



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

# News from the Parish

October 2025



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

[www.facebook.com/stedmundsallestree](http://www.facebook.com/stedmundsallestree)

# St. Edmund's October 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, 5th October 2025. Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 7th.

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FRONT COVER: Thank you to Audrey Kirk who has sponsored this month's magazine cover "In memory of loved ones". The rose featured is called 'Loving Memory' and this time of year is the perfect time to plant rose bushes.

BACK COVER: Yet again our vicars Revd Sarah Watson and Revd Rachael Brooks grace our magazine cover, this time on the back

**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.**

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

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## Safeguarding Initiative

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

# The Revd Rachael Writes



We are SO lucky to live here, in an area with well-established parks and green spaces. And despite (or because of?) the heat and lack of rain in spring and summer, it's been a fantastic year for established fruit trees and brambles.

We didn't cut back all the brambles in the vicarage garden last autumn, clearing only those swamping the apple and damson trees. This has paid dividends. Umpteen kilos of blackberries and damsons are washed and bagged in the freezer, with trays of apples stored in the garage, some

waiting to be given away. A huge bowl of stewed apple and blackberries is sat in the fridge for breakfasts and, as well as the usual damson gin, Andrew is experimenting with blackberry wine and damson wine. His aunt Daph would have been proud of him – her various wines were legendary.

But it's not just fruit. The horse chestnut tree in the wood behind the house has dropped masses of conkers. Some are still in their prickly casings. Each year it's always amazing to me that something so prickly on the outside contains something so shiny and tactile on the inside. Our garden treasures come in many different forms. I took a load, including ones in their casings, to the St Edmund's Baby and Toddler group for the children to explore. Young children have such a well-developed sense of awe at our natural environment, their spirituality is still so near the surface. I love having the opportunity to see things afresh through their eyes, reminding myself that creation really is awe-inspiring, it's just that, for adults, familiarity breeds contempt.

Establishing a nature connection is really good for our mental health as well as for developing our children's spirituality, and our own. It's no accident that the Bible begins and ends with a garden. We were created to be at home in the natural world. This is why going for walks in the park or up into the Peak District feeds us and helps us relax. Psalm 23 sings 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.'

We hope that all those children and their carers who join in our new Nature Tots venture with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in Allestree Park, once a month on a Thursday morning, will have their souls restored and their spirits fed by the Holy Spirit as they explore, find their own 'treasures' and play in that beautiful space. Our October morning is on Tuesday the 9th - see page 14 for full details. All are welcome.

*Revd Rachael Brooks*

Associate Minister, St Edmund's

# Churchwardens' View

## A Regular Update by Ann Miller and Paul Smith

In October we look forward to celebrating Harvest (5th), opening our doors for a Book Sale (11th), and then at the beginning of November (2nd) we have the very important and moving service for All Souls.

We also celebrate the very special contribution given to the church by members of our congregation who are to receive Bishop's Badges, awarded for outstanding service. Over the years a number of folk from St Edmund's have been honoured and thanked by being awarded Bishop's Badges. This year we're delighted that four members of St Edmund's are due to receive their badges on Sunday 5th October afternoon in Derby Cathedral, following our Harvest Lunch. Well known to us all, they are Anne Cogley, Chris Willis, Jane Burton and Steve Burton:

Anne's long, outstanding service includes: Toddler Group Leadership; Sudbury prison mission with Lay Reader husband, Bryan; PCC membership; Pastoral Committee and visits; Safeguarding Officer; organising baptism scheme; administering Holy Communion.

Chris makes an outstanding contribution to the church and has done so for many years. She is a bell-ringer, choir member, magazine editor/distributor, also a key volunteer in our Groundforce churchyard maintenance team.

With her husband Steve, Jane leads our Groundforce volunteers. She also faithfully ministers in many other aspects of church life, as a brass cleaner, coffee server and lunch club helper.

With his wife Jane, Steve leads our Groundforce volunteers. Every month, rain or shine, they keep our churchyard tidy, and also actively develop it as a biodiverse wildlife habitat.

It would be lovely if lots of us could go along to the Cathedral service, which is at 2.20pm on 5th October, to support our friends.

### **Church mainenance work**

On a practical level, the never-ending round of maintenance work goes on: In church the tower and vestry clocks have been removed for specialist inspection and repair. The sacristy and vestry roofs were cleared and swept on 6th September - yet another episode in the long-running 'up a ladder' saga.

