



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

News from the Parish

May 2026



www.stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stedmundsallestree

St. Edmund's - May 2026

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

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

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

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

FOOD BANK - The SECOND Sunday of the month, 10th May 2026.

Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 12th May. REMEMBER, THE DONATION DAY IS NOW THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

FRONT COVER: Mick Yates is pictured working in the Churchyard, having already mown the grass - a task he shares with Tony, the church caretaker.

BACK COVER: Plant Sale on 16th May.

Our thanks to Kate & Paul Smith who are sponsoring this month's colour cover to celebrate their wedding anniversary. If you would like to sponsor a month's colour cover, at a cost of £35, please contact one of the editorial team or Churchwardens.

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 the Church noticeboards and on our website - key into your browser 'stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk' to find us.

The Revd Rachael Writes

Chrism Eucharist Service at Derby Cathedral



Each Maundy Thursday our diocese holds a Chrism Eucharist service at Derby cathedral. In relatively jargon-free English this translates as a special service of Holy Communion in which oils for healing; for baptism; and for chrism - which is anointing people in their service of God in their particular roles - are blessed and made available for representatives of each church to take. There is something so symbolic when I sign the cross on someone being baptised in using the same oil as every other baptism candidate in the diocese. A tangible reminder that they're baptised into the whole family of God, not just the branch worshipping in their particular church.

Additionally, all clergy and readers (people who aren't clergy but are trained and authorised to lead services and preach, amongst other things) renew their commitment to serving God and our parishes.

Revd Sarah Watson and I were delighted to be accompanied by Revd Lee Martin and Revd Phyllis Bainbridge, who are part of our wonderful reader and retired reader and clergy team.

Blessings, *Revd Rachael Brooks*



You can find a detailed explanation of the Chrism Eucharist Service on page 19

Churchwardens' View

A Regular Update by Ann Miller and Paul Smith

What a glorious celebration of Easter we had at St Ed's! It was so great to see both morning and evening services on Easter Day itself so well attended. Thanks to the All-Age Worship Team, leaders, the choir, readers, intercessors, our organist, welcomers, the flower arrangers and all who worked so hard to tell afresh the amazing story of Christ's resurrection, which is the cornerstone of our faith.

Since then, on 19th April, we have held our Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) which is the one time in the year when we all come together to choose new officers and hear reports of the many different aspects of our church's work.

Churchwardens are re-appointed every year, and I am delighted to announce that our new warden team will be Ann Miller and Elizabeth Jack. It is so important that we have two wardens, especially given that they have not only the church building but also the churchyard and the hall to look after. Just as importantly, having two allows some cover for holidays and illness. It also ensures that each warden has the moral support of the other! Just a reminder, your wardens have three key responsibilities:

- To support our wonderful clergy and readers in their ministry.
- To take responsibility for all church buildings and property.
- To represent you, the people of our church, at our regular PCC and Standing Committee meetings.

Please pray for Ann and Elizabeth and give them your full support as they carry out their vital roles.

At the meeting, Geoff Bailey stood down as a PCC (Parochial Church Council) member, and David Redfern as a Deanery Synod representative. We thank them both from the bottom of our hearts for all they have done to contribute to the thinking and decision-making of these groups.

Also at the meeting, Mark Halliwell was re-elected, and Diana Mellor was newly elected, to be our representatives at Deanery Synod. As such, and like wardens, they are automatically PCC members. Again, we ask that you would give them your hearty and prayerful support to carry out their roles.

Chris Jack also successfully restood for PCC membership, as did Louise Whittaker. We are so grateful for the huge amount of responsibility each of them has carried in their respective roles of Treasurer and Parish Safeguarding Officer. The truth is, we can only continue to run the church as we do if we are able to find responsible people to fill these vital roles.

It was also humbling to receive reports on so many aspects of church life – not just the formal trustee reports from clergy, wardens and Treasurer but also the many other groups that together make up our living, vibrant and successful church.

