



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

# News from the Parish

June 2026



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# St. Edmund's - June 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 SECOND Sunday of the month, 14th June 2026.**

Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 16th June. REMEMBER, THE DONATION DAY IS NOW THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

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FRONT COVER: St Edmund's Luncheon Club celebrate another birthday. Jill Potts, who set up our luncheon club?? years ago, is pictured at her table with friends.

BACK COVER: 'Bells for Birds' with St Edmund's Groundforce.

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

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**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.

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## 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](http://stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk)' to find us.

# The Rev'd Sarah Writes

## Thy Kingdom Come

Each year, between Ascension Day and Pentecost, churches are invited to take part in **Thy Kingdom Come**, a prayer initiative led by the Church of England and which has grown to involve millions of Christians across the globe.

Thy Kingdom Come is wonderfully simple. Inspired by Jesus' words in the Lord's Prayer it invites us to pray during these ten days that God's kingdom of love, justice, mercy, and peace would be more deeply known in our own lives and in the lives of others.

One of the central invitations of Thy Kingdom Come is to **pray for five people** whom we know and love, asking that they might come to know God more fully. This is not about pressure or persuasion, but about prayerful openness that people may know the transforming love of God.

Thy Kingdom Come also encourages us to renew our own prayer lives in a way that we hope goes beyond the ten days of the initiative. In the busyness of daily life, prayer can so easily slip to the margins. We are offered a gentle invitation to pause, create space, and listen again for God. Whether through daily reflections, silence, Scripture, walking prayer, or shared worship, there is no single "right" way to take part — only the invitation to pray. I personally find apps such as Lectio 365, Pray as You Go or Time to Pray very helpful, and if you haven't tried one, it's worth giving them a go, you will find one that fits better with who you are and how you engage with God.

Thy Kingdom Come also connects with what we are doing locally across our four parishes — St Edmund's, St Matthew's, St Nicholas', and St Paul's. Alongside Thy Kingdom Come, we are continuing our shared initiative to pray for every household and every street within our parishes over an 18-month period. This commitment reflects the same prayerful heart: asking for God's presence, blessing, and grace to be known in every corner of our communities.

Praying street by street and household by household helps us to see our neighbourhoods through God's eyes, noticing places of joy and struggle, connection and isolation. It invites us to hold before God the lives of people in our community with the love of God.

Praying "Thy kingdom come" reminds us that God's kingdom encourages us to watch for where God is at work and to consider how we might join in.

We also remember the disciples waited, prayed, and trusted in God's promise of the Holy Spirit. May this season strengthen our prayer, deepen our unity, and renew our hope, as we pray together for God's kingdom to be known in our lives, our streets, and our community.

Blessings, *Rev'd Sarah Watson*

# Churchwardens' View

A Regular Update from our new team, Ann Miller and Elizabeth Jack

**From Ann:** Firstly, we express our heartfelt condolences to Rev'd Rachael and her family as they face the deep sadness of the recent death of her father. As a church family we hold them in our minds and prayers.

We are grateful to have a strong team, fulfilling a truly admirable role in covering what's needed as Rachael takes some time to begin to come to terms with bereavement: Paul Smith's LLM (Reader) training leads to his greater role as a service leader, Diana Mellor's LLM renewal also brings her into increasing service leadership. Thanks to them, Rev'd Sarah, and our retired clergy team, the life and work of St Ed's continues.

It's a great relief that although Paul has had to step down from some of his roles, he is now officially Secretary to the PCC, having been 'Acting Secretary' for some years. We're very grateful that he is willing to take on this important work.

Elizabeth and I are settling well into our new team roles together - I'm so grateful to have her as a colleague following Paul's retirement from being Warden.

Geoff Bailey may have retired as a PCC member, but when we note the range of jobs he covered last weekend in church and hall, and all the while running our Christian Aid Week, we know he's still very much with us and we're very thankful.

Ongoing Fabric issues continue: church heating, accessible toilet / baby changing facilities plans, churchyard memorials needing attention, trees around the hall needing attention, tower clock repair, lime mortar repointing, outdoor noticeboards. They're all moving forward.

Advanced dates for your diary: Saturday 4th July the Big Book Sale 11.00am-1.00pm which is always well attended and on Sunday 5th July there is a 'one hour' concert in Church - the poster on the left has full details.

## A SUMMER SERENADE

BY

### CHORALCHEMY & ST EDMUND'S HANDBELL RINGERS

SUNDAY 5 JULY 2026 4.30PM

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH, ALLESTREE

JOIN US FOR AN HOUR'S MUSIC - CLASSICS, FOLK, JAZZ, SERIOUS, FUN...



**And from Elizabeth:** As I take up the post of churchwarden, I would like to let you know that choir will continue as before under my direction. I have stepped back from running the Events Committee and am delighted that Mary Pollett has agreed to take

# Churchwardens' View continued

over - I know she will do an excellent job. I shall remain a committee member (as long as they still want me!). The Plant Sale on 16th May was huge success and raised £345 and turned into a very sociable occasion with customers staying to chat over coffee and tea once they had bought plants.

