



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

News from the Parish

April 2025



www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stedmundsallestree

St. Edmund's April 2025

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

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

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

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

FOOD BANK - The first Sunday of the month, 6th April 2025. Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 8th.

FRONT COVER: The photograph shows joint choirs of St Edmund's and St Matthew's, who had joined with Derwentio Choir at the Concert celebrating Revd Peter Barham held in St Matthews on Saturday, 15th March.

BACK COVER: Continuation of the article on page 19, re. the Concert held to celebrate Revd Peter Barham.

Can you support St Edmund's by sponsoring the colour cover in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an event? If you are interested please contact one of the editorial team or a Churchwarden. The cost is £35.00.

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

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.

Reverend's Letter

By the time you are reading this we will be well into the season of Lent. As I write I have the liturgy of Ash Wednesday before me. I always find this a profound and moving service, for it signals a turning point in the Christian year. The first part of the church's year began in Advent and we celebrated the incarnation of Jesus, the 'Word become flesh' who shared our human condition, and we anticipated his return. Now, as we enter Lent, we look towards Holy Week, the cross and resurrection of Jesus. In doing this we will be joining with Christians all over the world, and that has been done for two thousand years.

The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us "in the name of the church, to the observance of a Holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word" - all very counter-cultural.

It's an invitation for us to draw near to Jesus and to take seriously the gospel call to repent, with the assurance of God's forgiveness that we see proclaimed in the gospel.

Every year as Lent approaches, I start to think about what I might abstain from and, having a scroll through Facebook, (something incidentally I have given up for Lent on many occasions!), I came across a post which said "This Lent keep the chocolate and give up bigotry, judgement, legalism, and hatred in all forms." It was a bit harsh, to say the least, but it did get me thinking that it can be easier not to eat a bar of chocolate than seek to be disciplined about what we think or say. What would Lent look like if each time I had a critical thought or was about to say a critical word (let's be real we all do it) I repented and instead said words of encouragement or blessing, or even chose not to say anything at all!

I'm not saying giving up chocolate is wrong, and fasting is a discipline that we are not so good at in the West, but maybe it would be a beneficial alternative to take seriously the liturgy of Ash Wednesday:- "*Carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel and so grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.*"

We can ask ourselves "What does that repentance look like?" and "How might we grow in faith and devotion to Jesus?"

The scriptures talk about daily being transformed into the likeness of Christ and I pray that however we travel through the days of Lent, and it isn't too late to start, we will draw near to Jesus. As we prepare for Holy Week we can continue to be transformed by the abundant love and grace of God and in doing so be vessels that pour out that love and grace to others.

Revd Sarah Watson

Area Dean for Derby City

Priest-in-Charge of Allestree St Nicholas and of Quarndon,
of St Edmund and Darley Abbey.

Churchwardens' View

A Regular Update by Ann Miller and Paul Smith

Pancakes, Messy Church, Volunteering, Book Shed, VE80 and Lent

March was busy and fruitful, and has seen lots of activity:

Pancakes were tossed with great panache, caught and eaten on Shrove Tuesday.

Messy Church is happening: Look out for more of them on some Saturday afternoons.

Home groups are up and running: It's been many years since St Ed's had active home groups or house groups for informal discussion, so it's really positive to see the new set of groups starting up with great success.

The three choirs' concert in St Matt's, celebrating and honouring Peter Barham was a beautiful occasion and a most fitting tribute - trains and all!

Events in the church hall now have extra zing since we've been spruced up and redecorated, thanks to Community Payback and a huge amount of work undertaken by Geoff Bailey. Even the most mundane meetings are brighter, and we're much more glamorous now for hosting parties, concerts and events.

On Sunday 6th April there'll be refreshments in church after morning service, followed by the important APCM, our annual church meeting, when everyone is invited to be involved in the running of the church. We have vacancies on the PCC which we need volunteers to fill; empty chairs don't contribute anything to church life! We have a particularly pressing need for a secretary to the PCC - if you'd be interested in giving it a go please have a chat with Paul to check out what's involved. He can tell you anything you'd like to know about the role as he's been covering it as acting secretary alongside being a churchwarden.

By the time you're reading this, Primrose's shed will be on the move to be closer to the hall and to enable St Ed's book sales to happen again.

Monday 5th May - a heads up that we're planning to join the nation's marking of VE80 anniversary, celebrating the arrival of peace in Europe after WW2. The event will take place from 3.30pm - 5.30pm, inside / outside the Church Hall. Bring your own picnic and the St Edmund's Handbell Ringers will play a couple of sets.

Most important of all, and what we're really about in the church, is this time of Lent. Now, since Ash Wednesday, we live in hope and preparation for Good Friday, followed by the joy and transformation of Easter Day. It's increasingly popular, not just to 'give up' things for Lent, but to 'give more' - either money or donations to a charity, or to give more of our time to volunteer. Maybe we could consider donating

Churchwardens' View continued

a bit extra to St Ed's Food Bank collection on the first Sunday of the month - 6th April is up next. Sadly, the food bank we deliver to is very much needed by the folk of Derby.