Churchwarden's View continued

If you did not get to see the report booklet we prepared for the Annual Meeting, you can download a copy from the church website. But, if this is not possible for you, contact the church office or one of the wardens and we will get a copy printed off for you. How heartening it is to see how much good work is done by so many. And almost all of it is done by volunteers who, from the goodness of their heart, donate their time and skills to benefit us all. Thank you indeed.

And a short but heartfelt postscript from Ann: my own huge thanks go to Paul for all he has done as a warden; for some of the time - and across very difficult circumstances - as sole warden; for the past two years, working towards training and introducing me to the role. The scope and variety of email and message subjects he's sent to me over the past few days indicate the number of plates he miraculously spins, and not a smashed plate anywhere: APCM, flagpole, magazine, Wifi, candles, governor for Walter Evans, lime mortar repointing, Charity Commission, tower clock repair, employment rights, trees, accessible toilet... and there are many more! Very best wishes to Paul as he moves forward in his LLM (Reader) training. He is clearly destined for this new role and will make a great contribution to church life worship, and to furthering the Kingdom of God.

Very many thanks to Elizabeth for taking on the warden role. I'm looking forward to our working together. We have agreed that neither of us, however, will be going up ladders, clearing gutters or checking the roof!

Ann & Paul, Churchwardens



Dates for your Diary - May 2026 continued

Saturday 2nd May

9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

Sunday 3rd May – 5th Sunday of Easter

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

10.00am - St Matthews - Choral Holy Communion, led by Revd Phyllis Bainbridge

12 noon - St Edmund's - Burial of ashes of Malcolm McWilliams

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

Monday 4th May

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 5th May

2.00-3.30pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM: Derbyshire, its Character & Character by Peter Amour

7.30pm - Zoom - St Edmund's Standing Committee meeting

Wednesday 6th May

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

Thursday 7th May

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

Saturday 9th May

1.00pm - St Edmund's - Wedding of Laura Robinson and Paul Bairstow

Sunday 10th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

Today is Food Bank Sunday. Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 12th May. Thank you.

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

10.00am - St Matthews - Service of the Word, led by Clive Lemmon

11.45am - St Matthew's - Baptism of Dorothy Lau

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

Monday 11th May

2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee

2.30pm - Vicarage - St Matthew's Standing Committee meeting

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

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 12th May

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

7.30pm - St Edmund's Conference Room - St Edmund's PCC meeting

Wednesday 13th May

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by Revd Phyllis Bainbridge

Continued on page 7

Dates for your Diary - May 2026 continued

Thursday 14th May

10.00 am - Allestree Park - Nature Tots

7.30pm - St Matthew's - Ascension Day

Friday 15th May

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

Saturday 16th May

10.00am -12 noon - St Edmund's Church - Plant Sale

Sunday 17th May – 7th Sunday of Easter

10.00am - St Edmund's - Service of the Word, led by Diana Mellor

10.00am - St Matthews - Choral Holy Communion, led by Revd Rachael Brooks

After the 10.00am service - St Matthew's APCM

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

Monday 18th May

1.00pm - St Edmund's - Funeral of Sandra Thornton

7.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - St Matthew's PCC meeting

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Wednesday 20th May

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

Thursday 21st May 10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Saturday 23rd May

3.00pm - St Edmund's - Wedding of Sophie Turner and Alex Delve

Sunday 24th May - Pentecost

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

10.00am - St Matthews - All Age service - led by Revd Rachael Brooks & the team

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Evensong, led by David Anderson

Monday 25th May

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 26th May

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

Wednesday 27th May

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by Revd Lee Martin

Saturday 30th May 9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party

Sunday 31st May

10.00am - St Nick's - Holy Communion with Bishop Libby

4.00-5.30pm - St Edmund's Church Hall - Messy Church

From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

WEDDING

11th April
Wedding of Sarah Whitemore
and Kalbinder Lalli



FUNERALS at St Edmund's

13th March - Funeral of Winifred Woodhouse

17th March - Funeral of Barry Woodward

BURIAL OF ASHES at St Edmund's

20th March - Burial of ashes of Eileen O'Key

Book Shed News

As I write, I have almost finished sorting the book shed ready for our next big book sale on Saturday July 4th. The red box will now be at the back of church, near the entrance, ready for books you wish to donate.