I feel very much a novice as I start my wardenship but I know that Ann will be very supportive and that we will work well together. I would like to thank her and Paul for all their invaluable help so far.

Paul talked to the 10.00am congregation on 17th May giving details of the proposed accessible toilet for the vestry and inviting people to take a look at the outline and diagrams provided by Geoff Bailey. The PCC approved moving to the next stage and we hope that things will go ahead smoothly, giving us two toilets in the vestry. The piano has been taken away by our church piano tuner for refurbishment and will be finding a new home. This gives us more space for the proposed alterations. The sink will be relocated leaving adequate space and storage for all those using the vestry.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Rev'd Rachael's dad and send our sincere condolences to the family. It has been wonderful to see how many people have rallied round to take services and keep both churches running smoothly. Rev'd Phyllis Bainbridge led a moving Ascension Day Communion service at St. Matthew's with joint choirs and a congregation from both parishes.

Finally, Ged Potter has suggested that both churches provide receptacles to collect used tablet blister packs which will then be recycled. In anticipation, I have already started saving mine. Can I urge you to do the same?

*Ann & Elizabeth, Churchwardens*

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## Farewell to the Piano

As Elizabeth has mentioned, installation of a disabled toilet in the vestry has meant that there is no longer room for the piano. Fortunately, the regular piano tuner was willing to rehome it and here is a picture of its departure.

Wishing it good luck in its new life ....

*Chris W*



# Dates for your Diary - June 2026

## **Monday 1 June**

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

## **Tuesday 2 June**

2.00-3.30pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM: A Palatial Building  
by Peter Taylor

## **Wednesday 3 June**

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

## **Thursday 4 June**

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

## **Saturday 6 June**

9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

## **Sunday 7 June – Trinity 1 (Proper 5)**

10.00am - St Edmund's - All Age, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks & the team

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

6.00pm - St Matthew's - Evensong, led by Clive Lemmon

## **Monday 8 June**

2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: 'The Day of the Triffids',  
by John Wyndham

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

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

## **Tuesday 9 June**

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

## **Wednesday 10 June**

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

7.30pm - St Matthew's - Church Warden Visitation service

## **Thursday 11 June**

10.00am - Allestree Park - Nature Tots

## **Saturday 13 June**

12.30pm - St Matthew's - Wedding of Edward Parkinson & Alice Reilly

## **Sunday 14 June - Trinity 2 (Proper 6)**

*Today is Food Bank Sunday. Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 16th June. Thank you.*

10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Rachael Brooks

10.00am - St Matthews - Service of the Word, led by Melonie Hambly

There will be no evening service in either church.

# Dates for your Diary - June 2026 continued

## **Monday 15 June**

12.30pm - St Matthew's - Wedding of William Wand & Miranda Hutchinson  
7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

## **Wednesday 17 June**

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

## **Thursday 18 June**

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

## **Friday 19 June**

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

## **Saturday 20 June**

12 noon - Wedding of Cliff Lau & Maisie Murfin

## **Sunday 21 June - Trinity 3 (Proper 7)**

10.00am - St Edmund's - Service of the Word, led by Diana Mellor  
10.00am - St Matthews - Choral Holy Communion, led by Rachael Brooks  
After the 10 am service - St Matthew's - Burial of ashes of Keith Smith  
6.00pm - St Matthew's - Choral Evensong, led by Clive Lemmon

## **Monday 22 June**

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

## **Tuesday 23 June**

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

## **Wednesday 24 June**

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

## **Thursday 25 June**

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

## **Saturday 27 June**

9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party  
10.00am - St Edmund's - Brass Cleaning  
11.00am-3.00pm - St Matthew's - Eco Event Day 1

## **Sunday 28 June - Trinity 4 (Proper 8)**

10.00am - St Edmund's - Choral Holy Communion, led by Adrian Thorpe  
10.00am - St Matthews - All Age service - led by Melonie Hambly & the team  
12 noon-3.00pm - St Matthew's - Eco Event Day 2  
6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by Diana Mellor

## **Monday 29 June**

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

# From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

## WEDDING

9th May  
wedding of  
Paul Bairstow & Laura Robinson

FUNERALS at St Edmund's  
21st April - funeral of Peter O'Neill

BURIAL OF ASHES at St Edmund's  
3rd May - burial of ashes of Malcolm McWilliams  
3rd May - burial of ashes of Brenda Rawlings

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## Flower Sale - A 'Blooming' Success

A huge thank you to all those who came to our plant sale on 16th May. We had tables inside and outside overflowing with a wonderful variety of plants which were snapped up quickly and we are very grateful for all your donations. A record sum of £345 was raised for church funds. We hope your plants are flourishing!

*Mary Pollett, events committee*

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## Allestree W.I. Meeting on 16th June 2026

The Allestree W.I. will meet Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby. DE22 2GP.