After Easter, looking further ahead, keep an eye on St Ed's for concerts, a plant sale, Afternoon Tea with Jane Austen; summer fun is on the way!

Meanwhile, we wish you every blessing and a happy and meaningful Easter.

*Ann & Paul
Churchwardens*

PS. Don't forget that we'd love to welcome you to join us for coffee and biscuits on Sundays 11.00am in the church hall and Wednesdays 10.45am in church.



From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

No Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or Burials of Ashes at St Edmund's after 24th February up until the date of the magazine being published.



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



Compline

14th, 21st March &
4th, 11th April

9 pm, St Edmund's Church



Compline is a night prayer service that is a time for quiet reflection.

ALL WELCOME

Community Pop-in Café

Coffee
Tea
Toast

**Fellowship Room
St Matthew's Church
Darley Abbey
Friday 25th April 2025
8.30 - 10.30am**

*All welcome
Share time with friends*

Pancakes in the Hall: A St Ed's Shrovetide Tradition

Those who arrived at our pancake evening on 4 March (Shrove Tuesday) were treated to the sight of beautifully laid out and decorated tables as well as the irresistible smell of pancakes sizzling in the pan. When we opened at 5pm, helpers had already been there for at least an hour to make sure that a steady stream of pancakes could be served from the word go. Batter had been made, a stock of pancakes was warming in the hot cupboard with more on the way, and mouth-watering toppings were laid out ready for the hungry to make their choice. Meanwhile, drinks were available to wash down the one, two or several pancakes people managed to put away. To add to the evening's excitement, Mary was standing by with tempting raffle prizes and many people bought tickets to take part.



Overall, it was a warm and friendly evening. It was lovely to see many regulars from the congregation, as well as some friends we don't see so often. Donations and raffle takings totalled a brilliant £372.60.

Huge thanks to the following who made it all run like clockwork: Mary Pollett, Diane Bakhda, Chris & Elizabeth Jack, Michèle & John Aspinall, Denis & Maureen Caughey, Gill & Richard Flatman, and Chris Willis – and everyone else who attended.

Paul Smith



Our Four Churches Prayer Initiative

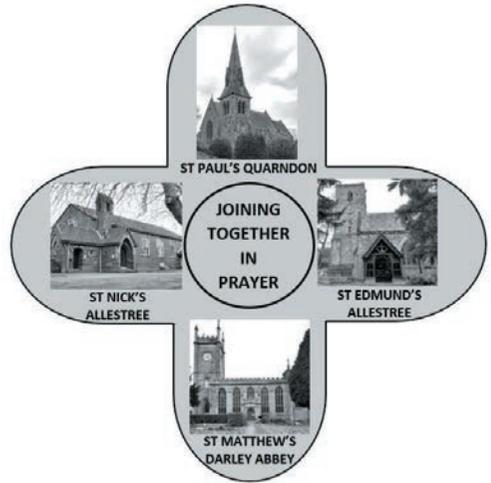
As you will know over the last year we have been working together across our four parishes, seeking where we can support one another in our ministry and mission whilst valuing our distinctiveness as individual parishes. We have an exciting opportunity to work together to pray for each street and homes across the parishes.

Starting at Pentecost we invite you to join with us in this prayer Initiative which will last approximately two years. Each week both in our individual prayer life and in our intercessions together on a Sunday we will pray for different streets across the parishes with each area and home being prayed for several times. More information about how this will work will follow.

As a result of the PCC away day in the summer one of the things that many felt called to was a deeper sense of prayer across the parishes. This is an amazing opportunity for us to come together and play our part as the body of Christ in our area lifting up our neighbours in prayer. We hope this Initiative will not only serve to bring us closer together in praying for one another, but we would see God's love and transforming power at work in our communities.

So let's come together in unity and faith to pray for God's blessing upon the homes, streets and people of our parishes, with faith and expectation of what God will do.

Rev Sarah Watson & Rev Rachael Brooks



JOINT COMMUNITY PRAYER

WHAT will the cards tell people?

- 1st Card: We are praying for them and God loves them beyond measure.
- 2nd Card: Referring to 1 Corinthians 13, show how God loves them.
- 3rd Card: With testimonies, show how God's love changes lives.

HOW will the cards be delivered?

Mainly by people from each parish who volunteer to be part of a delivery team. Some cards will be posted (eg. households in areas 21 and 54 are not accessible; also many households in Quarndon Village are difficult to reach).

WHAT is the timetable?

There will be 6 periods of 18 weeks:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 12.05.25 – 14.09.25 | PRAYERS |
| 15.09.25 – 18.01.26 | PRAYERS |
| 19.01.26 – 24.05.26 | PRAYERS & DELIVERIES (1 st Card) |
| 25.05.26 – 27.09.26 | PRAYERS |
| 28.09.26 – 31.01.27 | PRAYERS & DELIVERIES (2 nd Card) |
| 01.02.27 – 13.06.27 | PRAYERS |

Followed by Prayers of Thanksgiving, DELIVERIES (3rd Card)

HAVE you any ideas or suggestions?

Feedback is very important.

Please make your thoughts, ideas or suggestions known to your Minister. Everyone plays a vital part in bringing God's love to our communities.

