



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

News from the Parish

November 2025



www.stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stedmundsallestree

St. Edmund's November 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, 2nd November 2025.

Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 4th.

FRONT COVER: The Bishop of Derby with Rev. Rachael and two of the Bishop's Badge recipients - See page 20 for more photos of the service.

BACK COVER: The Big Book Sale took place on Saturday, 11 October. There is an article and more photos on page 21.

Would you like to 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.

Safeguarding Initiative

We have a strong Safeguarding Initiative here at St Edmund's Church. Full details can be found on page 10, the Church noticeboards and on our NEW website www.stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

The Revd Rachael Writes



November is a sombre and reflective month. We remember loved ones at our All Soul's service (2nd November at 3.00pm at St Edmund's), and, Remembrance Sunday, the ultimate sacrifice made by so many on our behalf,

We live in an age when we're more aware than ever of the cost of conflict and yet there are groups and leaders across the world who are all too ready to create it to further their ends at the expense of others, whether serving soldiers or civilians. As I write it

looks like the war in Gaza may be drawing to a close, although to call the deal drawn up 'peace' is still rather premature. The war in Ukraine grinds on. There is conflict within and between nations in too many other places to mention. This all seems so far away and yet we see conflict erupt from words into action here too against synagogues and mosques.

Our next All Age Worship service will explore the story of Esau and Jacob; twins who fought even while they were still in the womb. Jacob demanded Esau's birthright in return for a bowl of stew. Esau gave away his inheritance without a thought. And when their dad, Isaac, was old, Jacob tricked him into giving him the blessing intended for Esau, no wonder Esau swore to kill him when Isaac died.

How many families are broken by harsh words or cruel deeds born out of jealousy, fear, resentment and misunderstanding? How can we break the cycle, so we avoid passing on the damage done to us, on? How can we hope to repair conflicts within or between nations when we sometimes struggle to be gracious to loved ones having a bad day?

There is only one place I know of that can hold all the pain we carry, all the frustration, hurt, regret and bitterness: the heart of God, who loved us so much he came to us – Immanuel - to die for us. Every hostile act aimed towards another pinned him to the cross, whether past present or future. Jesus bore it willingly to free us to live that life he modelled. A life of love and peace within ourselves and between us. It's not easy, it demands the same courage and sacrifice shown by our fallen ones in war to work for the good of others instead of to impose our wills. But this is the only way to overcome the conflict that will otherwise destroy us.



Revd Rachael Brooks

Associate Minister, St Edmund's

Churchwardens' View

A Regular Update by Ann Miller and Paul Smith

Setting Off on the Road towards Licensed Lay Ministry

Paul writes: This month I thought you might be interested to hear how I am getting on with my training to become a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM). Can I first just say how grateful I am to all of you who have contacted me to offer support? It has given me reassurance that I am following the right path, and I've been really touched by the kind things people have said to me. Thanks also to Rachael, Ann and the rest of the PCC for their "official" backing!

Officially the course does not start until January 2026, but I've been able to do quite a lot of preparatory work, including applying for a new "higher level" DBS check, making sure I'm up to date with my safeguarding training, and having an initial meeting with my Vocations Adviser – the Revd Mark Griffin, vicar of Edensor at the heart of the glorious Chatsworth estate.

I've also tackled the course introductory module, which is on the topic of call and vocation. This has shown me how "calling" is a fundamental theme right through the Bible.

Many of the big figures in the Bible, for example Moses and Abraham in the Old Testament, and Matthew, Peter and Paul in the New, responded to a call from God.

But what's especially interesting is how these calls came in different ways and were responded to differently. Some were dramatic and scary (Paul). Some were a voice in the quiet of the night that only made sense when interpreted by someone else (Samuel/Eli). Some caused disbelief (Abram/Abraham). Some were rejected, at least initially (Jonah). Some took an existing skill and refocused it (Peter the fisherman whom Jesus called to become a "fisher of men").

Moreover, calls are not necessarily individual: the people of Israel were called to be a royal priesthood, and we are all called to be Christ's disciples (followers, students, learners).