Discussion and progress reports continue regarding both the church heating system and the installation of Wifi.

In the tower area we're looking to to install a noticeboard to display children's work.

# Churchwardens' View continued

There is a large project coming up, as recommended in the 2024 Quinquennial Report, in that the outside lime mortar needs repointing. Discussions have begun with Smith & Roper about them managing the work - cost is estimated to be around £5,000. Preliminary discussions have also been held with two lime mortar specialists.

In the Church Hall, the causes of some electrical problems have been identified and the faulty parts replaced by electricians.

## **New Purchases - completed and proposed**

In readiness for the next Big Book Sale on 11th October, a new book trolley has been purchased, and a ramp made to use with it. Thanks to Geoff Bailey for the ramp.

After some kitchen cupboard doors were badly damaged by the unfortunate placing of a toaster by one of our hirers, it has been proposed that we replace four wall cupboard doors.

In the churchyard there are some issues actively in the pipeline that include:

- Work on the silver birch by the war memorial - a Derby City Council job.
- Repair of a damaged gate hinge - a specialist job needing Richard Hazell's expertise.
- New noticeboards - discussions with Creative Solutions are still ongoing.
- A safety check on the stability of memorials, as recommended in the Quinquennial report. Again, a specialist firm is needed - expected cost: £2,500.

Many thanks to our Groundforce volunteers for their regular work and commitment - whatever the weather - to keeping our churchyard and grounds in good order.

A huge and heartfelt thanks to all who are part of The Team - everyone who volunteers and helps in any way. We're very grateful.

**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

# 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.



**St Edmund's Church**  
**St Edmund's Close**  
**Allestree, DE22 2DZ**

## 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 4th October.**  
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 17th October'25 from 8.30am to 10.30am**

**All welcome - Share time with friends**

# Allestree Park and The Friends of Allestree Park

We are lucky to have Allestree Park in our parish. It is the largest and most scenic of Derby's parks. Although lying on the northern boundary of the city of Derby, it merges with the attractive hilly countryside of the south Peak District fringe.

Approximately one third of the Park used to be a golf course but this was closed in 2020 and is now subject of a rewilding project (see below). There are already a multitude of different wildlife habitats ranging from woodland to the large lake. Indeed, much of the Park is a designated Local Nature Reserve.

The history of the Park goes back to the late 18th century when the present Hall was built. The Hall is now largely empty, being the subject of several abandoned schemes in recent years, one of them being a nature museum project. The Park is largely used for quiet recreation by Derby's people, who can enjoy a variety of interesting walks, including two nature trails. It is easy to 'get away from it all' in this splendid park and it is not obvious, when walking in its woodlands and meadows, that it lies within the boundary of an industrial city.

There is a wealth of wildlife in the Park, including several county rarities. This variety is partly the result of a varied underlying geology, largely acidic sandstone on the west side, soft crumbly shales in the centre and east.

The Friends of Allestree Park group was founded in 2005 and is open to anyone who is interested in Allestree Park, its conservation, educational and recreational value. As well as liaising with Derby City Council, which owns and runs the Park, the Friends, over the years, have organised a programme of events, including talks, activity days for young people, nature walks, information panels and conservation work parties. To find out more visit their website - [friendsofallestreepark.org.uk](http://friendsofallestreepark.org.uk).

Their Facebook page 'Friends of Allestree Park' is another place to look for information about forthcoming activities and latest news.



## Friends of Allestree Park

### Fungi Walk



**Enjoy an afternoon discovering an array of weird and wonderful fungi in Big Wood**

**Saturday 4th October**  
**Meet at the Woodlands Road Car Park**  
**2pm**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
**FREE**  
**Children must be accompanied**

[www.friendsofallestreepark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofallestreepark.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/FriendsOfAllestreePark](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfAllestreePark)

# Dates for your Diary October 2025

## **Sunday 28th September - Trinity 15 (Proper 21)**

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

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

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

**Tuesday 30th September** 12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - Luncheon Club

**Wednesday 1st** 10.00am - St Edmund's Holy Communion, led by Revd Rachael

**Thursday 2nd** 10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

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

## **Sunday 5th - Trinity 16 (Proper 22)**

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

10.00am - St Edmund's - All Age Worship, led by Revd Rachael and the AAW Team

12 noon - St Edmund's church hall - **St Edmund's Harvest Lunch**

The lunch follows straight on after Sunday morning after-service coffee.