There will be in-house entertainment. Visitors welcome £5.00.pp

Enquiries can be made to Sandra on 01332 554899.

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## Parish Office Hours & Contact Details

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

<b>Monday &amp; Wednesday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
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 Luncheon Club 35th Anniversary

On the 12th of May the 35th anniversary of the founding of St Edmund's Luncheon Club was celebrated with a splendid lunch and wine. A lovely time was had by all and the guests pass on their thanks and appreciation to the wonderful team who prepare and serve the delicious meals through the year.



# Diana Mellor Introduces Herself

Well, that really didn't go plan!

As I closed my NHS laptop for the last time some 20 months ago my plans to revisit past hobbies of painting and embroidery, the excitement of new ones, and turning the shed into a craft room ... well it seems God had other ideas.

Dangerously I listened to a sermon on 23rd March 2025 and with it a piece of scripture from Luke's gospel ch13 v 1-9.

Even if I'd wanted to ignore its message a friend sat at my side gently tapped my knee. It was as if our conversation over coffee earlier in the week had been recorded and played to the preacher. Given that I'm not into conspiracy theories God truly spoke to my heart. I began a year long journey discerning with Rachael and others where God wanted me to bear fruit.

It was clear that our God of economy wanted to reignite my calling to Reader ministry. I was licenced to the joint benefice of St Edmund's and St Matthews on 18th April 2026.

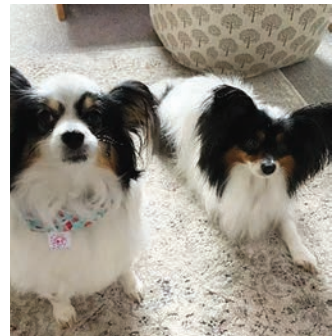
In my early years as a Christian, this rather shy introvert, found herself gifted with the heart of an evangelist. I found myself doing both street and beach missions. Way out of my comfort zone but in every conversation knowing the Holy Spirits gifting.

I love working with young people, new Christians, and have a heart to support individuals and groups to deepen and grow in their relationship with Jesus. To experience the transforming work of the Holy Spirit and know how precious they are to the Father's heart. Our perfect Trinity. Our God

I have two adorable dogs, Emily and Oscar, constant companions, and they are always pleased to see me!

I enjoy the company of my grandchildren, and they are ever a source of inspiration challenge and opportunity. My very patient daughter, well she waits to see what mischief her Mum will get up to next. I like to keep her guessing. She's a wonderful support ... hey and you know what ... I know she's proud of me..

*Diana Mellor*

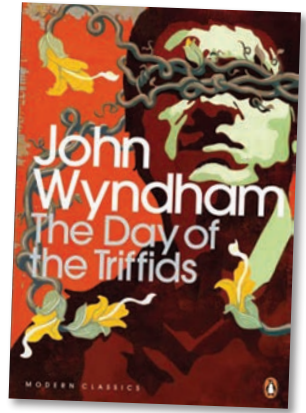


# Bookworms Meeting on 8th June and the Next Booklist

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, which will take place on 8th June when the book under discussion is *The Day of the Triffids* by John Wyndham.

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](mailto:cyrabuxton@gmail.com)



The next list of books, suggested as usual by the regular members of the group, is as follows:: **Bookworms List July 2026 - April 2027**

13th July	Jane Austen – Emma
10th August	Len Deighton – The Ipress file
14th September	Lucinda Riley – The Seven Sisters
12th October	E M Forster – A Room with a View
9th November	Sarah Winman – Still Life
14th December	Jenny Colgan – Midnight at the Christmas Bookshop
11th January	Deborah Moggach – The Carer
8h February	Bonnie Garmus – Lessons in Chemistry
8th March	Sebastian Faulks – The Seventh Son
12th April	Gill Hornby – Godmersham Park

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## Allestree Flower Group 16th June 2026

Our June meeting is on Tuesday 16th at the Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree, DE22 2FT from 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Sarah Everatt will be giving a demonstration with the theme “Stick & Twist”. Admission: Members £5.00 Non-Members £9.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457



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## 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*

# Message to the Parish from Acting Bishop Jackie

Dear friends in ministry,

I want to write to you directly as I begin serving as Acting Bishop of Derby. You will already know that Bishop Libby has been signed off work by her GP, and we continue to hold her in our prayers as she rests and recovers. In recent months, Bishop Malcolm has carried episcopal responsibility with great faithfulness, we give thanks for all he has offered, and pray for him in his retirement.



The Archbishop of Canterbury has asked me to take on the responsibilities of the Diocesan Bishop for this time.

Some of you may remember that I served as Vicar of Littleover from 2003 to 2012. Those years shaped me deeply, and it is a joy to return to Derbyshire. Since then, my ministry has taken me to Gloucester and Exeter, most recently as Bishop of Crediton and Acting Bishop of Exeter. I am married to David, we have grown up children who are married, and we have recently become grandparents.