As I sorted, it became apparent to me that, again, the collection is heavily weighted to the non-fiction. I found some boxes that had never been unpacked at the last sale because there was not sufficient room on the non-fiction tables. So I am asking if your donations could be fiction only. We want to offer our customers the usual large choice across all genres.

If you have any questions, do ask me or send a text to 0797 4891827. Please do let me know if you are able to display a poster advertising our sale or do tell your friends about it.

I hope to see you all at the book sale!

Diane Bakhda

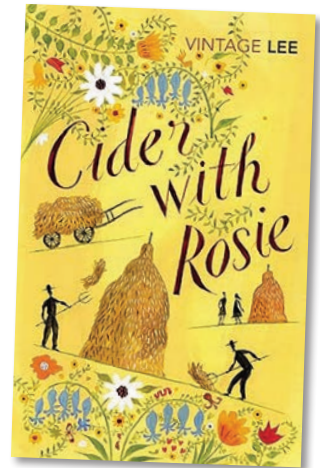
The next Bookworms Meeting is on 11th May

Bookworms meet in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm. Our next meeting is on Monday 11th May and we will be discussing "Cider with Rosie" by Laurie Lee.

The last Bookworms meeting before the summer break will be:

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.



Parish Office Hours & Contact Details

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

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

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

St Edmund's joins the Bells For Birds initiative

We will be ringing the bells at St Edmund's Church around 9.30am on Saturday 2nd May to celebrate the return of swifts as part of Derby Nature Collective's 'Bells for Birds' initiative.

Jane & Steve Burton

**DERBY
NATURE
COLLECTIVE**

Bells for Birds

2-10 May 2026

Together, we can celebrate Swifts
returning to Derbyshire.



Credit: Nick Upton

How to celebrate Swifts this year:

- Eyes to the skies – watch for Swifts arriving from Africa in May
- Let us know you have spotted a Swift by posting a picture on social media with #BellsforBirds
- Log your sightings on our Swift Map (head to our webpage using the QR code below)
- Encourage your local church, school or community group to celebrate - And ring their bells!
- We'd love to see local parades, posters and art celebrating Swifts
- Give a Swift a home – install nest boxes, Swift bricks, and grow insect-friendly gardens



For more information
scan here

<https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/bells-birds>





Christian Aid Week is
10th to 16th May 2026



TOGETHER WE WILL BEAT EXTREME POVERTY

Fridah, a widow with three children, has benefitted from training given by Christian Aid's local partner organisation Beacon of Hope, and learned how to prepare organic compost, make up a seedbed and nurture the strong seedlings that provide her crops in a tiny urban space in the crowded, informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi. She produces enough to feed herself and her family and has a surplus to sell in the market. Using urban farming techniques such as multistorey gardens, sack gardens, cone



gardens* and hydroponics, micro farmers like Fridah can provide not only food but make a living so that their children can be healthy and receive education, the benefits of which come down to future generations.

The skills learned are like small seeds that, once planted, grow into a big tree (Luke 13:18-19), supporting nature and people of many generations. This Christian Aid Week, we can all contribute - delivering envelopes - talking to our friends - making a donation that can be used for the benefit of many. What will you do?

*If you search for 'cone gardens' you will find videos of how to make your own. One will be appearing in my garden soon and I'll share the results with you as we go along. I'll put up a starting picture at AAW on 3rd May and some others later in the year, just pictures if I fail but some produce if it works! Unlike Fridah, we have access to supermarkets if we are unsuccessful at home....

Have a great Week, and let me know if you'd like to take out some collection envelopes in a nearby road. .

Geoff Bailey (01332 552724)

Allestree Flower Group 19th May 2026

Our May meeting is on Tuesday 19th at the Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree, DE22 2FT from 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Andrew Key will give a demonstration entitled "May to September"

Admission: Members £5.00 Non-Members £9.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457



Allestree W.I. Meeting on 19th May 2026

The Allestree W.I. will meet Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby. DE22 2GP.

