarah Watson writes...



A season of hope

Remember, remember the 5th of November! Beyond Guy Fawkes, November is a month that invites us to remember. On Remembrance Day, we pause to honour those who gave their lives in war, to pray for peace in our world, for those serving in our armed forces, and for those who continue to suffer the consequences of conflict.

Before Remembrance Day, the Church celebrates All Saints' Day (All Hallows) on 1 November, followed by All Souls' Day on 2 November. These days can easily be overlooked amidst the pumpkins and costumes of Halloween, itself a shortening of All Hallows' Eve.

When we hear the word "saint", we may think of great figures from Christian history; one of my heroes of faith is St Hild. Yet All Saints' Day celebrates all those who have faithfully followed Christ and now share in the fullness of God's presence. The writer to the Hebrews (12:1) describes the "great cloud of witnesses" surrounding us as we run the race of faith. Some are remembered in history books, but many are ordinary people whose faith shaped our own lives people who prayed for us, encouraged us, taught us about Jesus, and showed us what Christian faith looks like.

All Souls' Day gives us an opportunity to remember those whom we love but see no longer. We bring our memories, gratitude, grief, and prayers before God, trusting that those who have died are safe in his eternal care.

We also begin to look forward to Advent, remembering Christ's first coming as a child in Bethlehem and knowing that, because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, death does not have the final word. Yet Advent is also about looking forward to Christ's return and the full establishment of God's Kingdom. The prophet Isaiah (2:4) gives us a vision of that future: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Likewise, Revelation (21:4) points to a time when God "will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more."

This is the hope that sustains us. November is a season for remembering, grieving, and lamenting, but it is also a season of hope. I invite you to take a moment to remember and give thanks for those who have shaped your faith, to pray for those who mourn, and for peace in our world. Above all, may we be people of hope, encouraged by those who have gone before us and inspired to follow Christ faithfully in our own generation.

Rev Sarah Watson
Acting Archdeacon of Derby City and South Derbyshire

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Join us for coffee - everyone welcome.
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We serve coffee and biscuits on Sunday mornings between 11.00am and 11.45am in St Edmund's Church Hall. Please come and join us for a chat.

On Wednesday mornings there's coffee inside the church at 11.15am - again, do pop along.



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St. Edmund's Parish

Church Website: **stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk**

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 and Wednesday: 9.30am - 3.00pm
Thursday: 11.30am - 3.00pm Friday: 9.30am - 1.00pm 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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Baby and Toddler Group:	Caroline Audley: Steds.stmatts@outlook.com	552031
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	Louise Whittaker	556455

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St. Edmund's Parish Magazine Editorial Team: Chris Willis, Mary Pollett 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 Nov for Dec'26/Jan'27 magazine & 20th January for Feb'27 magazine

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

St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

The Parishes of St Edmund, Allestree
and St Matthew, Darley Abbey

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Remembrance Day



8 November
10am
St Edmund's Church

All welcome