Call is one-way (from A to B) but vocation is about our place in creation: it includes our role and purpose in life, and the gifts needed to fulfil this. These may be skills/knowledge/experience we already have (which we might or might not recognise) and dimensions of ourself that we need to develop (growth/formation).

The module went on to ask us to think about people we knew in the church who bring special "salt" or "light". I immediately thought of all of you who stand out as beacons in our sometimes-dark world. You don't necessarily speak openly about religion, but it stands out that your belief guides what you do. This could be by

Churchwardens' View continued

offering your time and skills to maintain the church buildings & churchyard, by taking communion to the housebound, or by organising events and fundraising. Some of you see this as a direct living-out of your faith; for others, it is simply “the right thing to do”. Either way, our church would be much the poorer without you.

The Busiest Time of the Year at St Edmund's

Changing track, we now enter what is undoubtedly the busiest time of the year, with so much to look forward to. We start with our All Souls' service at 3.00pm on 2nd November, swiftly followed by our annual Remembrance Service on the 9th and our Patronal Festival on the 23rd (Christ the King). Then we are into Advent, with the special joint Advent Procession service being held at St Edmund's this year, that's at 6.00pm. We will hold our Christingle service on Sunday 14th December, with the beautiful annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols the following Sunday (21st) at 4.00pm. Then we are fully into Christmas, and look forward to our church being as full as it ever is on Christmas Eve, when our two crib services are often attended by over 300 people. Please do:

- Put these dates in your diary.
- Invite friends, family and neighbours to join you at these special services.
- Consider if you could offer help to our clergy and volunteers. All of these special services entail extra work. Sharing it lightens the load and adds to the fun! Contact us wardens if you can help.

IMPORTANT: Paul will stand down as a churchwarden at the 2026 Annual Meeting after four years in-post. Please pray with us that someone suitable will feel called to take on this vital and fulfilling role. **If anyone would like to find out more about what it involves, please feel free to speak to either of us on a no-obligation basis.** Wardens are PCC members and church trustees *ex-officio* (= by virtue of their role). Their main functions are to support the clergy's ministry, represent the church members, and to be responsible for the church's buildings and property.

Ann & Paul
Churchwardens

PS - A good example of 'sharing it lightens the load' was the setting up and putting away of the books at the Big Book Sale; see the back cover and page 21.

From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

WEDDINGS



WEDDING BLESSING

27 September

Lucy Howe & Jordan Clarke

Rev. Rachael writes "Lucy grew up in the church, so it was lovely to have Michele act as verger, knowing Lucy as she has, since Lucy was a little girl. So lovely to take a service like this for people so connected to the church."

FUNERALS

8th October - Funeral of Alison Bellamy

10th October - Memorial for Colin Taylor

BURIAL OF ASHES

8th October - Burial of ashes of Gwen Southgate

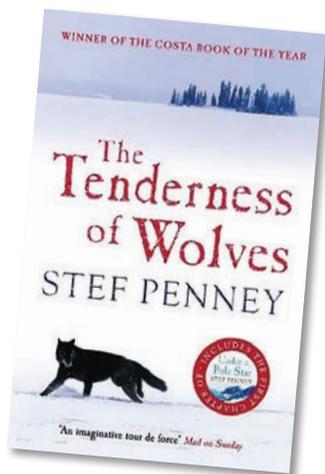
12th October - Burial of ashes of Joyce Hallam

Bookworms Meeting is on 10th November

Bookworms meet in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm. Our next meeting is on Monday 10th November and we will be discussing "The Tenderness of Wolves" by Stef Penney.

The following months reading list is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 8th December | Frederick Forsyth – The Day of the Jackal |
| 12th January | Victoria Hislop – The Island |
| 9th February | Maggie O' Farrell - Hamnet |
| 9th March | Kristin Hannah – The Women |
| 13th April | Alexander McCall Smith - 44 Scotland Street |
| 11th May | Laurie Lee – Cider with Rosie |
| 8th June | John Wyndham – The Day of the Triffids |



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

St Edmund's Groundforce

St Edmund's Groundforce is a friendly group of volunteers who keep the churchyard and hall grounds in good order, **The next session is on Saturday 1st November.** If you would like to know more please contact Steve Burton on 07914 884197.

