

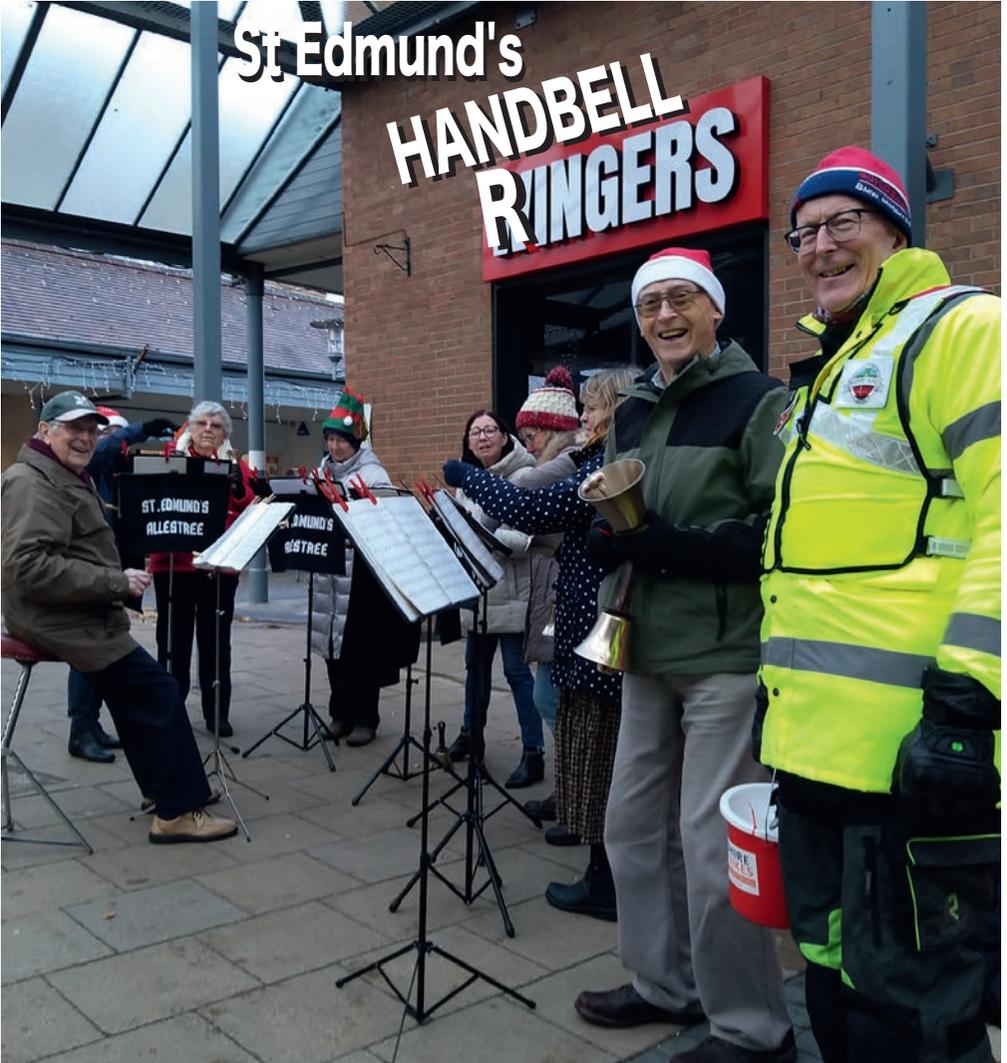


St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

# News from the Parish

February 2025



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

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

# St. Edmund's February 2025

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

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

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

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

FOOD BANK - The first Sunday of the month, 2nd February 2025. Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 4th.

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FRONT COVER: St Edmund's Handbell Ringers playing at Park Farm shopping centre on 7th December 2024 - raising money for Blood Bikes. See Page 15 for the full story.

BACK COVER: Shows various events that took place during December 2024.

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

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**Open All Year:** St Ed's and St Matt's are open regularly throughout the 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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## Planning a Church, Community or Charity Event?

We would be delighted to receive information regarding events taking place in our parish. Email text/photos to [steds.stmatts@outlook.com](mailto:steds.stmatts@outlook.com) and/or [fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk](mailto:fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of a month to be in the next issue. Our Parish magazines are also on our website:- [www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk](http://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk).

# Reverend's Letter

What a lot can happen in a year! Astonishingly, I've now been here for twelve months and what a joy they've been.