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

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

2.30pm - Derby Cathedral - Bishop's Badge Service

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

**Tuesday 7th** 2.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM -

'Confession of a Coach Driver' by Nick Blurton

**Wednesday 8th** 10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by John Rice

2.15pm - St Edmund's - Funeral of Alison Anne Bellamy

**Thursday 9th** 10.00am - Allestree Park - Nature Tots

**Friday 10th** 12 noon - St Edmund's - Memorial Service for Colin Taylor

**Saturday 11th** 9.30-12 noon - St Matthew's carpark - Refills on the Road

11.00am-1.00pm - St Edmund's Church Hall - **THE BIG BOOK SALE**

## **Sunday 12th - Trinity 17 (Proper 23)**

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

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

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

## **Monday 13th**

2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: 'Innocent Traitor' by Alison Weir

7.30 pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

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

# Dates for your Diary October 2025 continued

**Tuesday 14th** 12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - Luncheon Club

**Wednesday 15th** 10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Lee Martin

**Thursday 16th** 10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

**Friday 17th**

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

**Sunday 19th - Trinity 18 (Proper 24)**

10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer

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

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

**Monday 20th** 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

**Wednesday 22nd** 10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by John Rice

**Thursday 23rd** 10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

**Saturday 25th**

9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party

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

**Sunday 26th - Bible Sunday, Last after Trinity (Proper 25)**

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

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

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

**Monday 27th** 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

**Tuesday 28th** 12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - Luncheon Club

7.30pm - 22 Questions - Chris & David Halfpenny's house - see page 19

**Wednesday 29th** 10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Lee Martin

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## 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](mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com) or telephone her on 552031 - **NOTE, new office hours & Closed on Tuesdays.**

Office opening hours:-

**Monday & Wednesday**

9.30am - 3.00pm

**Tuesday**

Closed

**Thursday**

11.30am - 3.00pm  
(after Baby & Toddler  
Group

**Friday**

9.30am - 1.00pm

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

# For the attention of all gardeners!

## Prepare for the 2026 Plant Sale

We shall be having another plant sale next May so now is the time to take cuttings and divide perennials in readiness!

*Mary Pollett*



### St Edmund's Safeguarding initiative - SUPPORT SERVICE CONTACTS

**Action on Elder Abuse** (0808 808 8141) [www.wearehourglass.org](http://www.wearehourglass.org)

End the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people in the UK.

**Age UK** (0800 678 1602) [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

Practical support for older people as well as their families, friends and carers.

**Alzheimer's Society** (0333 150 3456) [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

Dementia Support line

**Childline** (0800 1111) [www.childline.org.uk](http://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](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

Information, advice, guidance and support on any aspect of parenting & family life.

**NAPAC** (08088 0103 31) [www.napac.org.uk](http://www.napac.org.uk)

National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC).

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** (0808 2000 247) [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

Informing and empowering individuals to understand their options and support them.

**NSPCC** (0808 800 5000) [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

**Samaritans National** Tel. 116 123 [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

**Samaritans Derby & District** Tel. 0330 094 5717

Supporting individuals who are feeling suicidal and desperate.

**Stop it now** (0808 1000 900) [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)

Preventing child sexual abuse.



**ST EDMUND'S**



## Sunday services at St Edmund's in October



- Sunday 5th** 10 am All Age Service
- Sunday 12th** 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 19th** 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 26th** 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong

**All welcome**



**ST EDMUND'S**



## Join us for Holy Communion



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

**All welcome**



**ST MATTHEW'S**



## Sunday services at St Matthew's in October



- Sunday 5th** 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Evensong
- Sunday 12th** 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 19th** 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 26th** 10 am All Age Worship

**All welcome**



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



## All Age Worship, 10am



**28th September - St Matthew's & 5th October - St Edmund's**

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

Our harvest services will be looking at Joseph's story. He went through some really difficult times but trusted God and was the right person in the right place to carry out God's plan to save Egypt from famine.