Dates for your Diary April 2025

Saturday 29th March

9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party - Come & help to make the churchyard clean and tidy

2.30-4.00pm - St Edmund's Church Hall - Messy Church

Sunday 30th March - *Mothering Sunday, Fourth of Lent*

10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer,

10.00am - St Matthew's - Morning Prayer, led by Revd Rachael Brooks

11.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

12.30pm - St Edmund's - Baptism of Nellie Dot Thompson

There will be no evening service in either church.

Tuesday 1st April

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

2.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM - Life Can Be Funny by Pat Hall

7.30pm - Chris & David Halfpenny's house - 22 Questions

Wednesday 2nd April

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

Thursday 3rd April

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

Friday 4th April - 9.00pm - St Edmund's - Compline

Saturday 5th April

9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

Sunday 6th April - *5th Sunday of Lent - Passion Sunday*

Food Bank Sunday - *Please leave any donations in St Edmund's Church or in St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 8th April. Thank you.*

10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer, led by Revd Rachael Brooks (St Edmund's APCM will take place after the service)

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

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

Wednesday 9th April

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

Thursday 10th April

12 noon - St Edmund's - Funeral of Patricia (Pat) Halliday

Friday 11th April

12 noon - St Edmund's - Funeral of Joane Fraser

9.00pm - St Edmund's - Compline

Saturday 12th April

9.30-12 noon - St Matthew's carpark - Refills on the Road

Dates for your Diary April 2025 continued

Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday

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

10.00am - St Matthew's - Morning Prayer, led by Melonie Hambly

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by the Choir

Monday 14th April

2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: 'The Guernsey Girls go to War'
by Mary Wood

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

Tuesday 15th April

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

Wednesday 16th April

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

Sunday 20th April - Easter Day

10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer, led by John Rice

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

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Joint Choral Evensong, led by Clive Lemmon

Wednesday 23rd April

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

Thursday 24th April

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

Friday 25th April

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

Saturday 26th April

9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party - Come & help to make the churchyard clean and tidy

9.30-12 noon - St Matthew's carpark - Refills on the Road

Sunday 27th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

10.00am - St Matthew's - Morning Prayer, led by Melonie Hambly

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

Monday 28th April

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbell Practice

Wednesday 30th April

10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Geoffrey Marshall

Do Tell Us of Future Events or Celebrations

PLEASE CONTACT the Parish Administrator, Caroline Audley, with details of future events for them to be included in the Diary Dates:- 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.

Save Your Stamps for Charity during 2025

Thank you for saving your used stamps throughout 2024. We would be most grateful if you could continue to save stamps again this year.

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

Elizabeth Jack

Allestree Flower Group - 15th April 2025

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th April at The Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree. It is the AGM and we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary. There will be Fizz, Cake and a Quiz plus the Club Competition "Cocktail Hour".

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

All welcome FOC. For further details telephone 07968 237457



Allestree W.I. Meeting - 15th April 2025

Allestree W.I. will meet on Tuesday 15th April 2025, 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby. DE22 2GP.

This Meeting is the AGM and Mrs. Nancy Hawkesworth, a W.I. Advisor will attend to help and advise on the conduct of the Meeting and will present the Competitions Cup to the Winner of the previous year's Competitions.

The Competition is 'An Egg in Any Medium'.

Visitors welcome to the Meeting at £5.00 pp but cannot vote for Committee Members at this Meeting. Enquiries to Mavis on 01332 556012.



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



Sunday services at St Edmund's in April



Passion Sunday, 6th	10 am	Morning Prayer
Palm Sunday, 13th	10 am	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 20th ~ Easter Day	10 am	Choral Holy Communion
	6 pm	Joint Choral Evensong
Sunday 27th	10 am	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Evensong



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



Join us for Holy Communion



Every Wednesday in April
St Edmund's
10am

All welcome



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST MATTHEW'S



Sunday services at St Matthew's in April



Passion Sunday, 6th	10 am	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Evensong
Palm Sunday, 13th	10 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 20th ~ Easter Day	10 am	Holy Communion <i>followed by an egg hunt</i>
	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 27th	10 am	Morning Prayer



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S
& ST MATTHEW'S



Mothering Sunday

30 March
10 am



*There will be services in both
churches and posies
available to take away.*

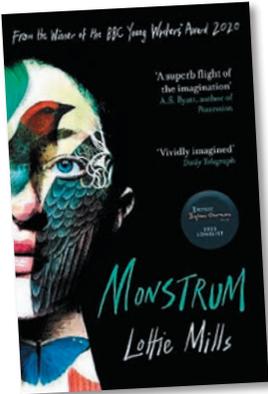
Join us and celebrate!

Book Review

“MONSTRUM” by LOTTIE MILLS

Pub Softback by **Headline Publishing, 2018** ISBN 978-0-86154-562-9

Also available in e-format, eISBN 978-0-86154-563-6



I hadn't heard of Lottie Mills until early in 2024, when she was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's "Woman's Hour", to coincide with the launch of this, her first book. At the time she can only have been about 22, and I remember being impressed by her articulacy and her very thoughtful answers to some tough questions, including about her views on disability (she uses a wheelchair).