Sunday services, midweek services, special services of mourning or celebration. And seasonal services – Palm Sunday, Stripping the Altar, Good Friday Hour at the Cross, Easter, Harvest, All Souls, Carols x2 and the Crib services. I'm so pleased that so many people have come together to mark those occasions, some solemn, some very much not! In 2025 I'm looking forward to being here for Christmas Day, which I spent at Darley Abbey in 2024. Someone should create a Top Trumps pack for us vicar-types!

A special treat has been the time I've been able to spend with children in the parish. At our sister church, St Nick's, I helped with Experience Easter so Lawn, Walter Evans, Portway and Curzon school children could use their senses to enter the Easter story, such a privilege.

At St Edmund's we hosted two Beaver colonies. They each explored the tower and the organ plus Cherokee Beavers explored the Easter story and Mohawk Beavers explored the story of the precious pearl. We invited them to our Easter service, and it was fab to have one of them come to the front to lead us in an action song – so brave!

Our Brownies led the prayers and handed out the do-it-yourself Christingle kits they'd made in one of their meetings, at our Christingle service – which I sadly missed due to the flu. Next time... They were out in force for our Carols in the churchyard too, which the weather drove inside. Our plan is for them to get involved in running that too in 2025.

The Easter and Christmas services for our St Edmund's playgroup and our St Edmund's tots' group were also a delight. At the latter everyone got to hold a nativity character as I told the story of 'the Grumpy owl and the joy of Christmas' and carefully brought them up at the relevant point in the story. We also discovered that we weren't too sure what sound camels made, so I followed the advice of one tot and went with a donkey's bray instead! They, and all the children who visited church at Christmas, were entranced by our stunning under-altar crib scene, asking thoughtful questions and soaking it all in.

I'm with Jesus, who told his disciples off for sending families with children away – 'let the little children come to me.' We can learn so much from children. They're curious, thoughtful and fun, with an energy which is infectious. They can be deeply insightful, seeing things adults don't notice, with very different perspectives. They inhabit the moment, and you always know where you are with them – young children, especially, don't mince their words!

Jesus said, 'unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.' (Matthew 18: 3) Perhaps you'd like to join me this year in 'being more child'?

*Revd Rachael Brooks*

Associate Minister, St Edmund's

# Churchwardens' View

A Regular Update by Ann Miller and Paul Smith

## Celebrating a Marvellous Season of Christian Ministry to our Community

Since we last wrote, it's been a privilege to take part in a spectacular series of services culminating in our celebration of Christmas. We had a lovely child-centred Christingle service involving uniformed organisations and making the most of the effects of candlelight. Our Carols in the Churchyard (actually in church because of the weather) was a warm, relaxed



The Angel Gabriel appears unto Geoff

event bringing in many new faces, several of whom enjoyed staying behind to chat afterwards over mulled wine. Our traditional Nine Lessons & Carols was another well-attended event and was preceded by St Edmund's Handbell Ringers performing carols.

On Christmas Eve, over 200 adults and 100 children attended our Crib services, with many helping reenact the story of Our Lord's birth. Then followed our Christmas morning Holy Communion and just a few days later, on the 29th December, a United Service at which we were pleased to welcome brothers and sisters from the four churches in our area. Then, a week later, we celebrated the Epiphany with both a morning

service (thanks to those who made it through the snow) and a choir-led afternoon concert with carols, readings, recorder-playing, and refreshments.

Many thanks to all, including those working quietly behind the scenes, who helped make this Christmastide so successful, bringing meaningful experiences for our regular worshippers and our many extra guests alike. You leaders, welcomers, readers, players, singers, flower arrangers and refreshment providers know who you are, and what a great job you did!

Continued on page 5

## Churchwardens' View continued

Continuing the theme of “work behind the scenes”, here are some of the things we are doing to maintain and improve your church:

- Our heating group is up and running, and recently visited St Mary the Virgin at Denby to see their new system.
- We have replaced the church toilet floor which now looks a lot better.
- We dealt with an electrical fault which led to one morning service being candle-lit by necessity rather than design.
- Our architects, Smith & Roper, have carried out their five-yearly (Quinquennial) inspection and we await their report.
- The iron vestry door handle has been repaired and repainted.
- Planning permission has been granted for us to move Primrose’s shed onto the hall car park, making access easier.
- We have been awarded a grant to replace our wooden noticeboards with more modern designs. One of these will be designated “for community use” for the benefit of all.
- The hall will be redecorated in February.
- Thanks to the City Council for dealing rapidly with fallen trees in the churchyard following the December storms, and to the Groundforce volunteers who meet every month to keep the churchyard so tidy.