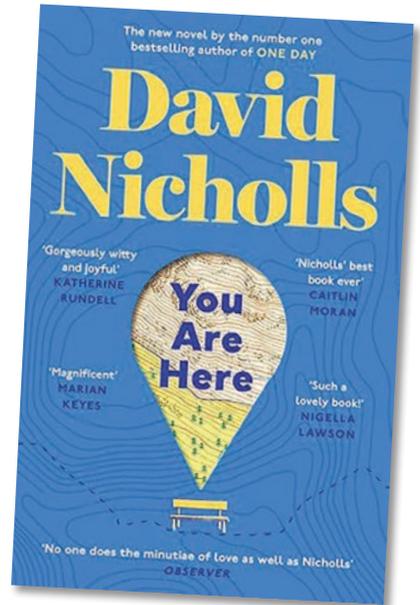
**All welcome**

# Book Review

“YOU ARE HERE” by David Nicholls

Pub Hardback by Sceptre  
(Hodder & Stoughton), 2024

ISBN 9781444715446 (Also available  
in e-book format, ISBN 9781444715477)



Surprisingly, I'd never heard of David Nicholls before. I say this because he has a portfolio of previous novels, including “One Day”, which was published in 2009 and is a global bestseller. He has also written numerous screenplays for both films and TV, including the BAFTA award-winning “Patrick Melrose”. This book, then, was a first for me.

Lots of stories are journeys of one kind or another, and this one is both physical – a walking expedition in the Lake District – and emotional. A mutual friend, Cleo, suggests that two people, Michael and Marnie, might go away for a longish weekend to walk some of the prettiest parts of Cumbria and its fells, and to cut a long story short they do go there and plod away, from St Bee's to Robin Hood's Bay. In the end it takes several extra days too, and they stay in pubs, B&Bs and hotels as they go.

Both have had previous relationships which didn't succeed, and in their different ways both have been on their own for too long. Michael is a geography teacher, passionately committed to his subject, who “has never been a parent” and who is still reeling from the departure of his wife. Marnie is in the process of realising that, although she enjoys her own company and her work from home as a proofreader and copy-editor, she is actually lonely – someone who's been badly left behind by friends moving away or getting married.

There are some beautifully-written scenes as the journey goes on. One I particularly enjoyed contrasts their reactions on arriving back at a grotty B&B after an extremely long and unrelentingly wet walking day, one wringing out clothes and getting into bed to regain some warmth and the other standing dripping all over the floor and plotting where they have just been on a map. Another, after they have got to know each other a little better, is Michael's account of how he was beaten up by teenagers and had to spend time in hospital with a lot of broken bones, then had to take time off work with depression. Marnie is deeply sympathetic, and has the kind impulse to

Continued on page 13

## Book Review continued

ask if this had anything to do with the break-up from his ex-wife – not something she'd have dared to do several days before. (Needless to say, the answer is “it's complicated”, but they have clearly become closer as people.)

The book ends in London for various reasons, and the question of whether they will see each other again is hanging in the air; Marnie gives Michael a present he had not been expecting, and which he finds touching and thoughtful. They have kissed briefly (but no more than that), and had long conversations about “what next”, and the final scene is tantalising – do they have a future as a couple ?

As a “slice-of-life” portrait of a new pair of friends, this book is unconventional but full of humorous touches and near-misses, and very intelligently and readably written. If what you want is something set in the present (there are mentions of the Covid-19 lockdowns, for instance) and full of small twists and turns not only in a walking-route but in a nascent relationship, you'll find it satisfying and at the same time meringue-light. You'll also enjoy the maps, which are the main illustrations.

However, I do think that the blurbs and praise on the cover and the front and final pages of this edition are a little OTT. Why so ? I think I may have been spoiled slightly in this genre, especially by Rachel Joyce's “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry”, which is so beautifully plotted and written, and which was reviewed in these pages over a decade ago. Nicholls is younger than Joyce, and it shows in the skill as well as the inevitable inside back-cover photo. Maybe just give me “Harold Fry”, and the sequel “The Love-Story of Queenie Hennessy”, from time to time, as a reminder.

This said, “You Are Here” is a very good read on its own terms, and should of course be read firmly on those terms. Definitely recommended; I will gladly lend.

*Kate Smith*

Early June 2025

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## Allestree History Group: Oct'25 Meetings

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 and visitors are welcome, with visitor's entry fee being £5.00 per person.

The two October meetings are:-

1st October: A talk by Chris Stone on "John Flamsteed"

15th October: A talk by Maggie Slingsby on "The History of the Toilet: A bit flushed".

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](http://www.allestreelocalhistorygroup.org.uk)



**St Matthew**  
DARLEY ABBEY

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



# 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 9 October, 10-11.30am,  
Allestree Park**

Park in the main carpark, DE22 2EU, walk towards the hall, a member  
of the team will direct you. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear  
as we are outside. £2 suggested donation per child.