I will be working part time in the diocese. This means there will be moments when colleagues step in where you might usually expect a bishop. We will work collegially and collaboratively to ensure continuity of pastoral care and oversight. I know that many of you are carrying significant responsibilities in your local contexts. Thank you for all you are doing and please be assured that the Parish Support Team continues its work as normal. Together we are committed to supporting, encouraging and holding the life of the diocese steady and hopeful. God is faithful, and the work of the Kingdom continues in every place we serve.

I also want to reassure you that we will be moving forward together. Work that is already underway, in governance, finance, mission, and ministry, will continue, and I look forward to discerning with colleagues across the diocese how we keep growing in faith, hope and love.

I cannot guarantee that I will meet all of you in the time that I am here, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your faithfulness, your resilience, and your commitment to the people and communities you serve. I will be glad of your prayers. Please continue to pray for Bishop Libby, for Bishop Malcolm in his retirement, and for all who hold responsibility across the diocese.

Grace and peace

+Jackie

*The Rt Rev Jackie Searle  
Acting Bishop of Derby*



**ST EDMUND'S**



## All Age Worship, 10am



**7 June - St Edmund's**

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

The theme will be the 10 plagues of Egypt.

**All welcome**



**ST EDMUND'S**



## Sunday services at St Edmund's in June



- Sunday 7** 10 am All Age service
- Sunday 14** 10 am Holy Communion
- Sunday 21** 10 am Service of the Word
- Sunday 28** 10 am Choral Holy Communion
- 6 pm Choral Evensong

**All welcome**



**ST MATTHEW'S**



## All Age Worship, 10am



**28 June - St Matthew's**

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

The theme will be the Moses crossing the Red Sea.

**All welcome**



**ST MATTHEW'S**



## Sunday services at St Matthew's in June



- Sunday 7** 10 am Choral Holy Communion
- 6 pm Evensong
- Sunday 14** 10 am Service of the Word
- Sunday 21** 10 am Choral Holy Communion
- 6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 28** 10 am All Age service

**All welcome**

## Messy Church continues in 2026

St Matthew's and St Edmund's launched a joint Messy Church in 2025 having had enquiries from a few baptism families about whether we did it. We held 3 across the year and were pleased to have good take up, so are planning three more this year too. Messy Pentecost on 31st May, Messy in Allestree Park on 13th August and Messy Advent on 28th Nov.

Messy Church is an all age interactive way of exploring faith that gives families things to do with questions to ponder in a free flow format that puts them in control of their learning and response. It's about discovery rather than having information poured into our ears; about us learning together from one another - children often have more profound insights than adults! Knowing Jesus and making him known is what we're about.

We start in the small hall at St Edmund's Church Hall with an introduction to the theme and then go through into the main hall for a mix of craft, Lego and experimental activities that explore the theme. We then go back into the small hall to reflect together on our learning and hear a Bible story that pulls the theme together and invites participation so we learn from one another's learning. There's also a couple of songs and we pray together. While all this is happening in the small hall the main hall is being tidied and prepared for a buffet that finishes our time together as we chat more about what we've been doing.

Please pray for enough helpers on the day; for encounter with God through Holy Spirit; and that we continue to build relationships between families as well as between families and team/helpers. The vast majority of those who come are baptism families who want to help their children grow in their faith, please pray they all do, parents too!

*Rev'd Rachael Brooks*

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### **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 on 07971 680377



ST EDMUND'S



# Join us for Holy Communion



**Wednesday**  
**3, 10, 17 & 24 June**  
**St Edmund's**  
**10.30am**

**All welcome**



## Buzzy Bees Physiotherapy

Feeling a bit unsteady,  
stiff or losing confidence  
with walking?

Give yourself confidence and safety to  
move freely and stay active

Physiotherapy helps people regain strength,  
reduce falls and stay independent

Scan the QR code to book a home  
physiotherapy session today

 [www.buzzybeesphysio.co.uk](http://www.buzzybeesphysio.co.uk)



Helping you live comfortably and safely!



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.

## THE REPAIR CAFÉ open on 6th June

The volunteer-run Derby Repair  
Cafe will be open 1.00pm - 4.00pm  
on Saturday 6th June at the  
West End Community Centre,  
Mackworth Rd, Derby, DE22 3BL.

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

Last repairs taken at 3.30pm.  
Remember we can only take cash  
for donations and refreshments.

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

# Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (4)

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

## ROCESTER AND ALTON

These two historic small towns are linked by the verdant Churnet Valley in an attractive part of rural Staffordshire, making it an interesting area to explore. Accordingly, a circular walk of 6½ miles is described, starting from Rocester (just over the Derbyshire border), using part of the Staffordshire Way Trail to Alton and returning via the imposing Denstone College plus the popular and pleasant JCB lakeside park.