Vestry door handle pin was worn away to almost nothing. An excellent repair has been wrought by Richard Hazell.

Wishing you every blessing,

*Ann & Paul  
Churchwardens*

**OUR THANKS TO RICHARD HAZELL, BLACKSMITH.** He has very generously made an excellent repair to the Vestry door handle. You may be interested to know that he also fashions some remarkable pieces from iron which are for sale on his Etsy page - <https://www.etsy.com/shop/hazellforged>

Information is also available on his Facebook page; <https://www.facebook.com/hazellforged> or [www.instagram.com/hazellforged](http://www.instagram.com/hazellforged)



# News from the Vestry

The choir had a very busy Christmas season and we would like to thank all those who supported our various activities.

We sang carols in the Red Cow and collected over £96 for Derby City Mission. The carol service was excellent and I was so proud of my little choir, ably assisted by a few extras. There was a large and very appreciative congregation – the experiment of a 4:00pm start rather than 6:00pm seemed to have been well supported. We sang on Christmas morning and again on 29th December for the joint service at St. Edmund's for all four parishes with both our choir and St. Matthew's. The choir organised an Epiphany celebration in the church hall on the afternoon of 5th January and, despite the awful weather, a good time was had by all with music and readings, culminating in a spirited rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas after which refreshments were served.

We were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Richard Mclachlan from St. Matthew's choir who was dear friend to us all, a true musician and gentleman. We send our condolences to Richard's family and our friends at Darley Abbey.

## **A Date for your diary: 15th March at 7:30pm, St Matthew's Church**

A concert in memory of Peter Barham given by the choirs of St. Edmund's and St. Matthew's together with the Derventio Choir, with their conductor Alex Binns, Master of the Music at Derby Cathedral. Both Peter and Julie sang with the Derventio Choir and it was Peter who suggested Alex apply to be their new conductor. This promises to be an entertaining evening of music including particular favourites of Peter and pieces which held special meaning for him.

Watch out for posters with further details!

*Elizabeth Jack*

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## Allestree History Group - February 2025

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

5th February - "French Napoleonic Prisoners of War in Derbyshire & Beyond", talk by Mark Barnard.

19th February - "Inn Signs and Local History", talk by Robert Mee.

Visitors are welcome at £4.00 per person.

If you would like to know more about the Allestree History Group you can telephone Sylvia on 01332 556441 or visit [www.allestreelocalhistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.allestreelocalhistorygroup.org.uk)

# From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

## BAPTISMS

22 December 2024

Baptism of Ezra James Baker

5 January 2025

Baptism of Charlie and of Oscar King

FUNERALS and BURIAL OF ASHES at St Edmund's

18 December 2024 - Burial of ashes of Monica Booth

12 January 2025 - Burial of ashes of Andrew Cogley

15 January 2025 - Funeral of Barbara Rogers

22 January 2025 - Funeral of Timothy Munns

27 January 2025 - Funeral of Janine Allsop

29 January 2025 - Burial of ashes of Alan Smith



## St Edmund's Groundforce

St Edmund's Groundforce meets throughout the year to keep the churchyard and hall grounds in good order, usually on the first Saturday in the month. **Their next session is planned for Saturday 1st February.** If you would like to know more please contact Steve Burton on 07914 884197.



These photos show Groundforce members together both in Easter sunshine last year and last month on 4th January at the first working party of 2025.

# Dates for your Diary February 2025

## **Monday 27th January**

2:00pm - St Edmund's - Funeral of Janine Allsop

## **Wednesday 29th January**

10:00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion

11:00am - St Edmund's - Burial of ashes of Alan Smith

## **Thursday 30th January**

10:00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

## **Saturday 1st February**

9:30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

## **Sunday 2nd February - *Candlemas***

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

10:00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer, led by John Rice

10:00am - St Matthew's - Holy Communion, led by Rachael Brooks

6:00pm - St Matthew's - Evensong, led by Melonie Hambly

## **Tuesday 4th February**

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

2:00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM

## **Wednesday 5th February**

10:00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Rachael Brooks

1:30pm - St Matthew's - Funeral of Valerie Apps (Cremation at 12.30pm)