Not long after, one of these short stories, "The Changeling", written while she was still studying English, was read aloud on the same channel – it too left me with a strong sense that here is a huge talent in the ascendant. It's a mother's account

of her child who was born very misshapen, with "a sort of double hunchback", and after media reports of "a real-life fairy", flies away on her 18th birthday, leaving feathers behind on her pillow.

The rest of this volume of ten stories also explore the concept of "otherness", seen from a variety of points of view. Some are probably classifiable as science fiction (or fantasy), but nearly all are realistic and set in or around the present. The only one set in the past is particularly interesting (more on this one later). "Otherness" can be a disability or some other exceptional characteristic – to take two of her instances, a sea-obsessed couple are finally taken to live in the ocean by a Merman, and a conversation takes place between a young woman and a much older one who is severely disabled and only ever visible in small sections, via a mirror.

In one of the others, "The Body", a previously physically-disabled girl has had an operation to put her into a replacement outer body that is free of cerebral palsy (CP). She is getting used to her new body, which is of course a normal one for many, but for her, new, strange and "abnormal". Her reactions are really interestingly explored – the indignant "Has it always been this easy for everyone else?" is just so telling, turning on its head a typical able-bodied response such as "How can it be so difficult for someone with CP to move around?". The ethical and practical questions around disposal of the old body are also fascinating – suffice to say that the old one appears unwilling to lie down easily.

Uniquely in this collection, "The White Lion" is set in the middle of the 19th century and deals with exploitation; unlike most others too, it's written in the first person. A

Book Review continued

14-year-old girl has no hands and little in the way of legs, and is confined to a “bath chair”. She has learned to paint using her mouth to hold the brush, and the modest home has at least one of her pictures on the wall. A showman in a tailed bright scarlet jacket visits her and her mother, with an offer to pay the mother for the girl to be one of the exhibits (“the Handless Painter”) in his travelling circus, fair and menagerie, which includes the lion of the title. (Whether on hire, or outright purchase, is not clear.) His intentions appear respectable, the deal is done, and he transports Lily to his encampment near Oxford. In fact, the lion lives chained in the corner of the same room as the girl’s bed, and is badly injured by frequent use of a huge whip, deliberately underfed and ravenous. In the ringmaster’s absence, and with Lily so fearful that she cannot bring herself to paint, the whip is just about accessible ...

The writing in this book is superbly lucid and poised, the descriptions, contrast and ironies ably pointed-up, and the scene-setting beautifully economical of detail. This is a volume to take the reader somewhere new, unsettle and leave them really thinking in different ways from usual. Anyone currently finding long reads difficult might find these short stories refreshingly easy to tackle, and they are satisfying as well as stimulating. Warmly recommended – I will gladly lend.

Kate Smith

Mid-September 2024

OPEN HOUSE COFFEE AT ST. EDMUND'S

Join us for coffee -
everyone welcome.

We'd love to see you!

We serve coffee and biscuits
on Sunday mornings between
11.00am and 11.45am in St
Edmund's Church Hall and
on Wednesday mornings
there's coffee inside the
Church at 10.45am.

Please come and join us



**Flowers
and
Vegetables**

**Plant
Sale**



17th May, 10 am to 12 noon

Choir Vestry

St Edmund's Church, Allestree

Rita's Recipe: Mixed Roasted Vegetables

An idea rather than a recipe this month. Some of you may already do this, but I do find it very useful occasionally. Roasting tray. Oven 220 C. Gas 7

Ingredients - If you have a surplus of vegs. in the fridge or fresh or in the garden, eg carrots, parsnips, onions, swede, potatoes, sweet potatoes etc. prepare by peeling & chopping, not too small. Any vegs., broccoli, peas, courgettes etc from fridge or freezer can be added for the last 10 to 15 minutes.

Method

Place chopped vegetables in roasting tray.

Drizzle over with cooking oil, salt, pepper & mixed herbs, fresh or dried.

Bake in oven till just tender & slightly brown, turning once to coat with oil.

Add any broccoli, peas etc. just before end.

Rita says "Can be used with any cooked meat, fish or grated cheese. Any surplus vegs. can be put in recycled plastic containers, labelled & put in freezer (when cold) for another day. I find this very useful on a busy day!"

Rita Wrigley



The Repair Café is open 5th April

The volunteer-run Derby Repair Cafe is held on the first Saturday of every month at the West End Community Centre, Mackworth Road, DE22 3BL. Bring your broken household items along to our Repair Cafe Saturday 5th April 1-4pm. No specialist repairs (eg clock, antiques) and nothing too big. Cash and electronic donations are accepted to keep our Repair Cafe going. Don't forget that we can only take cash for donations and refreshments. Full details can be found on the Repair Café Facebook page.