Butter Cross, Rocester

**Rocester** was first settled by the Romans as a minor fort in AD69, roughly mid-way between Derby and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Its triangular site, just upstream of the confluence of the rivers Churnet and Dove, formed a good defensive position, but for some reason the fort was abandoned after less than 80 years, although the site was still recorded in the Domesday Book as important. Rocester Abbey was built in the 12thc. but suffered demolition after the Dissolution. The site was later purchased by the Trentham family for the construction of Rocester Manor. In 1782 Richard Arkwright converted an old corn mill into cotton production, powered by the R. Dove, a move which successfully transformed the village's economy. The mill finally closed in 1985 and was subsequently converted to form the present JCB Education

Academy. The famous company **J C Bamford Excavators** (known as JCB) is one of the world's top manufacturers of construction equipment and has its headquarters at Rocester. The business is still family-owned, having started in a garage at Uttoxeter in the 1940's. The present site has attractive lakes with public paths, utilised near the end of our walk.

**Alton** was once an Iron Age fort,



Alton Castle

Continued on page 17

# Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (4)



Alton RC College

of Shrewsbury in a European Gothic style, is thus the third on the site. It was later taken over by the Sisters of Mercy in 1855 as a convent and later a school; then in 1996 it was established (and remains) as a Catholic Youth Retreat Centre. On the other side of the valley is the well-known Alton Towers Leisure Park (not visited in the walk), formerly Alton Mansion, residence of the above Earl and also designed by Pugin.

**The Staffordshire Way** passes through Rocester, a small section of which is followed in the walk to Alton. Its total distance is 92 miles, running from Mow Cop on the Cheshire border via Leek, Uttoxeter, Shugborough, Cannock Chase to Kinver Edge on the Worcestershire border. It was created in stages between 1977-83 and refurbished with the Ramblers' Association to mark their 60th anniversary in 1995.



CB Park, Rocester

then a Saxon fortress and recorded in the Domesday Book as Alverton. The site was presented to a soldier, Bertram de Verdun, to reward his activity in the Crusades, who subsequently built a castle in 1176 high above the Churnet valley. During the Civil War it was held by the Royalists but later dismantled by Parliamentarians. The present castle, designed by Augustus Pugin for the Earl

The route links with some other long-distance trails, such as the **Limestone Way** which runs from Rocester through the White Peak District to Castleton. The **R. Churnet**, which forms part of the Staffordshire Way, rises near Royal Cottage on the A53 roughly halfway between Buxton and Leek. It flows through Tittesworth Reservoir, past Leek (where it was heavily used by the Dyeing industry) and Oakamoor (similarly

# Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (4)

## ROCESTER AND ALTON *continued*

for Iron Smelting), joining the Dove near Combridge hamlet just S of Rocester. Since the decline of those local industries the river's water quality has greatly improved.

### The Route

starts from the c/p on Rocester High Street. Turn L to the Butter Cross, then L on Ashbourne Road to the B5030 junction. Cross to a disused layby where a f/p signed Quixhill marks the Staffordshire Way. Follow this up the meadow (fence on the L) then drop to a stile L, through trees then across fields, heading for a distant stone archway. Turn L over Quixhill Bridge (101412), straight on at the junction and then R just past an old railway bridge. The f/p follows the track initially, then swings L on a wide sweep round Alverton Hall Farm (good view N of the Weaver Hills) leading into an old flagged path heading W. This is Saltersford Lane which is followed for nearly a mile (before the Staffs. Way turns off R) passes along two field edges, then ½L across a third to a lane. Turn R here, then L along Town Head into Alton, passing the castle drive (detour R) and church. At the road junction turn L up Smithy Bank/Limekiln Lane and bear R on Uttoxeter Rd., to reach the B5032 by the Blacksmith Pub. Cross the junction to Nab Lane and follow this for ½ mile. When it swings R take a f/p straight ahead across fields and make for the large building in the distance

(Denstone College private school). The f/p passes just behind the college (golf course to the R) and leaves E of the site on a track signed Denstone Stud. Keep straight on when the drive swings away, past a cricket ground from where the f/p continues to a lane (096399). Turn L and R down Taylor's Lane and pick up the f/p R of Trundley Cottage, heading down to the JCB site. At the site fence turn L, then swing R on a permitted path round the works c/p to the lakeside drive. Proceed to the S end of the lake, then through the pedestrian tunnel leading back into Rocester High Street.



JCB site, Rocester



Denstone Church

# Paying for Your Parish Magazine

If you subscribe to the magazine and have it delivered to your address, then it's time to pay your yearly subscription. The magazine 'year' runs from 1st July to the 30th June in any one year.\*\*. The cost is still £1 per copy and there are 11 issues per year, but if you pay in advance and have the magazine delivered it is £10 for the year. If your magazine is posted to you, you will need to add another £10 to your subscription to cover postage and packing etc..

## There are the options for paying your subscription:-

1. Bank Transfer to PCC of St Edmund's Allestree.  
Sort code 40-52-40      Account No. 00032364

It is important that a payment is identified by your name and the word "Magazine". **This is the Treasurer's preferred option** because the bank charges us to process cheques.