**All welcome**

# The BIG BOOK SALE is on 11th October

Having been persuaded to hold another, Diane has organised the BIG BOOK SALE for Saturday 11th October from 11.00am until 1.00pm.

**HELPERS ARE NEEDED both the day before and on the day** to move the books boxes into St Edmund's Church Hall on the evening of Friday 10th October. The book shed is now in a convenient place right next to the Church Hall. Then help will be needed in unpacking the books from 9.00am on Book Sale day, Saturday 11th October... and when it is finished, willing helpers will be needed with the packing up any left over books.

Would you or any younger members of your family be happy to demonstrate strength and kindness? Helpers get first choice of the huge collection of books!

Donated books can be put in the red box at the back of St Edmund's church. Importantly, **we ask that donated books be fiction only**. There will be plenty of non-fiction at the sale but the fiction collection needs a boost.

**Those of you who have been to the Big Book Sales in the past know they are jolly, social events with refreshments available, so put 11th October in your diary.**

*Diane Bakhda* Tel 01332 831897 if you would like to help

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## Allestree Flower Group - 21st October 2025

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 21st October with a demonstration by Beverley Artis entitled "Going out with a Bloom".

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Venue: at The Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree, DE22 2FT

Members £5.00; Non-members £9.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457



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## Allestree W.I. Meeting - 21st October 2025

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

The Talk is 'The History & Benefits of Aloe Vera' by Mrs. Toni Hall, and there will be an opportunity to buy the products after the talk. The Competition is 'Something you would use at a Party'.

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

# Some Good Walks Revisited: Canal Towpaths (3)

*The Canal Towpaths series of the Rambler's Walks continues:*

## TAPTON AND THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL

This circular route of 7¼ miles follows an attractive section of the Chesterfield Canal, which has been painstakingly restored with an excellent towpath. It then proceeds via Ringwood Park and Tapton Grove, both with attractive small lakes, between which lies West Wood (displaying a splendid bluebell carpet in Springtime). The return leg passes the site of Chesterfield's former castle at Tapton; and, for once, there are no steep hills worth speaking of!



Chesterfield Canal

The **Chesterfield Canal** was constructed between 1771-77 to the design of James Brindley, to link the town's burgeoning industry with the river Trent at West Stockwith and thus enhance export potential via the Humber Estuary. Its importance at the time can be judged by its large channel-width. It prospered until the railway challenge of the mid-19thc. with cargoes such as stone, timber, coal, iron and lead. Probably its most famous cargo was stone to rebuild the Houses of Parliament after its fire of 1834, followed by the transport of cannonballs, manufactured locally, during the Napoleonic wars. The distance of 46 miles included 65 locks and 2 tunnels. One of these, Norwood Tunnel between Staveley and Worksop, was 1½ miles long; but, as also happened to the Cromford Canal, its collapse in 1907 spelt the canal's gradual demise, cutting off the 8-mile Chesterfield section. It remained navigable east of Worksop but the final cargo trip was in 1956.

**The Canal Trust** has been busy since 1976 carrying out restoration but there is still much to do. The whole towpath is signposted as the **Cuckoo Way**, so-called from the local name



Chesterfield from Tapton Golf Course

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# Some Good Walks Revisited: Canal Towpaths (3)



River Rother, Chesterfield

for the old horse-drawn boats, and the southern end forms part of the Trans-Pennine Trail. The canal starts just south of Tapton Mill Bridge, transforming seamlessly from the River Rother, which is actually directed over a weir, flowing below and parallel with the canal. Further on, the course of the river had to be diverted, resulting in the wetlands of Bluebank Pools Nature Reserve which lies near an attractive section of the towpath.

**Tapton Castle**, dating from the Norman Conquest, was razed to the ground in the civil war by Parliamentary forces. Its extensive earthworks lie on Castle Hill in the grounds of nearby **Tapton House**, built in 1782. George Stephenson took up residence here in 1837 when supervising the construction of the Derby-Leeds railway line. After his death it passed to his son, Robert, who later sold it to the Markham family, owners of a local Engineering firm (which later famously made the Channel Tunnel boring machine); they in turn bequeathed the estate to the Borough in 1925. The house was subsequently converted to a school but is now part of Chesterfield College Campus. Tapton Park Innovation Centre is also located in the grounds.