The speaker will be Tara Ward from Specsavers, Allestree, who will give a talk on Eye Health and Conditions. The competition is "A Lense in any form".

Visitors welcome £5.00.pp

Enquiries can be made to Sandra on 01332 554899.

!! Magazine Contributors Urgently Needed !!

Do you go to any of the clubs, social events or church services that take place in Allestree? In St Edmund's parish? Do you have a camera phone? If the answer is yes, then take a photo of where you are, of what's going on, of people taking part. Write a few words describing the photo and send to this magazine.

We need more contributors - young and old, active or inactive. You may have enjoyed a walk in the countryside, gone to a really memorable event... share that with us.

This parish magazine needs you to be part of it. Forget the modern media of Facebook and TikTok... send to St Edmund's parish magazine instead! Please email articles and photos to Chris Willis at c.willis246@btinternet.com, Mary Pollett at marypollett@hotmail.com and fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk

ST EDMUND'S LUNCHEON CLUB

GREAT FOOD & INTERESTING, LOVELY PEOPLE

Takes place every two weeks - Look at the Diary Dates pages

If you'd like to join us for a meal
please ring Anne Madge on 07971 680377



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



All Age Worship, 10am



3 May - St Edmund's

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

The theme will be Moses and the burning bush when God spoke to Moses.

All welcome



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



Sunday services at St Edmund's in May



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday 3 | 10 am All Age service |
| Sunday 10 | 10 am Holy Communion
6 pm Choral Evensong |
| Sunday 17 | 10 am Service of the Word |
| Sunday 24 | 10 am Choral Holy Communion
6 pm Evensong |
| Sunday 31 | 10 am Holy Communion at St Nick's |



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST MATTHEW'S
and St Matthew, Darley Abbey



All Age Worship, 10am



24 May - St Matthew's

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

The theme will be the 12 plagues of Egypt.

All welcome



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST MATTHEW'S



Sunday services at St Matthew's in May



- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Sunday 3 | 10 am Choral Holy Communion
6 pm Evensong |
| Sunday 10 | 10 am Service of the Word |
| Sunday 17 | 10 am Choral Holy Communion
6 pm Choral Evensong |
| Sunday 24 | 10 am All Age service |
| Sunday 31 | 10 am Holy Communion at St Nick's |

Catching up with old friends



Gill and Richard Flatman have been visiting friends of St Edmund's Church. Firstly they caught up with Doreen Heath, pictured here. Gill writes "It was so lovely to enjoy Doreen's company when we visited her in Darley Dale. We admired the view from her room, overlooking a tree lined area with the River Derwent and Peak Rail in the valley below and the Derbyshire hills beyond. Doreen is now happily settled in her new home and eagerly enquires about all that is happening at St Edmund's. We must go prepared with all our relevant info next time! "



The next friend the Flatman's visited was Jo Allison, seen here on the left. Gill writes "A wonderful celebration for Jo Allison's 90th birthday! She enjoyed the company of friends and family and here is seen with just a few of the many cards she received."

Our thanks to Gill for keeping us updated.

Remember 10.30am is the start time for the Wednesday Holy Communion Service

Since December last year the Wednesday Holy Communion service at St Edmund's has moved to the later start time of 10.30am. The experiment has run for a trial period to the end of March 2026 and we believe that the later start time has helped more people to attend. As a result the start time will continue to be 10.30am.

Revd Rachael Brooks

Continue to 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*



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



Join us for Holy Communion



Wednesday
6, 13, 20 & 27 May
St Edmund's
10.30am

All welcome



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST MATTHEW'S



Ascension Day

Joint Choral Communion
St Matthew's
Thursday 14th May
7.30pm



All Welcome



St Matthew
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



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

Thank you.

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 11.15am.

COME AND JOIN US

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (3)

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

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH & THE IVANHOE WAY

What do the Leicestershire town of Ashby, just 2 miles over the Derbyshire border, the small village of Smisby, just inside the border, and a famous novelist have in common? You may possibly have guessed it from the above title but the area does indeed have a literary and historical feel. Accordingly, a walk of about 6 miles is outlined including historic Ashby Castle and a small part of the relatively recent Ivanhoe Way, with an optional one mile diversion to visit Smisby.