Updated Notice: Donate or Buy at May Plant Sale

We are holding a plant sale on May 17th and would be very grateful for plant donations of any quantity, shape or size! The St Edmund's Choir Vestry will be open on Friday May 16th 5.00pm - 7.00pm and a committee member will be there to receive donations. Alternatively plants can be brought before 10.00am on the 17th. The plant sale will take place in the Choir Vestry on Saturday 17th May from 10.00am to 12 noon. We hope to have a wide selection of flower and vegetable plants available and would welcome donations of any surplus plants you might have nearer the time. Refreshments available

Mary Pollett, Events Committee

An Alternative "Magnificat"

This piece was first published in St Ed's Magazine in around 2004. Much more recently, having committed to reading it aloud at the Epiphany Entertainment done by the choir and others at St Ed's Hall in early January 2025, I took the opportunity to revise it, so this is a new version.

Dammit, God, why did it have to be me ?
That angel was awesome, but where's my fee ?
Cousin Liz would've been a better pick –
I don't know how babies tick.

House of David or not, this Joseph's a clot,
And I'm fed up with stigma, seventeen or not.
I'm pregnant and full of new aches and pains;
I've got heartburn, heavy legs and varicose veins.

I keep slipping off the donkey's back –
I don't like this place, and I'd rather go back.

Oh well, let's see what happens next;
Lord knows there's no point getting vexed,
And no doubt the world will forget my text.

ENVOI FOR 21st CENTURY EVENSONG-GOERS

There are settings enough to fill a J C Bamford,
Most of them written by a guy called Stanford.

Kate Smith

Candlemas 2025

Allestree History Group - April 2025

The group meets at 7.00pm twice a month (1st and 3rd Wednesdays) in the Choir Vestry at St Nicholas' Church, Allestree Lane, Allestree, Derby DE22 2DS. New members are most welcome so if you have an interest in history please come along.

2nd April - A talk by David Templeman on "Two Queens and a Countess".

19th April - Members talk by Ann Cooke on "Working for Two Queens".

Visitors are welcome at £4.00 per person.

If you would like to know more about the Allestree History Group you can telephone Sylvia on 01332 556441 or visit www.allestreelocalhistorygroup.org.uk

Come to 22 Questions on Tuesday, 1 April

A lovely informal opportunity to chat with others about faith. Chris (Dyer) and David host '22 Questions' - a play on the game '20 Questions' (and the fact they live at No 22). The evening starts with coffee and biscuits and then a natter about a broad question with no plan about where we'll end up. From 7.30 until 9.00pm at 22 Phildock Wood Road, DE22 4PH (on Langley Country Park off Radbourne Lane). Everyone welcome.

Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (3)

SHUTLINGSLOE AND WILDBOARCLOUGH

This excursion into Cheshire's corner of the Peak District takes us to one of the most distinctive peaks in the whole National Park and to a small village with some indirect 'Derby' connection, then returning via the picturesque meeting point of the Peak District's three counties – the Three Shire Heads. The proposed route is about 6 miles with hilly sections, starting from a lay-by on the A54 Buxton to Congleton road.

Shutlingsloe, at 1659ft., is probably the most distinctive peak in Cheshire, although not the highest; indeed, its profile from certain angles have earned it the grossly exaggerated nickname 'Little Matterhorn of Cheshire'. In fact Whetstone Ridge, just S of the Cat and Fiddle Inn, is slightly higher although nowhere near as shapely; and the highest summit technically is **Shining Tor** (overlooking the Goyt Valley) at 1834ft. although shared with Derbyshire because its top is crossed by the county boundary. The term *Shutling* derives from the name of an ancient chieftain or landowner, while *loe* is a variant of the Peak District *low* or the Scottish *law*, meaning hill, often with some prehistoric burial site implications. The route over the top leads NW into Macclesfield Forest, now a Country Park but previously a Royal Hunting Reserve from Norman times.



Shutlingsloe from Cumberland Clough

On a clear day **The Panorama** from the top of Shutlingsloe is superb. The main features (clockwise from the south) are : the Roaches; the 'tail' of Tittesworth Reservoir; Gun hill; the Wrekin; Bosley Cloud; Jodrell Bank telescope; the Cheshire plain with Welsh Clwd Hills beyond; Greater Manchester; and Shining Tor. *If it is really clear and with good eyesight, Worcestershire's Malvern Hills can be detected E of the Shropshire Wrekin (some 75 and 40 miles distant, respectively).* It is also worth noting that, along our route, the gradual descent along **Cumberland Brook** with Shutlingsloe ahead, gives one of the most picturesque views, rivaling anywhere else in the whole Peak District.



St. Saviour's Church, Wildboarclough

Wildboarclough* is a hamlet on Clough Brook which flows S into the R. Dane. The origin of its name is open to dispute, referring either to a legend of where the last wild boar in England was shot, or to the propensity of Clough Brook to rise rapidly after heavy rain. A plaque on the bridge records the flood disaster of May 1989 which resulted in a

Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (3)

SHUTTLINGSLOE AND WILDBOARCLOUGH continued



Crag Hall & Shuttlingsloe



R. Dane at Three Shire Heads

motorist drowning in his car and road closure for 6 months (in fact an earlier example carried away part of a mill and wrecked 4 bridges in the valley). Just over the bridge is the large administrative block of former Crag Mill, built in 1793 for spinning and printing textiles, but now a private residence; it also housed the local post office for a time, earning the distinction of ‘the largest sub-post office in the country’! The former mill owner built **Crag Hall**, a Grade II-star residence, highly visible across the valley from the Shuttlingsloe track and passed on the walk. It became a shooting lodge and the country retreat of the Earls of Derby, who have held land in the area ever since it was granted by Henry V in 1403. Formerly private, the hall can now be rented for group events. The nearby **St. Saviour’s Church** was built by Earl Derby in 1901 to celebrate his son’s safe return from the Boer War. The local pub is called the Crag Inn, popular now with tourists and, formerly, local workers from both the old mill and the disused coal bell-pits upstream of the hamlet.