Hollingwood Lock & Cafe

**The Route** starts at Tapton Lock Visitor Centre (park on adjacent Lockoford Lane off the A61/A619 roundabout N of the city). Follow the canal towpath N & E for 2½ miles, passing in turn Wheeldon, Bluebank, Dixon's and Hollingwood Locks, to the restored Lock House, now both a café and Canal Trust Office. Turn R on Troughbrook Rd. for ¼ mile to a road junction; cross and enter Ringwood Park. Pass alongside the lake (a good lunch spot)

and continue S for about a mile on a f/p through West Wood (keeping well above the main stream, except to cross a side channel). A broader track is joined (part of the Trans-Pennine Cycle Trail) which crosses a stream by footbridge and emerges from the wood, swinging W to Lodge Farm. Continue ahead to the Brimington road, turn R for 200 yards, then L along Grove Rd. and cart track NW.

# Some Good Walks Revisited: Canal Towpaths (3)

## TAPTON AND THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL continued

Turn L through a gate at the blue Trail sign and down to another gate. Turn R on the bridleway, past Tapton Grove lake, then L up a lane by Tapton Hall farm. Turn L on Pettyclose Lane, to a stile and a f/p bearing R alongside playing fields. Bear L towards the Education Centre (note Tapton House behind) and drop down past Castle Hill's earthworks towards a play area. Take a cart-track L behind this, heading down alongside the railway. Cross the footbridge, turn R on the road for 100yds, then L near a Business Park sign and R on the riverside f/p. This joins the canal towpath at Tapton Mill Bridge for ½ mile to the Visitor Centre.



*The Rambler*

West Wood, Brimington

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

### 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

# Pension Credit Advice Sessions in October

Following the success last year of a series of Pension Credit events, more have been arranged including a couple of Pensioner Advice sessions in Allestree. The focus is more on generic advice rather than for Pension Credits, however the arrangers are hoping someone from the DWP Benefits team may be able to attend.

The events are planned for:

10.00am-12.00 noon on Tuesday 7th October 2025, at Woodlands Church, 191 Blenheim Dr, Allestree, Derby DE22 2GP.

And 12.30pm-2.30pm on Tuesday 14th October 2025, at St. John's Church, Birchover Way, Allestree, Derby DE22 2QL \*

The events will be a drop in for older people and carers to find out about keeping safe and well. The event at Woodlands will coincide with their Oaks Group (they provide excellent cakes!) but we also hope that non-members of the group will also attend.

\*Note: Originally timed from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, due to rooming availability the event on 14th October at St. John's Church will now run 12.30pm - 2.30pm so do ignore any previously printed inaccurate material.

*Cllr Ged Potter*

Allestree Ward Councillor

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## Come to 22 Questions on Tuesday, 28th October

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.

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### **ALLESTREE LUNCHEON CLUB**

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Takes place every two weeks - Look at Diary Dates pages

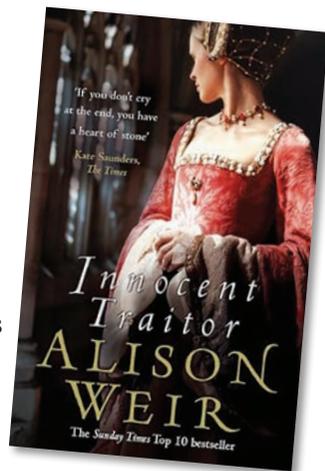
If you'd like to join us for a meal or would like to help prepare and serve (helpers eat together later) please ring Anne Madge on 07971 680377

# Bookworms Meeting is on 13th October

Bookworms meet in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm. Our next meeting is on Monday 13th October and we will be discussing "Innocent Traitor" by Alison Weir.

The following months reading list is as follows:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 10th November | Stef Penney - The Tenderness of Wolves      |
| 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](mailto:cyrabuxton@gmail.com).

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## Save Your Stamps for Charity

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

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



*As an aside, our late vicar, The Revd Peter Barham, would have been delighted that the Post Office released the Steam Locomotives Collectors Stamp Set on 26th Sept. to celebrate 200 years of steam. The BBC are also running a series of interesting programmes, some new and some historical, on BBC2 and BBC4.*

# Ever wondered, what is 'Refills on the Road'?

Every month, in the Diary Dates pages of the magazine, there is a reference on two Saturdays a month to "St Matthew's carpark - Refills on the Road". I have long wondered why the carpark at St Matthews needs so much refilling, and I wonder if I am the only one?