Ashby-de-la-Zouch castle

Ashby-de-la-Zouch acquired its extended name after the Norman conquest, when the former Danish settlement came into the possession through marriage of the La Zouch family from Brittany. The castle began as a 12thc manor house, which was subsequently reinforced and extended, gaining strategic importance. In the Civil War it was garrisoned by the Cavaliers under Col. Henry Hastings (1st Baron Loughborough) but after a siege lasting over a year it was destroyed by the Parliamentarians in 1646. The ruins are now in the care of English Heritage and can be explored, including a climb to the top of the ruined Hastings Tower, or a traverse of the underground passage between



Holy Trinity Church, Ashby

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Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (3)



Ashby Canal

the novelist had apparently 'spotted' from the top of Smisby's church tower. It was written circa 1820 when Scott was staying at nearby Coleorton Hall, home of Sir George Beaumont, patron of artists and writers. The **Ivanhoe Way** is a 36 mile circular walking route in NW Leicestershire, created in 1994. It passes through varied scenery including the Ashby Canal, Moira Furnace, Staunton Harold, Charnwood Forest and Ashby itself, where it coincides with the 75-mile National Forest Way.

The **Ashby Canal** strangely never reached its named town. To the south it joined the Coventry Canal at Bedworth, but got no further north than Moira, from where horse-drawn tramways were laid to serve surrounding collieries and, further afield, the



Cliftonthorpe Hall & lake

kitchen and tower, created during the Civil War. The town's Holy Trinity Church, rebuilt 1838-40 in Gothic Revival style, contains a 300-year-old finger pillory – said to have been used to punish interrupters of lengthy sermons!

The setting of Ashby was used by **Sir Walter Scott** in his famous novel *Ivanhoe*. The story features the Royal Jousting Tournament watched by King John, the site of which

limeyards of Ticknall. It was taken over by the Midland Railway in 1846 and although profitable initially, usage gradually declined and it was abandoned after WWII. Happily, restoration has been carried out on certain sections. Local industries which flourished in the 19thc included coal mining, brickmaking, ribbon & leather work. The town experienced a brief period as a spa attraction when a saline

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (3)

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH & THE IVANHOE WAY *continued*

spring was discovered at Moira Colliery 3 miles away and ducted into Ashby. The resulting Ivanhoe Baths were built in 1822 and demolished 1962.

Smisby, one of the southernmost villages in Derbyshire, is the site of an old Norse settlement. In 1068 monks from Repton built a Chapel of Ease there, which was incorporated into the splendid 14thc St. James Church. Oak paneling was added later from Ashby Castle. The village features an 18thc roundhouse and lockup. A renowned resident was Hannah Bailey who sailed with her husband in the first party of missionaries to New Zealand and helped to win the trust of the Maories.

The Route starts at the public c/p near Ashby Library, from where Mill Lane Mews passage leads to the main street. Cross over and through an archway next to The Lamb pub. At the passage exit keep straight ahead on Prior Park Road and after 300 yards turn L on the unsurfaced Prior Park Lane. At the next road turn L; at the bend take Mount Park pathway, passing alongside the castle. At the end turn L through the churchyard, around the church, exiting at the arched gate into Lower Church Street, then ahead to the main street. Cross into North Street and at the first bend take a f/p R, initially through a works yard and follow the Ivanhoe Way signs (yellow posts). After crossing a drive, the f/p bears NE towards a huge transport warehouse, passes under the A511, then alongside woods to Old Parks Farm drive (378184). Leaving Ivanhoe Way, turn L along the drive (good view N of Derby) where a f/p L skirts around the farm and joins a long drive. Near the end, yellow posts indicate continuation, initially parallel to the A511, then swinging R past the white Old Parks House. On reaching the drive* turn L to the red brick Old Parks Lodge (368189), opposite which a stile L leads across fields to a gate and steps to the A511. Cross carefully and follow the f/p (generally S) towards Ashby; first past Cliftonthorpe Hall & lake, then contouring round housing and finally a straight pathway alongside a stream through Hood Park to the library c/p.