2. Cheque payable to PCC of St Edmund's Allestree and sent to Mr C Jack, 12 Regency Close, Littleover, Derby DE23 1TR.  
OR put your cheque into the wall safe in church. Again, a note showing your name and address is very helpful in confirming identity/payment.
3. You can put cash into one of the brown envelopes which can be found at the back of the Church, but be sure to write your name and address on the envelope and mark it 'Parish Magazine money.'

Regarding Nos 2 and 3, if it is easier for you to put it through my door at 101 Laburnum Crescent, please do so.

Thank you all so much, *Chris W*

\*\* The reason why the magazine year runs from 1st July to 30th June is not exactly lost in antiquity, it goes back to the time when subscriptions were collected door to door, and so this could happen in fine weather rather than winter weather.

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## Church Brass Cleaning - Saturday 27 June 2026

The next Brass cleaning session in St Edmund's Church will be on Saturday, 27 June. If you would like to join us we will be starting at 10.00am. It is a sociable project polishing the Church brasses and having a chat at the same time. Tea and coffee will be available.

*Ann Miller*

# Book Review

## “The Other Bennet Sister”

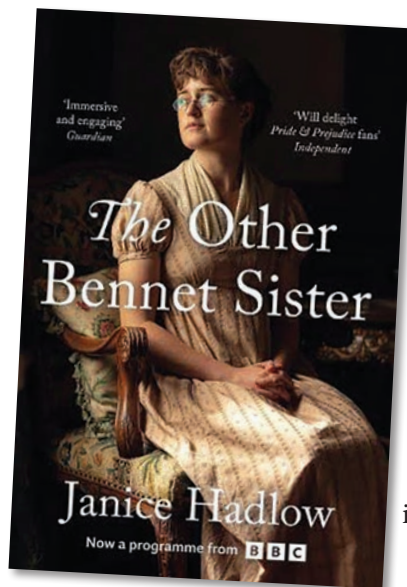
by Janice Hadlow

Pub Softback by Pan Books, 2026

(First Pub by Mantle, 2020)

ISBN 978-1-0350-9311-3

It is a truth universally acknowledged that there can only have been ... Negotiations. isn't enough for a known TV producer to launch as a novelist for the first time “into the blue”. She was, after all, only going to take up the aftermath of “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen, surely the second most beloved book the Western world. The result was a BBC ten-part series which I watched with great interest, just as a copy of this book arrived.



Our new author, Janice Hadlow, starts from the standpoint of the overlooked and much-satirised Mary, the middle Bennet sister. Jane, Elizabeth, Kitty and Lydia are all either just- or recently-married, and Mary spends most of her time living with her mother's brother Mr Gardiner and his wife in London's Cheapside, a bustling centre for trade, including Mr Gardiner's business premises. The Gardiners, between them, are portrayed as the genuinely happy couple we already know them to be; they are of the settled long-term view that what Mary needs is a steadily supportive, welcoming and affectionate setting in which to begin to shine, as she never could at Longbourn. In this view they could not be more different from Mary's mother Mrs Bennet, who (fortunately for all of them) is not the constant presence she was.

As a result of this gentler and more sympathetic approach by her busy hosts, Mary does gradually find her feet; she also discovers that she has something to say, and a voice to say it with. Of two much-liked friends of the Gardiners and their children, Mr Ryder and Mr Hayward, both propose to Mary, and she finally accepts one of them and looks forward to happiness she thought she would never find.

How does Hadlow find the material with which to continue the story? Fortunately, as far as it goes, Austen wrote the final couple of pages of “Pride and Prejudice”, after Elizabeth's acceptance of Darcy, with her usual wit and insight; but they are tantalisingly brief on too much. There are moments when our writer has to draw from other moments earlier in the original. One instance is when Mary contemplates her now-late father's heartfelt plea, “Let me not have the grief of seeing you unable to respect your partner in life”. This is poignant, to be sure, encapsulating all that had

Continued on page 21

## Book Review continued

been unsatisfactory about Mr and Mrs Bennet's deeply detached marital relationship, and with it Mrs Bennet's unvaryingly petty criticism of Mary, whether for her "plainness" and general unmarriageability, or for her short sight and spectacles. (Nor was Mr Bennet without fault.) At a pivotal moment for Mary, this could have been simply too heavy; but it is lightly and skilfully done.

It was evidently important to this new author to be faithful to the style and intentions of Austen, but without being sycophantic. Indeed, there is nothing new in what we learn of Mary's character, only what was already there. Hadlow does take a risk, though, on page 585. Mrs Bennet is in full flow about the desirability of the attentive Mr Ryder, and how Mary might "secure him" before a known rival does so. Mary calmly says, "He may not wish to marry either of us, Mama ...", and her mother retorts, "Don't be ridiculous ... a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in search of a wife". Hadlow could have written "in want of", as in the original, but the echo from page 1 of "Pride and Prejudice" is plain enough; and, since Mrs Bennet appears incapable of change, either it suits the moment perfectly, or it's just a tad too clunky for the connoisseur. You judge ?