Community Pop-in Café

Coffee

Tea

Toast

Fellowship Room, St Matthew's Church, Darley Abbey
Friday 21st November'25 from 8.30am to 10.30am

All welcome - Share time with friends

Dates for your Diary - End Oct - November 2025

Tuesday 28th October

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

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

Wednesday 29th October

10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Lee Martin

10.45am - Holy Communion at Stanley House

11.00am - St Edmund's - Burial of ashes of Vera May Fowler

11.20am - Holy Communion at Abbeydale

Thursday 30th October

10.45am - St Edmund's - Funeral of Marion Carnell

Saturday 1st November

9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

Sunday 2nd November - All Saints' Day (4th before Advent)

Food Bank Sunday - Please leave any donations in St Edmund's Church or in St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 4th November. Thank you.

10.00am - St Edmund's - All Age Worship, led by Rev. Rachael & the AAW Team

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

3.00pm - St Edmund's - All Soul's service

6.00pm - St Matthew's - Evensong, led by Melonie Hambly

Monday 3rd November

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 4th November

2.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM - My Life as Deputy Lieutenant for Derbyshire & Living with Sight Impairment, Pat Taylor

Wednesday 5th November

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

Thursday 6th November

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

Saturday 8th November

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

10.00am - St Edmund's - Brass cleaning - come and join the fun!

Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Sunday (3rd before Advent)

10.00am - St Edmund's - Remembrance service, led by Suzie Curtis

10.00am - St Matthew's - Remembrance service, led by Rev. Rachael

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

Dates for your Diary - November 2025 continued

Monday 10th November

2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: 'The Tenderness of Wolves'
by Stef Penney

7.30 pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 11th November

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

Wednesday 12th November

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

Thursday 13th November

10.00am - Allestree Park - Nature Tots

Saturday 15th November

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

Sunday 16th November - (2nd before Advent)

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

10.00am - St Matthew's - Holy Communion, led by Rev. Rachael

Monday 17th November

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Wednesday 19th November

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

Thursday 20th November

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

Friday 21st November

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

1.00pm - St Matthew's - Wedding of Sylvie Devaney & Sam Proffitt

Saturday 22nd November

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

Sunday 23rd November - Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)

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

10.00am - St Matthew's - All Age Worship, led by Rachael Brooks & the AAW team

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong (with both choirs), led by Rev. Rachael

Monday 24th November

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 25th November

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

Dates for your Diary - November 2025 continued

Wednesday 26th November

10.00am – St Edmund’s – Holy Communion, led by John Rice

Thursday 27th November

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

Saturday 29th November

9.30 am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party

6.00-8.30pm - St Edmund's Church Hall - German Christmas Event

Sunday 30th November - Advent Sunday

10.00am - St Matthew's - Joint Choral Holy Communion, led by Rev. Rachael and Rev. Sarah

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Advent Procession with both choirs

Parish Office Hours & Contact Details

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

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

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

Allestree Flower Group - 18th November 2025

It is time to deck the halls! Our next meeting is on Tuesday 18th November with a flower demonstration entitled: “Let’s get Festive” by Vanessa Wenlock, who is a national demonstrator.

Venue: Allestree Woodlands Theatre, Woodlands School, Blenheim Drive, DE22 2LW

Time: 6.30pm for 7.30pm. Admission: £16.00 - Refreshments & stalls available

For further details telephone 07813 831949

Table Top Sale

We shall be holding a table top sale in St. Edmund’s Church Hall on Saturday February 28th 2026 from 10.00am to 1.00pm. If you would like to sell at a table then you need to book with us now. There are two lengths of table available:- LARGE which is 6ft long at a cost of £15 or SMALL which is 4ft long at a cost of £10

If you would like to book a table please contact marypollett@hotmail.com or telephone 07773138285.