Three Shire Heads lies on the infant River Dane at a point where the three county borders meet (Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire). At the bridge the river is crossed by some old packhorse routes, once important for trade between the Cheshire salt mines and manufactured goods from S. Yorkshire or the E. Midlands; and you can see that it had to be widened at some stage. Panniers Pool, below the bridge, was an important stop and refreshment point for packhorse men; also it was once a convenient out-of-the-way spot for illegal prizefighting but now popular with walkers, paddlers and picnickers.

The Route described starts from a roadside lay-by on the A54 just past the drive for Holt Farm (OS ref. 002693; 5 miles out of Buxton & 1½ miles into Cheshire). Walk back a short distance and take the old pack-horse track L signed for Clough House and Cat & Fiddle (note our return f/p across the road), passing a barn with the top of Shuttlingsloe and Macclesfield Forest visible ahead. When the track splits, turn L and follow Cumberland Brook downstream, reaching a road via footbridge and gate. Cross over, pass through Clough Farm picnic site and turn L on the Wildboarclough road. Take a slowly rising f/p R, signed Langley, and just past Banktop cottage (dated 1690!) look for a scanty f/p R which joins Shuttlingsloe Farm drive; then follow the obvious f/p L up to the hill

Continued on page 18

Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (3)

SHUTLINGSLOE AND WILDBOARCLOUGH continued

summit. Descend back to the farm drive and follow this R down to the road. Turn briefly L then R over Wildboarclough bridge and follow the lane past old Crag Mill, St. Saviour's Church and Crag Hall. Bear R at the junction (signed Buxton) but at the next bend keep straight ahead on a f/p (a bit boggy initially) following the wall and heading L of a barn, through a gate and over some wooden walkways to the A54 (996685).

Cross to the f/p opposite, following the same direction

to a lane at Cut-thorn Cottage; take the pack-horse

track L swinging around Cut-thorn Hill and slowly down to the R. Dane at Panniers Pool.

Continue on the W bank for about a third of a mile, then bear L at a gate (008690) away

from the river towards Holt Farm. Follow the signed f/p L of the farm, then swing sharp L steeply up a field to a metal stile; then aim for the leftmost of two wall-ladder stiles on the

A54, emerging opposite our starting point.



Shining Tor & Shutlingsloe

The Rambler

* Pronounced *Wilbercluff*

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Alzheimer's Society (0333 150 3456) www.alzheimers.org.uk

Dementia Support line

Childline (0800 1111) www.childline.org.uk

Advice and support to children who can share issues and problems, and find a listening ear.

Family Lives (0808 800 2222) www.familylives.org.uk

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NAPAC (08088 0103 31) www.napac.org.uk

National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC).

National Domestic Abuse Helpline (0808 2000 247) www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

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NSPCC (0808 800 5000) www.nspcc.org.uk

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

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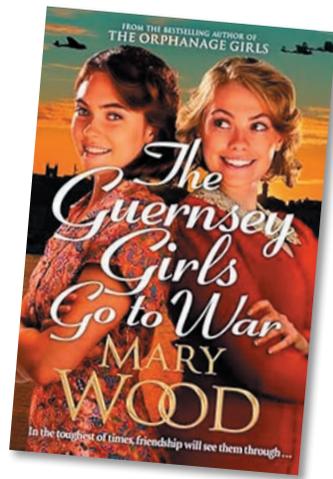
Bookworms Meeting: 14th April '25

Bookworms meet in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm. We will be discussing

'The Guernsey Girls Go to War' by Mary Wood at our next meeting on Monday 14th April.

The reading list continues on the following months:-

- 12th May 2025 Jodi Picoult - Wish You Were Here
- 9th June 2025 Maggie O'Farrell - The Hand That First Held Mine
- 14th July 2025 Rose Tremain - The Colour
- 11th Aug 2025 Rachel Joyce - The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry



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

Three Choirs Join the Concert to Celebrate the Revd Peter Barham: There Were Trains!

On Saturday 15th March, Derby's Derwentio Choir joined the choirs of St Edmund's and St Matthew's for a celebration concert at St Matthew's. The event was in memory of the Revd Peter Barham, the much-loved former vicar of both churches. At the family's request, the retiring collection, a magnificent £1,025 was donated to Acorns Children's Hospice.

Attendees in the packed church were treated to a varied programme of choral and organ music designed to pay homage to Peter's interests and tastes. Peter stood in a long line of clergy who loved trains. So, the three choirs sang Flanders and Swann's "Slow Train" with relish, the Derwentio Choir gave a lively performance of Alexander L'Estrange's "Standing in the Need of Prayer" from "the Gospel Train", and Derby Cathedral's Director of Music, Alexander Binns, performed Vivian Ellis's "Coronation Scot" on the organ, complete with sounds of hissing steam, shrieking whistles and thumping pistons.