## **Thursday 6th February**

10:00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

## **Saturday 8th February**

9:30-12 noon - St Matthew's carpark - Refills on the Road

## **Sunday 9th February - *Fourth Before Lent***

10:00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Rachael Brooks

10:00am - St Matthew's - Morning Prayer, led by Clive Lemmon

6:00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by the Choir

## **Monday 10th February**

2:00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: The Poisonwood Bible  
by Barbara Kingsolver

7:30pm - Ascension Prayer Group at Catherine McAuley House Community Room

7:30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbell Practice

## **Wednesday 12th February**

10:00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by John Rice

## **Thursday 13th February**

10:00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Continued on page 7

# Dates for your Diary February 2025

## **Sunday 16th February - *Third Before Lent***

10:00am - St Edmund's – Morning Prayer, led by Ben Martin

10:00am - St Matthew's – Holy Communion, led by Adrian Thorpe

6:00pm – St Matthew's - Choral Evensong, led by Clive Lemmon

## **Monday 17th February**

7:30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbell Practice

## **Tuesday 18th February**

11:00am - St Edmund's - Burial of ashes of Heather Burnill

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

## **Wednesday 19th February**

10:00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by John Rice

## **Thursday 20th February**

10:45am - Holy Communion at Stanley House

11:15am - Holy Communion at Abbeydale

7:00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Darley Abbey WI

## **Saturday 22nd February**

9:30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party - Come & help

9:30-12 noon - St Matthew's carpark - Refills on the Road

## **Sunday 23rd February - *Second Before Lent***

10:00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by John Rice

10:00am - St Matthew's - Morning Prayer, led by Rachael Brooks

6:00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by Rachael Brooks

## **Monday 24th February**

7:30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbell Practice

## **Wednesday 26th February**

10:00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by John Rice

## **Thursday 27th February**

10:00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

## **Friday 28th February**

8:30am - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Community Café

## 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.

Office opening hours:-

**Monday, Tuesday & Friday**

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Wednesday**

Time: 9.30am – 3.00pm

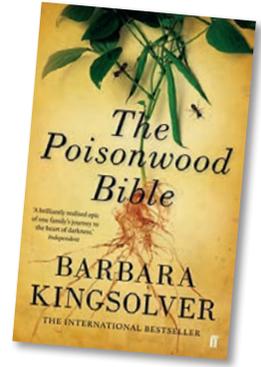
**Thursday**

Time: 11.30am – 3.00pm

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

# Bookworms February Meeting on 10th February'25

Bookworms meet in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm. We will be discussing *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver at our next meeting on Monday 10th February.



The reading list continues:-

- 10th Mar 2025 John Galsworthy - *The Man of Property*
- 14th April 2025 Mary Wood - *The Guernsey Girls Go to War*
- 12th May 2025 Jodi Picoult - *Wish You Were Here*
- 9th June 2025 Maggie O'Farrell - *The Hand That First Held Mine*
- 14th July 2025 Rose Tremain - *The Colour*
- 11th Aug 2025 Rachel Joyce - *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*

For further details please ring or text Cyra Buxton on 07719 776501 or email her on [cyrabuxton@gmail.com](mailto:cyrabuxton@gmail.com).

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## St Edmund's Luncheon Club Celebrated Christmas

Christmas Dinner was served at the Luncheon Club on Tuesday, 17th December. Revd Rachael attended and sat at a different table for each course so she could meet and talk with as many people as possible. Our thanks to Margaret Western for sending us the photo of her table.





St Matthew  
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



## Sunday services at St Edmund's in February



- Sunday 2nd 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 9th 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 16th 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 23rd 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong

**All welcome**



St Matthew  
DARLEY ABBEY

ST EDMUND'S



## Join us for Holy Communion



**Every Wednesday in  
February  
St Edmund's  
10am**

**All welcome**



St Matthew  
DARLEY ABBEY

ST MATTHEW'S



## Sunday services at St Matthew's in February



- Sunday 2nd 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Evensong
- Sunday 9th 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 16th 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 23rd 10 am Morning Prayer

**All welcome**

## Community Pop-in Café

Coffee  
Tea  
Toast

**Fellowship Room  
St Matthew's Church  
Darley Abbey  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
8.30 - 10.30am**

*All welcome  
Share time with friends*

# Book Review

“MOAB IS MY WASHPOT” by STEPHEN FRY

Pub Softback by Arrow Books (Random House), 1998

ISBN 9780099457046

Stephen Fry seems to have become a sort of unique “national treasure”, with not only books, theatre, scripts, comedy and other broadcasting to his name, but also pioneering TV documentaries on various subjects including the social and medical facts (and a lot of myth-busting) about HIV and AIDS. But at the time of writing this first autobiographical book, he had yet to reach that status, and indeed, if its tone is anything to go by, felt he had a lot of apologising and explaining still to do. The consummate “Jeeves” and half of “A Bit of Fry and Laurie” thought it time to redeem himself, perhaps.