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



Sunday services at St Edmund's in November



- Sunday 2** 10 am All Age Service
3 pm All Souls'
- Sunday 9** 10 am Remembrance
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 16** 10 am Holy Communion
- Sunday 23** 10 am Holy Communion
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 30** 10 am Joint Holy
Communion at
St Matthew's



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



Join us for Holy Communion



**Every Wednesday in
November
St Edmund's, 10am**

All welcome



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST MATTHEW'S



Sunday services at St Matthew's in November



- Sunday 2** 10 am Holy Communion
6 pm Evensong
- Sunday 9** 10 am Remembrance
- Sunday 16** 10 am Holy Communion
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 23** 10 am All Age Worship
- Sunday 30** 10 am Joint Holy
Communion

All welcome



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S
& ST MATTHEW'S



All Age Worship, 10am



**26 October - St Matthew's &
2 November - St Edmund's**

These services are informal, interactive
& suitable for all ages.

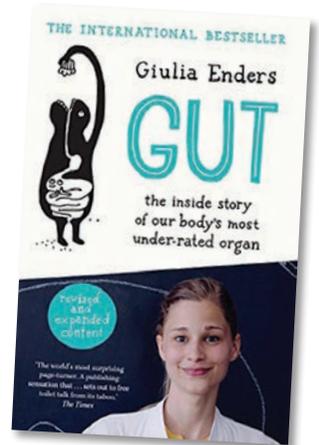
The theme will be Jacob and Esau - family rivalry.
They were twin brothers and the sons of Isaac and
Rebekah. Esau, the firstborn, was a hunter, while his
younger brother Jacob was a quiet shepherd.

All welcome

Book Review

“GUT: THE INSIDE STORY OF OUR BODY’S MOST UNDER-RATED ORGAN” by Giulia Enders

Pub Softback by Scribe Publications, 2017 ISBN 9781911344773
(Also available as an E-Book, 9781925113785)



Dear reader, you will not wish to read this review as you eat your lunch or perhaps in company, since by definition the topic is, shall we say, scatological.

This said, would you like to know more about how digestive processes work, why so much of the human immune system (about two-thirds) is operated in and by the gut, what might cause various food intolerances and irregularities, or how to be in the best of general health? If so, this book is definitely, and pleasantly surprisingly, for you.

Enders is a young German doctor who begins the book fascinated by her own difficult start in life and how she managed to conquer a series of health problems, including gluten sensitivity. She writes vividly and systematically about processes, the role of gut flora, how things work, and good and bad outcomes.

I say surprisingly, since there are so many things to read here of which the public is generally not aware, or not sufficiently aware. To take an example from page 172, why is it a good idea to consume yoghurt? She first defines yoghurt, as “pre-digested milk”, and explains why it tastes differently from ordinary fresh milk. And we learn of the health benefits in a matter-of-fact way; it “saves our body a lot of work – we just have to finish off what the bacteria started”. We then go on to learn about kefir, sauerkraut and various pro- and pre-biotic foods.

Along the way, it is inevitable that we have some discussion of what is socially acceptable and what isn't. Enders employs a running scenario, using a fictional “when we're with Great-Aunt Bertha” as a metaphor, with variations. She also uses humour more generally, as when, for instance, we have just read several pages that are explicit about bodily products: at the end of this tough read, she says, “Gentle reader ... you can now loosen your braces again, and let your glasses slide back down your nose to where they are most comfortable”.

There are two crucial people apart from our author who deserve singling out in a review of this book, which is quite unlike anything else I have ever tackled. One of them is the illustrator, the writer's sister Jill Enders, who is a professional scientific graphic designer. Her style is prolific, simple and characterful, and adds fun and charm as well as clarity to the text. The other is the translator, David Shaw, who has done a first-rate job rendering the author's straightforward but often quirky writing from German into English. Enjoy this book for what it is, an eye-opener and a masterclass in an under-researched and under-publicised subject; I did, and that is really saying something. I am very grateful to the kind friend who lent it to me.

Kate Smith

Early August 2025

Harvest Lunch took place on 5th October

The photos show the delicious lunch laid out in the Church Hall for the Harvest Lunch. Our thanks to all who gave their time and energy both in contributing and attending. It was a busy day as, following the lunch, many people headed to Derby Cathedral to attend the Bishop's Badge Service.



A GERMANIC CHRISTMAS
St Edmund's Church Hall,
Saturday 29th November, 6-8.30pm.