I greatly enjoyed this book. If you like the first chapter (which is a tour de force), you will probably continue to like it, and last the full 655 pages. (You might like the TV series too – I certainly ended that with a new-found respect for Ruth Jones, who not only stars but wrote much of the screenplay.) A very, very skilled piece of writing which I will gladly lend.

*Kate Smith*

Early May 2026





The Parish of St Edmund,  
Allestree



Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

St Edmund's Church Hall,  
Kings Croft, Allestree,  
DE22 2FN

11 am - 1 pm

Refreshments available

The proceeds will go to Christian Aid





# Nature Tots

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



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**Thursday 11 June, 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**



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



# ECO EVENT

Saturday 27 (11am-3pm) &

Sunday 28 June (12 noon - 4pm)

St Matthew's Church, Darley Abbey (DE22 1 EF)

**Day 1 presentations:**

- Dr Robyn Dewis from Derby City Council (DCC) - Director of Public Health Climate action and well being
- Georgia Pulford from DCC - Domestic decarbonisation
- Darley Abbey Hydro project
- Derby Diocesan Decarbonisation Officer - Decarbonising churches

**Day 2 presentations:**

- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust - Allestree Park Rewilding
- Darley and Nutwood Nature Reserve
- The Potty Plotters & Derby City Council - Darley Bloomers
- Walter Evans Eco group

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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](http://stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk)

## Community Pop-in Café

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Toast

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Darley Abbey  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
8.30 - 10.30am

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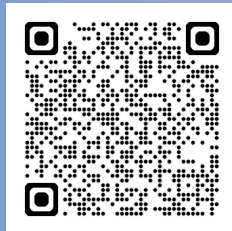
Building confidence in reporting  
safeguarding concerns

*"Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with  
your God."*

- Micah 6:8

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reporting  
safeguarding  
concerns can feel  
difficult

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resources to help  
you



*When someone shares a concern, it is important they are listened to and taken seriously. You are not expected to investigate. Keeping people safe and ensuring concerns are recorded and referred appropriately is all of our responsibility.*



## Recognise

Be alert to signs or disclosures  
of abuse.



## Respond

Listen carefully and take  
what is being said  
seriously.



## Record

Make a written record of  
what has been shared.



## Refer

Share the concern with the  
Safeguarding Officer and  
relevant authorities.

# June 2026

## The Ven Matthew Trick writes...



Can you believe that we're already halfway through 2026? In many ways, the first half of the year has been characterised by movement. By the time you read this Bishop Malcolm will have retired, Archdeacon Emma will have started, other clergy and laity will both come and go, and the stories of our lives (in most spheres of life) will rarely be "static".

In the midst of constantly changing times, building our lives on the rock that is Jesus offers us stability—a rootedness—that many of us crave. Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount with that picture: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24).

Discipleship is not an optional extra for a few keen Christians; it is the steady work of becoming people whose lives are held firm by Christ, whatever shifts around us.

I entered 2026 with a prayerful sense that the Lord was saying to me, "Your power comes through prayer", and with a sense of being invited into deeper dependence on Jesus as life threw some significant challenges my way. It reminded me that we are not formed by good intentions alone, but by encounter—by repeatedly placing ourselves where Jesus has promised to meet us.

Continued on Page 27



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That is where “making new disciples” begins: not with techniques, but with being made new ourselves. St Athanasius famously wrote, “He became what we are that He might make us what He is.” If that is true, our calling is to be shaped into the likeness of Jesus—so that, in our words, patience, courage, and compassion, others might catch a glimpse of him.

This matters because the Church is not sustained primarily by activity, but by holiness—by lives quietly remade. St Irenaeus wrote, “The glory of God is a human being fully alive.” We become “fully alive” as Christ’s life takes root in ours, and we begin to radiate out what we have received. Paul says it with breathtaking simplicity: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). People do not only need our programmes; they need our presence in communities across the diocese—Christ’s presence shining through ordinary disciples

How are we formed? By grace, yes—and also by habits that keep us close to the Lord. The Christian tradition has always known that we are shaped by what we repeatedly attend to, love, and practise. Not as a way of earning God’s favour, but as a way of becoming available to God’s transforming work.

Worship re-centres us in God’s story and trains our hearts to love Christ. Week by week, we are gathered, forgiven, fed by word and sacrament, and sent back out into our communities. Over time, the liturgy sinks beneath the surface and becomes reflex: gratitude rather than grumbling; forgiveness rather than resentment. “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19) is not simply recollection; it is, and becomes a way of life. We remember Jesus until, slowly, our lives begin to resemble him.