Fry was not an easy child. Deeply sensitive, he often fell foul of authority in unusual ways. He certainly didn't help his cause by exercising a combination of charismatic charm and outrageous lies. On the other hand, an example of an incident at primary school in Norfolk, shortly before he leaves home to be a prep-school boarder, is telling. It concerns Miss Meddlar's Nature Table. Fry offers all sorts of interesting items for the Table in the hope of gaining good marks, but one Mary Hench aged seven (who must be getting at least some help from family) is given higher marks every time. On one occasion he brings in a beautiful and intact dead mole, and has done enough careful research to be able to tell the class about moles' diet, poor sight, diet, life-cycle and so on. But despite such a handsome specimen he is, once again, beaten – this time Mary has brought in a live donkey. (This episode is referred to again in the book several times, so may be worth recalling for later.) The humiliation is palpable, his ambition thwarted yet again, and life is, for quite a time, unutterably miserable.

This work, like so much about Fry, has to be taken on its own terms; one of which is that the reader will periodically be taken through a Rant. At times he stops off from the main narrative and gives us (in no special order) an indignant tirade about why (despite demonstrable musical knowledge) he cannot sing, what it was like going back to an old haunt in 1992 to receive an award, the privations of sport and accompanying taunts in the communal showers at public school, an exuberant and captivating account of falling in love, a piece or two of his own juvenile poetry (parts of it remarkably good, some firmly not), or how West Norfolk came to permit rather than ban public showing of “The Exorcist” when he was a sixth-former. All these Rants in their different ways are interesting and to some extent illuminate Fry's development, but at times they take away from the often quite well-paced story, and/or are just plain infuriating.

Continued on page 13

## Book Review continued

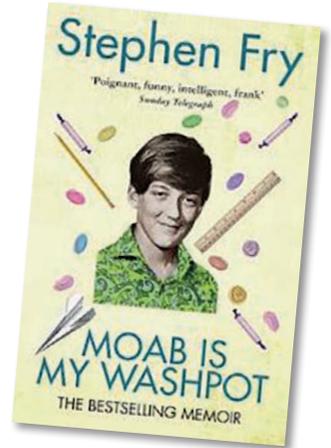
More endearingly, despite all his goings-off-the-rails (or never being on them in the first place, we are the judge), Fry never fails to acknowledge that his parents were always very loving, and did their best to support and understand him. He realises that this was made much harder for them by his elder brother Roger (“Fry Senior”), a much more successful and conventional character – for whom, indeed, our author has not only real and constant affection but also a healthy respect.

The book ends surprisingly – he is a lazy student who, predictably, fails all his A Levels, and a spending-spree using a stolen credit card lands him in prison for a short spell. On release, he gets himself a place, against odds, at a less than promising sixth-form college, and with new-found determination, passes his re-takes within a year. We leave him, aged nearly 20, having just had news of a Scholarship to Queens’ College Cambridge. (There are a small number of interesting family photos in the book’s middle, but the last and striking black-and-white shot is not of family – it shows Fry and Hugh Laurie, concentrating hard on a game of chess, in Fry’s Cambridge rooms in about 1980.)

I enjoyed this read, which is honest, varied, deeply articulate, at times lyrical, brimming with talent, and never less than very interesting – especially on the workings of his public school. As for the Rants: You Have Been Warned. I will gladly lend.

Kate Smith

Mid-September 2024



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## Save Your Stamps for Charity during 2025

Thank you for saving your used stamps throughout last year. In November the stamps were sorted and several bags were sent away. We would be most grateful if you could continue to save stamps again this year, especially as you may have a few resulting from Christmas cards received.