An evening of entertainment based on ways in which the Christmas period is enjoyed and celebrated in German speaking areas of Europe. Visual presentation, music, food, drink & quizzes.

Tickets £10pp from Michele Aspinall (St Ed's) or Diane Whittaker (St Matt's), or from the Church Office.



ST EDMUND'S



All Souls' Service



2nd November
3pm
St Edmund's Church

All welcome



ST EDMUND'S



Remembrance Day



9th November
10am
St Edmund's Church

All welcome



ST MATTHEW'S



Remembrance Day



9th November
10am
St Matthew's Church

All welcome



ST
EDMUND'S



Saturday 15th November
St Edmund's Church Hall
2.30-4 pm



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

All welcome

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



Church Heating

As winter approaches we are reminded that our heating system in church does not keep us comfortable during services in the colder months, despite paying a great deal for the gas we burn. The recent quinquennial has also highlighted that the boiler is reaching the end of its service life. So, for the last few months, a small team has been looking at what can be done.

We commissioned a report from a company with experience in church heating to take measurements, explain the options and make some recommendations. **One of their [replaces 'her'] findings** was that the pipes in the trenches round the church cannot produce enough heat on cold days to replace that being lost through the walls and ceiling. Part of the problem is that what heat there is rises to the high ceiling instead of keeping us warm.

As we look to alternative systems, we need to take account of any planned changes in the use of the building in the future. Rev. Rachael and the Churchwardens are advising us on this.

The Church of England has ambitions to reach net zero CO2 emissions, and consequently we are unlikely to get permission to install a new gas boiler, leaving some form of electric heating the only viable option. But per unit of heat, electricity is four times the price of gas, so we need to use the heat generated more carefully.

Two main options are emerging: the first involves using radiant heaters and the second looks at systems based on heat pumps. Radiant heaters come in a range of designs including a chandelier configuration which is quite attractive. They are economical to run because they would only be switched on shortly before a service, instead of several hours beforehand today. A heat pump based system would blow warm air downwards from high mounted units, again avoiding having to turn them on long before a service. We also want whatever system we adopt to be able to heat areas of the church separately so that, for instance, we would only heat the Lady Chapel on a Wednesday morning, rather than the whole church.

As you might imagine there is a lot of technical and cost data to consider, and we won't have a new system in place for this winter. Furthermore we still need to consider how to pay for it.

If you want to talk about our progress please talk to one of the team: Paul Smith, Richard Flatman, Robert Carnell, David Redfern or Chris Jack.

Allestree W.I. Meeting - 18th November 2025

The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st October 2025 at 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, DE22 2GP.

The Talk is 'What is it - Bits & Bobs with a Christmas Theme' by Mr. Bob Neill. The Competition is an unusual Christmas item.

Visitors welcome, £5.00pp. Enquiries to Mavis on 01332 556012.

Some Good Walks Revisited: Canal Towpaths (4)

The Rambler's Walks continue with The Canal Towpaths series:

ALREWAS AND FRADLEY JUNCTION

The Staffordshire village of Alrewas, lying only a couple of miles from the SW corner of Derbyshire, is now best known as home of the National Memorial Arboretum. But away from the busy A38, the older part of the village provides some interesting walking, aided by the proximity of the Trent and Mersey Canal. A couple of easy-going walks are described below, one to Fradley Junction and the Coventry Canal of 5¼ miles, the other across the Trent to the hamlet of Wychnor of 3½ miles. Both can be combined into a figure-of-eight route centred upon Alrewas village.



T & M Canal, Alrewas



Fradley Junction cafe

Alrewas lies where an old Cheshire salt route along the Trent Valley crossed the Roman Ryknield Street (now the A38). The simple farming site became a stopping-off point on the trade route, influenced by the surrounding area's vulnerability to flooding. Basket weaving grew as a thriving cottage industry with a plentiful supply of osiers; then later, sand and gravel extraction became important.

Trade blossomed with the construction of first the canal and then the railway, when the village briefly had its own station. In 2002 the site gained archaeological status when a routine quarry excavation unearthed a woolly rhino skull (now in the Natural History Museum) followed by other finds such as mammoth and reindeer bones. Across the A38 is the **National Memorial Arboretum** of 1997, run by the Royal British Legion, created in memory of all who have given their lives in the country's service. Its 50-acre site alongside the River Tame, planted with thousands of trees, has extensive surfaced paths giving access to many exhibits. The new National Forest Way (NFW) walking trail starts from the site.