Other highlights included Geoff Howell playing an organ arrangement of Elgar's serene "Nimrod", cathedral chorister Sophie Short singing the "Pie Jesu" from Fauré's "Requiem" and all three choirs joining together for the mighty "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah". Recollecting Peter's love of fine church music, St Edmund's choir sang Adrian Batten's four-part Tudor motet "O Sing Joyfully", and the evening's musical programme closed with one of Peter's favourite hymns: "How shall I sing that majesty" to the tune Coe Fen.

Continued on the back cover

Church Hall Redecoration, and there's more to do

If you have been in the hall recently, you will have noticed that most of the rooms are now much brighter and cleaner, having been redecorated during February by men who have received a community sentence after being convicted of a crime. Their unpaid Community Payback work has been done under the control of their own supervisors as an alternative to prison. Community Payback offers participants a range of rehabilitation opportunities including the experience of working constructively in a team with others, learning some new skills, feeling appreciated and having a sense of achievement while doing something to improve the physical environment either indoors or outdoors within their local community. Community Payback have provided their labour to us free of charge, our costs being only for providing tools and materials for their use. We have told them how pleased we are with what they have achieved.

The remaining work is quite extensive but largely in restricted areas, so not enough for a large gang to work on for full days at a time – bearing in mind that paint takes time to dry - or is at high level which they were unable to access. I have made a good start in the main hall, but I would welcome some help from a few volunteers. If you have DIY skills, possibly some connection to the hall, either for yourself or through family connections with the activities there, or you would simply like to get involved, please contact me. We can be flexible about dates but generally these would be either Friday evenings, Saturdays or possibly Sunday afternoons, depending on bookings for occasional events, since the hall is in quite intensive use at most other times in both term-time and school holidays. We have tall and short stepladders, and all the tools and materials needed.



Main hall ceiling cracked & dirty



Wall sockets in need of clean-up



Curtain rails broken



Kitchen pipes - Before



Kitchen pipes - After



Main hall ceiling prepared for paint

Church Hall Redecoration - Come and help

The remaining items are mainly within the main hall, fire escape corridor and on the stage and include:-

- Dusting and washing-down woodwork, walls and ceilings.
- Scraping off flaking paint, filling minor defects and rubbing down surfaces prior to painting.
- Painting the woodwork around doors and windows and applying emulsion paint to walls and ceilings, all using water-based paints.
- Continuing with various DIY repairs around the building including moving and re-installing various fittings, simple woodwork repairs, minor tiling and grouting, fitting corner and plaster damage protection, and, to keep up their efficiency, dusting down the radiators behind their covers.
- Tidy up curtain tracks, fix new end stops & hooks.

At some time during the summer, in dry weather (ever hopeful), we should re-do the woodstain on the outside of the windows to prolong their life, since we have found that the cost of renewal is prohibitive, despite that new frames and more efficient glazing would be a further improvement to our insulation.

If any of these activities appeal to you and you would like to get involved, please email gbailey@doctors.org.uk or phone 01332 552724.

Geoff Bailey



Main Hall ready for painting



Finished Hall Corridor



Finished Main Hall



63rd Derby Scout Group: Springtime Malt Whisky Tasting 12 April

Saturday 12th April - Tickets MUST be purchased in advance

On Saturday, 12th April, we are holding our Springtime Malt Whisky Tasting Event in the Darley Abbey Scouts Hall, The Hill (off New Road), DE22 1DT.

We are offering 5 Malts (Lowland, Campbeltown, Speyside, Highland & Island) as part of the Tasting Tickets. Also available are Driver's Tickets which include soft or hot drinks instead of whisky. Everyone receives mineral water, cheese & biscuits and a taste of haggis (vegan option available).

Tasting tickets £20 each 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.

Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. **Slàinte Mhath**

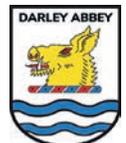


Darley Abbey Scout Hall Saturday Social on 19th April

At a loose end? Fancy a natter over a cuppa with a piece of Easter cake in a lovely, warm space? Like to play some games or browse our papers and magazines?

Then come along to Darley Abbey Scout Hall (DE22 1DT) on 19th April 2025, 1.30-3.30 p.m., 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.

Every third Saturday of the month, free of charge thanks to the Co-op and its customers. Next dates: 17th May; 21st June; 19th July.



Remembering the Worst Days of COVID

– Five Years On

On Sunday 9 March, we took part in a National Day of Remembrance for all who were affected, and continue to be affected, by the outbreak of COVID 19. At evensong, we said these prayers, all of which had been written especially for the occasion and some of which were used in churches throughout the UK. We continue to pray for all whom the pandemic touched, and especially those of our own community.

Loving Lord, you hold all our times in your hands: our past, our present, our future. Be close to us now as we remember the Covid pandemic. Be especially close to all of us who are thinking of someone we loved and knew, but see no longer, whether family, friend, colleague or neighbour. Help us to trust that they are at peace with you, and comfort us with your presence.