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

*Elizabeth Jack*



# Recipe: Prawn Linguine

**Ingredients** - Makes enough for four

175g Prawns

300g linguine pasta

1 small or half a large red onion, finely chopped

1 red pepper, deseeded chopped small

1 pkt cherry tomatoes, halved

1 garlic clove, grated

tomato purée

splash white wine or water

few drops Balsamic Vinegar

grated parmesan cheese

## Method

Place the red onion, red pepper and cherry tomatoes in frying pan with small amount olive oil. Add salt & pepper & sprinkling of dried chilli flakes (to taste). Simmer all above, gently for 15 minutes. Add the grated fresh garlic. Simmer down until soft & tomatoes have burst. Add cooked prawns & simmer for 5 mins. Sprinkle with fresh chopped coriander or flat-leaved parsley.

Serve cooked linguine in bowls with sauce on top. Add the grated parmesan cheese, and black pepper to taste.

Rita says "I think quantities really depend on people's tastes! I asked for plenty of prawns as I was providing them and love them. If you don't like prawns then tinned fish like tuna or even cooked meat can replace them. Personally I really enjoyed the prawns.

*Rita Wrigley*



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## Allestree Flower Group - 18th February 2025

Our second meeting of the year is on Tuesday 18th at The Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree. There will be a workshop on the theme 'Sustainable Spring Flowers' given by Helen Chambers, Evolve Flowers.

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Admission: Members £5.00. Non- members £9.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457



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## Allestree W.I. Meeting - 18th February 2025

Allestree W.I. will meet on Tuesday, 18th February 2025 at 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby DE22 2GP.

The talk is 'The True Story of the Durrells on Corfu' by Ms. Vanessa Tissington, and there will be a competition titled 'An animal in any medium'.

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

# St. Edmund's Handbell Ringers Brave the Storm

Do you remember Storm Darragh, which devastated the western coastal areas of Great Britain during December? Well, it was on that Saturday, 7th December, that St Edmund's Handbell Ringers were fundraising for Blood Bikes at Park Farm! Early in the morning it seemed doubtful whether we could possibly ring our Handbells at all. A slight gust of wind could either turn over a page of music or send a music stand flying! We were incredibly fortunate as our time of ringing was free of wind and rain.

The footfall was low, but shoppers stopped and listened to our Christmas Carols, talked to the Blood Bike volunteers and looked at the Blood Bike as they donated money.



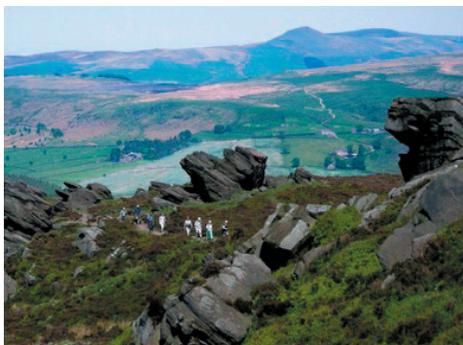
We were pleased to have supported Blood Bikes in their fundraising. The total collected was £265.50, including money donated during Sunday coffee time. Many thanks to all who supported us in any way.

*Gill Flatman*



# Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (1)

## THE ROACHES AND RAMSHAW ROCKS



Roaches climbing party

This splendid region in the south-western part of the National Park has rock escarpments to rival Derbyshire's eastern edges and is often referred to as Staffordshire's gateway to the Peak District. A circular walk of 7 miles is outlined with excellent scenery and passing close to fascinating rock formations on fairly good paths. No rock climbing or scrambling is necessary, although there are inevitably some hilly sections; and for refreshment there is the Roaches Tearoom at nearby Paddock Farm..

**The Roaches** and surrounding area used to be part of the Swythamly Hall estate, a late 18thc country house situated 1½ miles from the northern end of the escarpment towards Danebridge. The estate was sold and broken up circa 1975, purchased by the Peak District National Park Authority in 1980 and now managed by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust as 'open access' land. Prior to this time, a family of wallabies could often be spotted by walkers on the moor, which had been bred by the resident Brocklehurst family and escaped during WWII. Another connection with the past is the mock-castle **Rockhall Cottage** at the base of the Roaches rock face; it was built in 1850 by the Brocklehursts and inhabited by their gamekeeper while managing the estate. It was restored in 1992 and leased to the British Mountaineering Council as a climbing bothy, in memory of the renowned climber Don Whillans who had helped to revolutionise rock climbing in the 1950's. Another feature is Doxey Pool, a



pleasant and innocent-looking spot along the escarpment path, but in local legend reputed to be bottomless and the home of a mermaid known as Jenny Greenteeth who seduces loiterers to a watery grave!