The **Trent and Mersey Canal** (T&M) project was authorized by Act of Parliament in 1766 and work began 4 years later on the 93-mile waterway between Derwent Mouth (on the Trent near Shardlow) and Preston Brook (the Bridgewater Canal link to the

Continued on page 17

Some Good Walks Revisited: Canal Towpaths (4)



T & M Canal, Fradley Junction

Mersey). It opened to commerce in 1777. The Canal Engineer was **James Brindley** who originated from Tunstead between Buxton and Tideswell; he proposed a Grand Trunk Route, first linking Liverpool with Hull and then the growing canal network to the south. Following his earlier success with the first ‘modern’ canal, built to transport coal from the Duke of Bridgewater’s estate into Manchester, Brindley’s plan was strongly backed by

the Duke and other business leaders, including Josiah Wedgwood who successfully lobbied for the canal to be routed through the Potteries.

The **Coventry Canal** was authorized in 1768 but took more than 20 years to complete, due to financial problems over constructing the final 20 miles of the northern section. This section was in fact built jointly by the T&M and Birmingham Canal Companies and later bought back by the Coventry Canal Co. At the canal’s junction with the T&M, the settlement of **Fradley Junction** was built to support the burgeoning trade, comprising workers’ cottages, warehouses and a pub, several of which remain as listed buildings. As well as the pub there are two cafes, a Tourist Information Centre and the Fradley Pool Nature Reserve, which was built as a



Towpath over the Trent

reservoir to supply the canal. The pool is popular with anglers and walkers, having an attractive perimeter path (ref. Walk 1 below).

The nearby village of **Fradley** experienced further change during WWII when the RAF Lichfield base was established on Fradley Common in 1939 (near the Coventry Canal, Walk 1). Many RAF memorial headstones can be seen in St. Stephen’s

Churchyard, the majority of which are Australians who had served at the base. It was closed in 1958 and the airfield sold off. The hamlet of **Wychnor** (Walk 2) is the site of a deserted medieval village, gradually abandoned from Tudor times. The surviving 18thc Wychnor Hall, formerly seat of the colliery-owning Levett family, became the present Wychnor Park Country Club in 1981.

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Some Good Walks Revisited: Canal Towpaths (4)

ALREWAS AND FRADLEY JUNCTION continued

The Routes commence at Mill End Lane, Alrewas, reached along Main Street and R just over the canal bridge (park by the canal). For **Walk 1** follow the towpath SW towards Fradley Junction for nearly 2 miles. Just past Hunt Lock detour R around Fradley Pool and rejoin the towpath near Junction Lock. Cross the canal bridge and turn R (but detour L for café and information if required) then L on the Coventry Canal. After about a mile, leave the towpath at the third bridge (no.90) and turn L towards Fradley church. Turn R on Church Lane, past the Burton road, then L on Long Lane through and beyond the village. Turn R on Daisy Lane, cross the A513, and join Fox Lane into Alrewas's Main Street. Cross into Post Office Lane, bearing L towards the canal; then L back to Mill End on the towpath (*or, for the full route turn R*).



Coventry Canal cruise

For **Walk 2** follow the towpath NE from Mill End Lane. Past the next lock cross the Trent by long footbridge (ref. photo) bearing R along the canal. Leave by a f/p L, passing Wychnor Church then L at the road junction. Follow the narrow lane for about a mile, past a fishing lake towards the Hall entrance. Take the signed f/p L and follow the NFW signs across fields* towards Alrewas. On reaching a broad farm track turn R, crossing bridges over the Trent to the road. Turn L then R on the canal back to Mill End.



Coventry Canal, Fradley Junction

The Rambler

* NB: The NFW can become flooded here so avoid Walk 2 after prolonged rainfall.



ST EDMUND'S



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



ST EDMUND'S care Trust

Nature Tots

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



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

Thursday 13 Nov, 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 travel cup as hot drinks are available.