In fact, it is Derbyshire's mobile, zero-waste, shop and their mission is to help us on our journey to a sustainable lifestyle.

This the shop's information on how it works:

Bring your own containers for refills on cupboard staples, cleaning products, shampoo/conditioner/shower gel, and other plastic-free products. Tips:-Wide mouth jars/bottles are easiest to fill-Make sure your container is CLEAN and DRY for best results (Dry is very important –any moisture in your container will breed bacteria and spoil your food.)-Any container goes -bread bags, biscuit tins, food storage containers, whisky bottle tubes (great for spaghetti), squeeze mayo bottles (great for shower gel).. if you are happy that you can get it home without spilling, bring it along.

For liquid refills, bring a like-for-like container. We reserve the right to refuse to fill a container if it is not suitable to the contents (for example, we won't put shampoo into a toilet cleaner bottle!)-Everything is filled by weight, that's why our liquids are priced in grams. We weigh your container, fill it, weigh it again, and charge you for the contents only.

For more detailed information, check out <https://www.refillsontheroad.com/post/how-it-works>

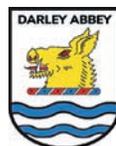




## Darley Abbey Scout Hall Saturday Social on 18th Oct.

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 18th October 2025, 1.30-3.30pm., and join in the fun!



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. Future Saturday Socials to the end of the year are on 15th November and 20th December.

---

## Repair Café open on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October

The volunteer-run Derby Repair Cafe is held once a month at the West End Community Centre, Mackworth Road, DE22 3BL. It is next open on Saturday 5th October from 10.00am and the last repairs taken at 3.30pm.

The expert volunteers can help repair a huge variety of things from bikes\* to guitars, clothing to electrical appliances and you can have tea, cake and a chat while you wait. Friendly and useful - put this in your diary.

Don't forget that we can only take cash for donations and refreshments. Full details can be found on the Repair Café Facebook page.

Last month, on the 6 September, there was an important visitor to the Repair Café - Catherine Atkinson, Derby North MP. She is seen on the opposite page helping to serve cake and hot drinks.

\*Bike repairs undertaken on specific months - look out for notices.

**IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT, YOU DON'T OWN IT.**

# Recipe: Fried Fish with Ginger Sauce

This is a family favourite and a perfect warming and delicious dish for an Autumn evening supper. Serves 4 to 5.

## For the fish - Ingredients:

1½lb filleted white fish  
4 oz plain flour  
1 tblsp cooking oil  
¼pt water  
salt  
Fat for frying\*

## For the Ginger Sauce - Ingredients

¼lb mushrooms & ½ onion, finely chopped  
4 tblsp vinegar  
2oz sugar  
10 tblsp water  
1 tblsp Soy sauce  
2 level tsp ground ginger  
1 level tblsp cornflour

## Method:

Skin the fish and cut into pieces. Mix flour, salt oil and water to make a thick batter. Heat the fat\*, coat the fish pieces in batter and fry until golden brown, which takes about 5 minutes. It is best to fry in small batches, reserving the cooked fish in a warmed serving dish.

Prepare the Ginger Sauce by putting all the ingredients, except the cornflour, in a saucepan and boil for 5 minutes. Blend the cornflour with a little water then pour into the pan and simmer for 2 to 3 minutes - until a smooth, sauce consistency is reached.

Serve with rice. Mango chutney is a nice accompaniment.

*Anon*

\*An air fryer is an excellent alternative.



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# October 2025

## Archdeacon Matthew writes...

Media reports link the recent increase in national flag displays to concerns about UK migration levels. I understand that migration is a genuine concern for many, including Christians, and I don't wish to dismiss these anxieties. It's important to acknowledge that our church communities include first, second and third generation migrants. For Christians seeking to faithfully follow Jesus, reflecting His holiness and partnering in extending God's Kingdom on earth, the migration debate often overlooks a crucial question: human dignity. In this month's article, I want to explore how we can balance concerns over UK migration levels with thinking, speaking, and acting in ways that prioritise human dignity.