**The Panorama** from the 1½ miles Roaches escarpment with a trig point at 1656ft. is wide ranging. From its southern end Tittesworth Reservoir is prominent and especially so from

# Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (1)

## THE ROACHES AND RAMSHAW ROCKS continued



Hen Cloud from Tittesworth Reservoir

Hen Cloud's 1345ft. summit. To the west is Gun Hill and Bosley Edge; to the north Shutlingsloe, Shining Tor, Axe Edge and Flash; to the east Ramshaw Edge and the Morridge; to the south Leek and the Churnet valley. The section of the route along Ramshaw Edge follows the start of the Churnet Way; here the infant river rises east of the A53, flows under the latter below Upper Hulme and through Tittesworth Reservoir.

**The Geology** of the area is of special interest because of the folding of underlying thick sandstone beds, formed in the Carboniferous period, and subsequent erosion over millennia of the escarpment edges. The syncline (concave fold) between the Roaches and **Ramshaw Rocks** and gradual erosion of the outer anticlines (convex folds) has resulted in the two escarpments almost facing opposite directions: ie the Roaches looking WSW and Ramshaw pointing ESE; but they are quite different in appearance – the former with a 100ft high rock face, the latter with a string of rocky outcrops. The coarse sandstone, known as 'Roaches Grit', has been weathered into a multitude of weird shapes, some remarkably smooth, but others heavily striated. The Ramshaw's curious shapes include the Winking Man whose 'eye' appears to close and open as seen when driving along the A53 below. Hen Cloud is really a southern extension of the Roaches, but separated by an underlying fault. Both have a multitude of excellent climbing routes and are popular for starter groups and for serious practice prior to greater things.



Ramshaw Ridge

**The Route** starts from the roadside parking area\* below the S end of the Roaches. Pass through the new Roaches Gate up a good gravel path towards the col between Hen Cloud and the Roaches (*en route a detour L can be made to Rockhall Cottage, or even to ascend steep steps up the crags to the ridge*). At the col turn L on a broad well-trodden f/p, rising and curving R & L around the initial crags

Continued on page 18

# Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (1)

## THE ROACHES AND RAMSHAW ROCKS continued

up to the crest; follow this for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile past Doxey Pool to the trig point; enjoy the view and then descend the stone-flagged path, passing Bearstone Rocks (another view ahead) to the minor road at Roach End. Turn R on the farm drive (signed Gradbach) continuing as a bridleway or f/p above Black Brook. The stream is crossed by footbridge (ref.003647) and the f/p continues upstream on the L bank, passing a signpost for Black Bank. Follow the arrows past Goldsitch and Blackbank Farms, where the sketchy f/p follows a farm drive up to the minor road (015643). Turn R along this road to a L bend and just around the bend take a f/p R, rising slowly across the moor (SSE direction). This joins the Churnet Way at a stile (021629) well above the A53's Ramshaw Cottage; bear R before the stile and follow the f/p below the rocks. Bear L at a gate signposted Ramshaw Ridge and follow the ridge f/p, finally



Hen Cloud Crags

descending to a minor road. Turn L around the bend to a f/p R down to the A53, there joining a f/p R to Naychurch Farm. Leave the Churnet Way (014617) on a f/p NW leading via Well Farm to the Roaches col. At the col an obvious f/p L leads to the worthwhile summit of Hen Cloud; return and turn L back to the car.

### *The Rambler*

\* Reached from the A53, L for Upper Hulme, 1st L through village for Roaches.

---

## The Repair Café is open 1st February & 1st March

The volunteer-run Derby Repair Cafe is held on the first Saturday of every month at the West End Community Centre, Mackworth Road, DE22 3BL.

Bring your broken household items along to our Repair Cafe on 1st February 1-4pm and 1st March 1-4pm. No specialist repairs (eg clock, antiques) and nothing too big. Cash and electronic donations are accepted to keep our Repair Cafe going.

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

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

# St. Edmund's Support to Charities in 2024

In August last year, Mark Halliwell made payments to the 8 charities that St Edmund's Church chose to support in 2024 and various thank you's have been published in 2024's October, November and December magazines. Here are the final three:-




**Thank you – you're a lifesaver**

Hello Mark,

Thank you so much for being part of our lifesaving crew volunteers going through the tough times. With you being every call for help.

Your kindness touches the lives of all kinds of people they rescue.