£2 suggested donation per child.

All welcome

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

The Meaning of Money



A Human Obsession

The second of our contemporary issue theological exploration seminars looking at an issue that all of us contend with every day of our lives. The two sessions will be led by Sue Richardson.

Session 1

- How does money speak to us?
- How do we understand what money does to us and for us?
- What does faith say to money?

Session 2

- What about money and inequality?
- Can we use money ethically?
- Can we have 'enough' money?
- What does faith say about abundance in a world that fears scarcity?

Sue Richardson has spent a good part of her working life thinking about, discussing, teaching and dealing with money. She worked for Christian Aid for 35 years encouraging individuals and communities to give to those in need, but also to understand how our systems of trade and aid, debt and international finance affect the lives of the poor. For the last ten years she was a Theological Adviser working across denominations on ministerial training. She now is a trustee of the JustMoney Movement and chairs their programme 'Church Action for Tax Justice'.

Wednesday 12 and 19 November
14:00 - 16:00
Derby Cathedral Offices | Free



If you are interested in signing up for this course please contact office@derbycathedral.org or call 01332 341201 and select option 0

derbycathedral.org



Suffragettes talk with Rod Repton

St Nicks Church
28th November

Doors open @ 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Tickets cost: £10 each includes light refreshments
For more details visit www.stnicksallestree.co.uk or scan the QR code to buy tickets.



All funds raised will be shared between the Neonatal Baby unit at UHDB and St. Nick's Church.



Bishop's Badge Service, Sunday 5th October



Big Book Sale Success

Our sale on October 11th was a huge success. It was lovely to have so many people rush in and say “We are so glad these sales have started again!” People also seemed to stay for longer than they have in previous sales. Several greeted friends they had not seen for a long time. It was a lovely social occasion. The church hall was full of books, as usual, and customers went away with bags full. We made £340 which will go towards the church’s new heating system.

It would have not been possible without the cohort of loyal helpers together with some new ones. I must thank them and also my personal friends and family. It had been a huge help having the book shed in its new position so that boxes did not have to be dragged up and down the steep slope to the hall.

Thank you to those who did an amazing job of moving it, and to Geoff who built the ramp. Thank you also to the many people from church and from far and wide who donated books. People are already asking when the next book sale will be.....

Diane Bakhda





63rd Derby Scout Group: Malt Whisky Tasting to celebrate St. Andrew's Night

Saturday 29th November 2025

Tickets MUST be purchased in advance

Our next Malt Whisky Tasting is to celebrate St Andrew's Night and will feature pre-Christmas bargains (own-label single malts). Also included are your own bottle of Spring water and cheese and biscuits as a palate cleanser and a taste of haggis. We are offering a limited number of driver's tickets – these will include soft or hot drinks (instead of whisky) and cheese and biscuits and haggis.

Tickets £20 (Driver's ticket £10), in advance and strictly adults only, available by e-mail from 63rdderbyscouts.tickets@gmail.com or text Sue on 07925- 633877. If you want to sit together as a group please let us know in advance.

Venue: Darley Abbey Scouts Hall, The Hill (off New Road), DE22 1DT. Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. We have a small car park and the Hall is fully accessible to wheelchair and mobile scooter users (please let us know if you will be bringing yours).

Slàinte Mhath



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



Darley Abbey Scout Hall Saturday Social on 18th Oct.

At a loose end? Fancy a natter over a cuppa with biscuits? Like to play some games or browse our papers and magazines? Then come along to Darley Abbey Scout Hall (DE22 1DT) on 15th October 2025, 1.30-3.30pm., and join in the fun! By popular request, this month we will having a session of seated and visualised yoga again. All are welcome.

There is a small car park and the Hall is fully accessible to wheelchair and mobile scooter users.

We hold our Saturday Socials every third Saturday of the month, free of charge thanks to the Co-op and its customers. For your diary, the last Saturday Social of the year will be on 20th December.



Recipe: Vegetarian Cassoulet

A tasty dish from **The Recipe Box**. Serves 6.