The Rambler

* The drive joins Derby road where R & L turns lead to Smisby.



St. James' Church, Smisby

What is a Chrism Eucharist Service?

The following has been taken from Canterbury Cathedral's website.

When Peter acknowledged Jesus as 'the Christ' (Mark 8.29), he was recognizing him as the 'Anointed One' of God: Christos in Greek, Messiah in Hebrew. The title that had once belonged to the anointed kings of Israel is now conferred on Jesus, who was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the river Jordan (cf Acts 10.38). As Jesus received baptism at John's hands, his true identity was revealed:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest and king supreme.
(*Christopher Wordsworth*)

Our own baptism is the sacramental sign of our union with Christ, and of God's gift to us of his Holy Spirit, to make us God's children by adoption and grace, and to equip us for the share that all Christians have in Christ's own ministry. The New Testament speaks of this gift of the Holy Spirit as an anointing (1 John 2.20-27; 2 Corinthians 1.21-22). From an early date, it became customary to trace the sign of the cross in oil on the heads of candidates for baptism, and to anoint them again after baptism with the perfumed oil of chrism – a sign of incorporation into the prophetic, priestly and royal life of Jesus Christ. At the same time, the Letter of James urges its recipients to anoint the sick with oil (James 5.15), as a sign of the healing and forgiveness that are also given through the Holy Spirit (cf Mark 6.13).

These are the biblical roots of the ancient custom of using oils in the life of the Church, and of the three particular oils – of catechumens, of the sick, and of chrism – that are prepared in the Chrism Eucharist. In the course of Christian history, they have come to be used in many ways – especially, as in the Old Testament, for the setting apart of people and things for a special place in the life of the Church, for bishops and priests at their ordination, for kings and queens at their crowning, and for churches and altars at their consecration.

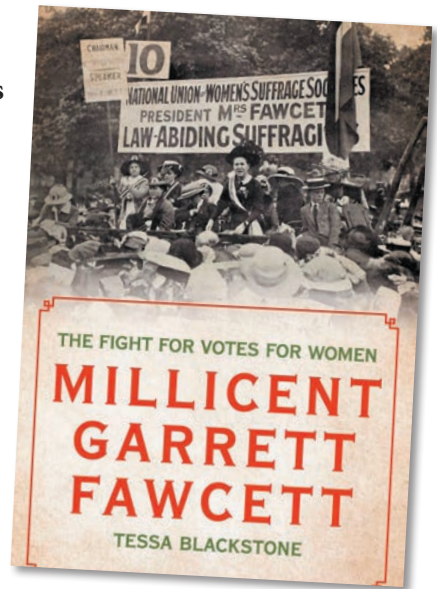
There is a more recent custom, introduced first into the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Paul VI in the middle of the twentieth century, that the Chrism Eucharist is also an occasion for the renewal of commitment to ministry. As the priests gathered around their bishop on Maundy Thursday, to receive the oils to take back to their parishes, he suggested that they should renew their commitment to serve Christ. This is appropriate on this day, when we remember that Christ consecrated himself to his Father's service and expressed his obedient self-gift in the institution of the Eucharist and in the agony of Gethsemane, and prayed for the unity of his disciples. It is now a widespread Anglican practice for deacons, Readers and authorized lay ministers to be associated with the bishop and priests in the renewal of commitment to ministry.

Book Review

“Millicent Garrett Fawcett: The Fight for Votes for Women” by Tessa Blackstone

Pub Hardback by Biteback Publishing, 2024

ISBN 978-1-78590-855-2



Tessa Blackstone is well known as an academic, primarily in social science, and as a current member of the House of Lords. The trigger for this book is interesting: she lived at London's 2 Gower Street for about ten years, and realised from the prominent Blue Plaque on the front paying tribute to Millicent that Fawcett had lived there for much longer. Her interest was piqued enough to try to find a biography of Millicent, but she found there was nothing authoritative enough, and later on decided to write this book herself.