When addressing such a topical political issue, I recognise that blanket terms like "migration" or "immigration" are problematic. These terms are too broad to properly distinguish between those entering the country by established routes to fill skill shortages, those seeking asylum, and those entering via improvised means. I understand that much of the concern expressed through protests and flag displays relates specifically to the latter. Another challenge of terms such as migrant, 'illegal' immigrant, or asylum seeker is the labelling of an individual by their documented or undocumented status. This risks reducing the fullness of a person's identity, character and life story to a single label, and an often weaponised label too.

Applying our Christian faith to current issues, injustices, and inequalities is central to following Jesus. Our deep faith traditions inspire us to act with consideration for others, especially the vulnerable, poor, and marginalised. The prophet Jeremiah wrote, 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls' (Jeremiah 6:16). Our faith in Jesus, the Good News of the Gospel, and the biblical vision of God's Kingdom penetrating our daily lives offers an antidote to the indignity some groups face in our society. I'm making not a political argument but a theological one: while there are legitimate concerns about migration and the perceived pressure on local communities, our Christian faith calls us to think, speak and act in ways that uphold the dignity of others.

Our faith's approach to speaking of migrants with dignity begins in Genesis, where we learn that all creation is made in God's image (Genesis 1:27). Migrants possess inherent worth and dignity not because of our political ideologies or personal opinions, but because



they, like all humanity, are made in God's image. The Bible clearly connects our innate dignity and worth with justice. Proverbs 31:8-9 instructs us, 'Open your mouth for those with no voice, for the cause of all the dispossessed. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the poor and needy.' Ultimately, we find our dignity in Jesus. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 3:28 that social and cultural differences do not separate us from our unity in Christ and our common dignity in Him.

Those deeply concerned about migration levels often worry about preserving what they see as solid foundations in society. The underlying suggestion is that high migration levels threaten our British way of life. Before our current debates, the late Pope Benedict suggested that society's solid foundations depend on affirming human dignity:

*A society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalised.*

Across our churches, chaplaincies and fresh expressions in the Diocese of Derby, our vocation must be to promote the innate dignity and self-worth of all people made in God's image. This doesn't mean ignoring genuine concerns about migration, but it does mean that how we articulate those concerns matters. Christians are called to point people to Jesus, in whom we discover our common humanity, and to reflect our own dignity in how we welcome others and pray for justice for everyone on earth.

Bless all who seek refuge on this earth.  
Meet their needs for safety and for home.  
Move the hearts of your people to show them welcome.  
Cause wars to cease and bring justice,  
to the nations that no one will need to flee again.  
Amen.

**The Venerable Matthew Trick**  
Archdeacon of Derby City and South Derbyshire

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# St. Edmund's Parish

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

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

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

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

In an emergency, please contact one of the churchwardens.

## Directory

Associate Minister:	Revd Rachael Brooks: <a href="mailto:rev.rachaelbrooks@gmail.com">rev.rachaelbrooks@gmail.com</a>	07305 140573
Churchwardens:	Paul Smith	07792 569758
	Ann Miller	07831 506978
Parish Administrator:	Caroline Audley: <a href="mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com">Steds.stmatts@outlook.com</a>	552031
Readers:	<i>Vacancies</i>	
Choir:	Elizabeth Jack	07779 255412
Treasurer/Gift Aid Sec.:	Chris Jack, 12 Regency Close, Littleover	07805 027515
PCC Correspondence Sec:	<i>Vacancy</i>	
Electoral Roll:	Matt Cooper	07572 110185
Flower Group:	Rosemary Yates	552742
	Pam Highman	551636
	Michèle Aspinall	07773 784009
Luncheon Club:	Anne Madge	07971 680377
Baby and Toddler Group:	Caroline Audley: <a href="mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com">Steds.stmatts@outlook.com</a>	552031
Parish Safeguarding Links	Madeleine Fullerton	554762
	Louise Whittaker	556455

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Hall Bookings:	Caroline Audley - <a href="mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com">Steds.stmatts@outlook.com</a>	552031
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St. Edmund's Parish Magazine Editorial Team: Chris Willis, Claire Pegg and Fiona Fraser.

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

Magazine Distribution: Chris Willis 558136

**Copydates: 20 October for November magazine, and 20 Nov for Dec/Jan'26 magazine.**

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

# Our Vicars found themselves at the Allestree Scarecrow festival

Revd Sarah and Revd Rachael had scarecrow duplicates of themselves set up at St Edmund's porch during the Scarecrow Weekend to promote the Nature Tots. More photos of scarecrows around the village will be in next month's magazine.



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October

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