Ingredients:

Haricot Beans x 2 tins	1/2 tsp Dried Oregano
Onions x 2	1/2 tsp Dried Thyme
Head of Celery x 1	1/4 lb chestnut mushrooms
Chopped tomatoes x 1 tin	2 tsp Brown sugar
4 tblsp Olive oil	2 tblsp breadcrumbs
3 tblsp Tomato purée	2 tsp salt, & pepper
2 Garlic cloves	

Method:

Drain the beans. Cut onions and celery into ½ inch chunks. Leave garlic cloves whole. Put all into an ovenproof casserole dish. Add the chopped tomatoes, tomato purée, herbs, mushrooms and brown sugar. Season well - even oversalt. Place in pre-heated oven, Gas Mark 4, and cook for 1 to 1½ hours. Add one or two cups of water, as required, if drying out. Remove from oven and top evenly with the breadcrumbs. Lightly drizzle with remaining olive oil and return to the oven for another 30 minutes to crisp.

Serve with a rustic bread.

Anon



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.

Please come and join us for a chat.

On Wednesday mornings there's coffee inside the church at 10.45am - again, do pop along.



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November 2025

Dean Peter writes... Season of Creation: St Francis



In the church calendar early autumn brings with it the Season of Creation. It is a five-week period beginning on 1st September. Many churches throughout the diocese of Derby will have kept the season in some way, even if it was simply by keeping harvest festival.

The season ended on 4th October and this is the day the Church of England calendar commemorated St Francis of Assisi. The popularity of St Francis has grown. Not only did the late pope take the name Francis but many seek to follow St Francis' example in the way that he relates to creation. He is the patron saint of the environment movement and influences many in the secular world who care deeply about global warming and its consequences.

St Francis grew up in Italy, in the later twelfth century, as part of wealthy, merchant family. At the age of twenty he was badly injured in a local war, and became seriously unwell. During this time, he gathered friends around him and began to live simply in community. He had a vision of Christ who was inviting him to 're-build my church'. At the time he saw a ruined church building in front of him but his vocation was not to restore the material fabric of damaged buildings but the restoration of the spiritual and human fabric of the church, so that it might advance and grow in different ways. Many people across the world follow his example in the way that they set out to be disciples of Jesus, not least because of the attractiveness of his vision for God's creation.

St Francis was a poet, and his most famous poem draws out how he sees the relationship between human beings and the created order. It begins:

O Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord God,
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour and all
blessings.....

Praised be you my Lord with all your creatures, especially
Sir Brother Sun
Who is the day through whom You give us light
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the
stars.
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious, and
fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through brothers Wind and
Air.....

Praised be you my Lord through sister water
So useful, humble, precious, and pure.....
(from Catholic Online, 2022)

The key point is that Francis sees human beings in a kinship relationship with all creation. Later he refers to 'our sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us'. It is a relationship of fellowship or community, a given mutual relationship that requires nurturing. To take care of nature is to create community including the relationship between human beings across the globe.

In his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si*, named after the first Italian words of St Francis' poem, the late Pope Francis taught the importance of 'integral ecology'. This means that true environmental sustainability includes reconciliation and restored relationships between human beings. Fractured human community will mean the continuing of a broken world, the failure of care for the environment and the ongoing disruption of our biological ecology.

This insight links us to the most well-known part of St Francis' life, that moment when two years before his death in 1224 he received the stigmata, the marks of crucifixion on his own hands, feet, and side. It was Francis' wish to know only Jesus Christ and him crucified that appeared to take form on his body. Francis knew that it was only in and through the suffering of creation which includes the brokenness of human community that God in his Son Jesus would save the world.

May I commend St Francis to you, his poetry, his profound thinking on God's creation and his conviction that in the sufferings of God we will find not only wisdom but also our redemption.

O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself
to the childlike and lowly of heart:
grant that, following the example of the blessed Francis,
we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness
and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Very Rev'd Peter Robinson
The Dean of Derby

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St. Edmund's Parish

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

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

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

In an emergency, please contact one of the churchwardens.

Directory

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	Ann Miller	07831 506978
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PCC Correspondence Sec:	<i>Vacancy</i>	
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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 as a PDF on the website:-
<https://www.stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk>.

The Big Book Sale on 11 October See also page 21 inside.