Prayer is not merely asking for help; it is communion. As St Augustine wrote, “our heart is restless until it rests in you.” In prayer, our hearts are reordered—where anxiety becomes intercession, anger becomes radical honesty, and weariness becomes healthy dependence. Jesus often “withdrew... and prayed” (Luke 5:16); if the Son of God sought the Father’s company, how much more do we? Prayer also builds courage: it teaches us to see the world truthfully and to love it without being consumed by it. “Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31). Waiting is not passivity but practised

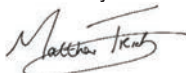
dependence—resilience for leadership, parenting, friendship, service, and grief.

Bible reading is not information-gathering but meeting, and dwelling in, the living Word: “All Scripture is breathed out by God...” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). We come with our questions and let the Spirit comfort, confront, and form us. Meditation helps the Word sink in—slowly letting Christ’s words dwell in us (Colossians 3:16). Nature, especially the beauty of Derbyshire, can restore wonder and patience as we remember “the earth is the LORD’s” (Psalm 24:1). And study is loving God with our minds (Mark 12:30), so we can “give a reason for the hope” within us (1 Peter 3:15).

None of these practices are about spiritual heroics or instant ‘wins’. They are about attention. They are ways of turning towards Jesus so that Jesus can turn us outward again. They are also wonderfully adaptable. A busy parent might pray in ten-minute fragments. A carer might read a Psalm each day. A student might find Christ in study and service. A retiree might offer the gift of time and intercession. The point is not the quantity; it is the orientation: “Abide in me... for apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:4–5).

As we are being formed in this way, evangelism becomes less about pressure and more about overflow. New disciples are rarely argued into existence; they are often drawn to a life that radiates Jesus—steadiness in chaos, hope in sorrow, kindness under strain. Peter says, “Always be prepared to make a defence... yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15). Gentleness and respect are not add-ons; they are evidence that Christ is at work in us.

So, as this year continues to move and change, let’s choose the steady places of encounter. Let’s build on the Rock. Let’s make room for worship, prayer, Scripture, meditation, nature, and study—not as tasks, but as meeting places. And as we seek to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did, may our neighbours—through our ordinary, grace-shaped lives—come to know the extraordinary love of Christ.



The Ven. Matthew Trick  
Archdeacon of Derby City and South Derbyshire



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Church Website: [stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk](http://stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk)

For all enquiries regarding weddings, baptisms, funerals and parish events contact the Parish Administrator, Caroline Audley: email: [Steds.stmatts@outlook.com](mailto: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

Associate Minister:	Rev'd Rachael Brooks: <a href="mailto:rev.rachaelbrooks@gmail.com">rev.rachaelbrooks@gmail.com</a>	07305 140573
Churchwardens:	Ann Miller	07831 506978
	Elizabeth Jack	07779 255412
Parish Administrator:	Caroline Audley: <a href="mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com">Steds.stmatts@outlook.com</a>	552031
Readers:	Diana Mellor: <a href="mailto:diana.mellor1@gmail.com">diana.mellor1@gmail.com</a>	07773 630001
Choir:	Elizabeth Jack	07779 255412
Treasurer/Gift Aid Sec.:	Chris Jack, 12 Regency Close, Littleover	07805 027515
PCC Correspondence Sec:	Paul Smith: <a href="mailto:smithppaul@aol.com">smithppaul@aol.com</a>	07792 569758
Electoral Roll:	Matt Cooper	07572 110185
Flower Group:	Rosemary Yates	552742
	Michèle Aspinall	07773 784009
Luncheon Club:	Anne Madge	07971 680377
Baby and Toddler Group:	Caroline Audley: <a href="mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com">Steds.stmatts@outlook.com</a>	552031
Parish Safeguarding Links	Madeleine Fullerton	554762
	Louise Whittaker	556455

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Hall Bookings:	Caroline Audley - <a href="mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com">Steds.stmatts@outlook.com</a>	552031
Handbells:	Gill Flatman	557028
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Rainbows, Brownies & Guides:	Alwyn Young	07740 201963

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

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Please EMAIL magazine articles and photos to both [fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk](mailto:fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk) and Chris Willis at [c.willis246@btinternet.com](mailto:c.willis246@btinternet.com)

Magazine Distribution: Chris Willis 558136

**DEADLINES: 20th June for July magazine & 20th July for August 2026 magazine.**

Our Parish magazines are available as printed copies in Church and as a PDF on the website: [stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk](http://stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk).

# The Bells Ring Out At St Edmund's



Andy Honman from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust joined some members of the Groundforce Team listening to St Edmund's bells ringing out to mark the return of swifts.

We were just one of many Derby churches taking part in 'Bells for Birds' events which took place during the first week of May. Fortuitously it was a beautiful, warm and sunny spring day just perfect for both the bellringing and our subsequent work in the churchyard.

Do watch out for swifts around Allestree. The sight of them along with swallows and house martins feeding over our skies is mesmerising.

You might also be interested in joining a walk on 3rd July at 7.30pm in Duffield led by the Save Our Swifts Group. Please contact the group via [sosduffield@gmail.com](mailto:sosduffield@gmail.com) for further details and to book.

*Jane and Steve Burton*