Millicent grows up as one of the middle children of a family of ten in Aldeburgh and Snape in Suffolk, where her father was relatively prosperous as a result of a growing number of business ventures. She learns much more in early life (partly via a brief period in a London boarding-school) than was common for young women in the 1850s and 1860s, including music, a spirit of innovation and progress, travel, writing, and reading various novelists.

At 19, Millicent marries the blind MP, campaigner and academic Henry Fawcett, 15 years or so her senior. It is a very happy union, and she is only too glad to help him, including by long hours spent reading aloud to him the materials he needs to do his jobs in London and Cambridge – though there must have been frustrations around lack of time to take forward her own projects. Even then, these included writings in favour of women's suffrage, and following in the footsteps of her elder sister Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Britain's first-ever woman doctor, who, like Millicent, is determined to open up new opportunities and professional roles for all women.

Sadly, Henry dies in 1884, shortly after a speech on the Reform Bill, asking for votes for “women householders”. He is only in his mid-fifties. He and Millicent had been inseparable, and the more general tributes from Cambridge University and their various London circles are numerous and heartfelt too. Not long after, and still in recovery from bereavement, Millicent moves into 2 Gower Street with her elder sister Agnes and cousin Rhoda – and she remains there for 44 years, doggedly pursuing rights and votes for women.

Continued on page 21

Book Review continued

Blackstone wisely recounts how Millicent is not the only Suffragist (= campaigner for women's suffrage determined to stay within the law), and compares her with Emmeline Pankhurst, the shorter-lived but equally-determined Suffragette, (ie she and her activists sometimes feel free to break the law to get noticed). Our author notes that Millicent was the less charismatic of the two, and never reached Emmeline's heights of emotionally-driven oratory. But she also draws out how Millicent's much more diligent researches, gifts and experience in writing (from pamphlets to longer works) and carefully-reasoned arguments, all meant she left longer-lasting impressions on many. These comparisons have not been made before, and may yet be revised, but as with much else in this book they show a real wish to bring out the bigger picture of a complex cause, often with many factions and led by multi-faceted people.

Years after Pankhurst's death, Millicent and her followers are still experiencing numerous setbacks at the hands of the male establishment. But, after a gap agreed at the outset of WW1, the first real forward step (as far forward as Millicent instinctively feels she can support) is finally at least partly achieved in 1917-18. More pieces of progress follow in 1919 (opening of the legal profession to women, for instance). But you will have to read the final, sometimes surprising chapters, including material on Henry and Millicent's only daughter Philippa, to see how satisfied or not Millicent is by the time of her death in 1929 at 82.



Simon Jenkins, one of few male writers to be quoted on the dust-cover, says this book is “wonderfully readable”, and I agree with that; it's a lucidly-written account which recognises team dynamics, splits and uneasy pacts between campaigning groups with a confidence backed up by first-rate research. If I have a criticism, perhaps it is that our author is a little too often in the picture herself – identifying with Millicent's wish to expand women's opportunities, especially. But that takes little away from the substantive achievement. Enjoyable and warmly

recommended; I will gladly lend.

Kate Smith

Late September 2025



I can never feel that setting fire to houses and churches and litter boxes and destroying valuable pictures really helps to convince people that women ought to be enfranchised.



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



Sunday 31st May
St Edmund's Church Hall
4-5.30 pm



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Nature Tots

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Thursday 14 May, 10-11.30am, Allestree Park

Park in the main carpark off the A6, DE22 2EU, walk towards the hall, a member of the team will direct you.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear as we are outside. Bring a lidded travel cup as hot drinks are available.

£2 suggested donation per child.

All welcome

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

Be a Wolf

**Saturday 2nd May
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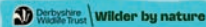
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Here is a picture the children made on the craft table for Valentine's Day last year.

squash and fruit for them to enjoy too. We always wrap up the session with a story and some songs including the Hokey Cokey.

WHERE? St Edmund's Church Hall, Allestree (DE22 2FN).

WHEN? Every Thursday (term time) 10-11.30am (other than the 2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month when we meet for Nature Tots).

COST? We suggest a £1 donation per child.