We remember with sadness and thanksgiving those of our community who became ill, and died as a result of the pandemic. Lord, hear us.

For those who were unable to be with elderly relatives in their last hours because of COVID. Lord, hear us.

For those who suffered loss of livelihood or damage to their business. Lord, hear us.

For the many organisations, including churches, which have never been able to rebuild their activities to a pre-COVID level. Lord, hear us.

For those in abusive relationships forced by lock-down to spend even more time with their abuser. Lord, hear us.

For those whose mental health deteriorated during the pandemic. Lord, hear us.

We call for our society to fully acknowledge the work and sacrifice of all nurses, doctors and carers. Lord, hear us.

We recall with shame those who had no choice but to work with inadequate personal protective equipment. Lord, hear us.

We pray for the many hours of schooling lost by our children and young people. Lord, hear us.

We give thanks for the pioneering work done in this country to devise and distribute COVID vaccines. Lord, hear us.

We pray for the public enquiry now taking place, asking that it will focus on learning lessons for the future, not on blame for the mistakes made. Lord, hear us.

Finally, loving Lord, we give you thanks for all those around us who serve us and help us in so many ways. Give wisdom to community leaders, to our schools, hospitals, care homes and other agencies who make a difference to our lives. Help each of us to have the courage to reach out with thanks and kindness to those around us and to speak words of faith as we share the good news of your love.

Paul Smith

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April 2025

Bishop Malcolm writes...



The message of Holy Week and Easter is that God's love for us in Jesus is Good News - the best news anyone could ever get. How are we doing at making this obvious to everyone, as it has become obvious to us?

One way we do it is simply to be present in each and every local community across Derbyshire. The way we are with our neighbours, the way we are as a church, and the way we are with each other, are all supposed to express the love of God in Christ – and very often they do! Where there is a community full of life and love and hospitality, people will experience 'good news' simply by walking through the door and being made welcome. Others will simply see the church tower, and be prompted to pray.

But how else do we share the wonders of the life in Christ we have been blessed with?

Another way is by making sure our churches are always places where people who are coming with questions about life and faith can find help in their search. Local churches either do it alone or they can team up to ensure there's always something going on locally geared towards helping people make a start with Jesus. This can be one of the many courses available, or simply a fun evening in church or café or pub where any question is taken seriously, and where new disciples and others can explore the scriptures honestly, making the connections with everyday life.

I do enjoy my ministry a lot – but the best thing I get to do as a bishop is to do confirmations. Hearing the stories of people's search for God – and sometimes of how God has surprised them without their previously having been interested – this is an extraordinary privilege. It encourages the whole church when they tell their story. I thank God for the many churches where an annual confirmation course has once again become routine -something we lost perhaps during Covid, but now have the opportunity to revive.

More and more we are hearing of newcomers, especially young people, just turning up at church wanting to see what goes on and to find out more. They don't necessarily want to be smothered – but they are glad when there is clear information about what is going on and how they can engage if they want to.

It is worth thinking of also that most searching and enquiring today happens online. My guess is that some of those who are just randomly turning up at church have begun their search out there. There are a range of great online resources out there to help people become disciples of Jesus – for younger people #thewayuk on Instagram or Youtube or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/twuktv/> is a great place to start.

Or there is the Christian Enquiry Agency - <https://www.christianity.org.uk/site-map>

And there is helpful material on the Church of England website too: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe>

This April we keep company with Jesus on his road to Good Friday and to Easter while the guns of war still sound, and in a world where human failure and sin are all too evident. So many lives are broken and hurting. There are many and various factors at play: with ever deepening poverty and rising inequality, with the global rise in political extremism, and with today's preference for social media silo talk rather than open, honest conversation. Meanwhile the climate emergency only gets more urgent. It would be easy to give in, and give up hope. We must not.

And yet, even in these perilous times, Sunday by Sunday, many are finding real hope in Jesus, the crucified and risen one. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are still **good news** to those who encounter him alive and present today. In Him there is a new creation – a whole new world.

Let's find ways old and new to pass this on.



The Rt Revd Malcolm Macnaughton
Bishop of Repton



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

Office opening hours:- Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Wednesday: 9.30am – 3.00pm Thursday: 11.30am – 3.00pm

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

In an emergency, please contact one of the churchwardens.

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St. Edmund's Parish Magazine Editorial Team: Chris Willis, Claire Pegg 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

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Our Parish magazines are available as printed copies in Church and digitally on the website:-
www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk.

Concert to Celebrate the Revd Peter Barham continued from page 19

Peter's GP daughter Hannah spoke in support of hospices generally and the Acorns Hospice in particular, and the Dean of Derby Cathedral, the Very Revd Dr Peter Robinson, brought the evening to a close with a short reflection and prayers.

Overall, it was a hugely successful evening that was much enjoyed by the singers, players and audience members alike. Our massive thanks to the three choir directors (Alexander Binns, Tim Capes and Elizabeth Jack) for planning and organising this event, and to our friends at St Matthew's for hosting it.

Paul Smith