PLEASE PRAY? For a session filled with fun and laughter.

For more details, please check the Diary on pages 5, 6 and 7 or visit St Edmund's website: stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

Community Pop-in Café

Coffee
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Fellowship Room
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Darley Abbey
Friday 15th May 2026
8.30 - 10.30am

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Share time with friends

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There is a small charge which includes a hot drink and cakes or biscuits.



If you are interested or you would like further information please call, text or send a Whatsapp to Barbara Clark on 07788 179683.



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7.00 p.m. for 7.30pm at Darley Abbey Scout Hall

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Tasting tickets £30 each and Driver's tickets £12 each – available from 63rdderbyscouts.tickets@gmail.com or text 07925- 633877



Tickets must be purchased in advance & shown at the door (over 18s only). Payment by cash or BACs transfer to secure your tickets.

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



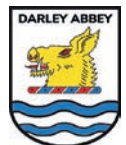
Darley Abbey Scout Hall Saturday Social on 16th May

At a loose end? Fancy a natter over a cuppa with a piece of Simnel cake to belatedly mark Easter? Like to play some games or browse our papers and magazines?

Then come along to Darley Abbey Scout Hall (DE22 1DT) on 16th May 2026, 1.30-3.30 pm, and join in the fun!

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

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May 2026

Revd Canon Matt Barnes writes...

“Talk to God about men before you talk to men about God.”
Those well-known words from E.M. Bounds capture something simple, profound, and deeply timely.



As we approach Thy Kingdom Come, we are invited once again into a season shaped not by pressure or performance, but by prayer. Sitting between Ascension and Pentecost, these days remind us that the disciples were neither inactive nor anxious. They waited. They prayed. They trusted that God was already at work, as He is today in our Diocese.

Thy Kingdom Come encourages us to do the same. At its heart is a very simple practice: to name five people we would love to see grow in faith—friends, family members, neighbours, colleagues—and to hold them before God day by day. Not to fix them, persuade them, or perfect our words, but to entrust them to the loving attention of God.

Prayer changes things. Sometimes it changes circumstances; often it quietly changes us. As we pray, hearts are softened, eyes are opened, and attentiveness to the Spirit grows. We become more aware of where God is already at work, and more ready to join in with what God is doing.

This season is a gift to the whole Church: a shared moment to pause, to hope, and to pray together across parishes, traditions, and generations. Whether you are confident in prayer or finding your way, whether your five names feel close to faith or far from it, God welcomes what you bring. We can pray alone, we can pray in groups, we can pray as a church or we can pray at one of our Diocesan events. However, and wherever, and with whom, please pray!

May this be a season where prayer is renewed, hope is rekindled, and love quietly grows.

Who are your five?

The Revd Canon Matt Barnes
Director of Mission, Evangelism & Parish Revitalisation

ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE

If you are a local trader, or have an event to promote, why not place an advertisement in the St Edmund's Church magazine. It is an inexpensive way to reach the local population of Allestree and Darley Abbey.

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for details on cost
and publication dates.



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St. Edmund's Parish

Church Website: stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

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

Office opening hours:- Monday, 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.

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	Elizabeth Jack	07779 255412
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	Pam Highman	551636
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St. Edmund's Parish Magazine Editorial Team: Chris Willis, Mary Pollett and Fiona Fraser.

Please EMAIL magazine articles and photos to both fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk and Chris Willis at c.willis246@btinternet.com

Magazine Distribution: Chris Willis 558136

DEADLINES: 20th May for June magazine & 20th June for July 2026 magazine.

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

Plant Sale in/outside the Choir Vestry @ St Edmund's on SATURDAY 16th May



For sale on Saturday 16th - Donate Friday 15th May

We hope you will all come to our plant sale from 10.00am - 12 noon in St. Edmund's choir vestry and, weather permitting, outside too. There will be lots of bedding, vegetable plants and much more available at bargain prices. We will be grateful for plant donations and these can be brought to the choir vestry on Friday 15th May, 5.00pm - 7.00pm or before 10.00am on Saturday 16th. There will be free tea and coffee too. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Pollett, Events Committee