Our brave crews are determined to launch to the rescue your donation, you're making that possible. You're transforming an ordinary person into a capable lifesaver shield them from harm. And you're reaching children preventing tragedies.

Your generosity means that we're still ready to support you, just as you're here for us. You power our lives.

If you ever need to contact us, we're here for you. You can call us on 0300 300 9990 (from the UK) or + 44 (0)1202 663234 (from outside of the UK) weekdays, 8am-6pm, or email [supportercare@mnl.org.uk](mailto:supportercare@mnl.org.uk).

Best wishes,

**Alison Murphy**  
Supporter Experience Manager

**ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency**

16 August 2024

Mr M Halliwell  
St Edmunds Church Allestree  
10 Oldbury Close  
Oakwood  
DERBY  
Derbyshire  
DE21 2JS

ZANE Administration Office  
PO Box 451, Wisney  
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Tel: 0207 7080 6643  
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Dear Mr Halliwell

Thank you and all of the parishioners of St Edmunds Church Allestree so much for the generous donation to ZANE of £450.00. Your kindness enables ZANE to carry on its lifesaving work.

The people of Zimbabwe continue to suffer terribly, with no obvious end in sight. Severe drought, mass hunger, chronic inflation and limited basic healthcare provision mean that life, for young and old, is a relentless struggle for survival.

A picture tells a thousand words. For a serious insight into ZANE's work, do look at our website homepage ([zane.uk.com](http://zane.uk.com)), and click on the 3-minute film. It tells the story of the work you are kindly funding, and the terrific difference it makes.

We rely on donations to provide food and essential medication to over 2,000 destitute pensioners; to treat children born with clubfoot and to provide education to children who otherwise would never attend school.

Please see overleaf to see the reasons that make ZANE a unique charity in Africa.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Yours sincerely

*Tom Benyon*

Tom Benyon OBE

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To everyone at St Edmund's Church, Allestree

Thank you so much to everyone at St Edmund's Church, Allestree for your generous gift of £500.00. Your gift will support the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Middle East.

It's thanks to your support we have been able to fund so many of the projects you may have read about in the latest issue of our magazine. From Life Vision in Egypt offering the opportunity for children with visual impairments to get involved in a range of activities, to the Child Friendly Spaces in Syria where our partner gives children traumatised by growing up throughout a civil war a safe place to just be children. This is all only possible thanks to supporters like you.

So **thank you** from all of us at Embrace the Middle East, as well as our partners across the region. It really does mean so much to us all that you stand with us. Best wishes, The Revd Su McClellan, Senior Church Engagement Manager

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# Help to Choose St Edmund's Charities in 2025

Dear all,

St Edmund's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) funded eight charitable causes during 2024, based on proposals made by members of this parish. The PCC is now looking for appropriate charities to support in 2025. You can nominate charities covering mission, children's charities, education, training, community, medical charities, etc., and your input can be for an overseas, national or local charity.

Please **submit your nomination** and why it should be supported on the attached form **by 10:00am Sunday 9th March 2025 at latest**, either by email to me at markhalliwell10@gmail.com, or by putting in the 'H' pigeon hole at the back of church addressed to me.

We'll look forward to seeing your proposals!

Best wishes,

*Mark Halliwell*, on behalf of St Edmund's PCC

**Detach Here**

Your name:
Phone number or email contact:
Full Name of nominated Charity:
Purpose of Charity:
Why you believe St Edmund's should support this charity. Also please state any specific objective or project within the charity that the money should be used for, and any donation amount requirement.
Return form to: <b>Mark Halliwell, St Edmund's Church Allestree</b>

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# St Edmund's Christingle Afternoon Service

The Christingle Service took place during the afternoon of 15th December. Our thanks to Anne Miller who has shared the photo here and on the back cover with us.



---

## St Ed'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 and 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.

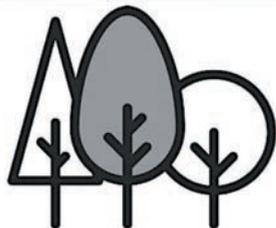
**Samaritans - National** - Tel. 116 123 [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

**Derby and 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)

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# February 2025

## Archdeacon Nicky writes...



One of my favourite shows is 'The Masked Singer'. Watching bright, shiny, colourfully creative performances from Bush, Dressed Crab, Bear, Kingfisher, Pegasus, Pufferfish, Snail, Spaghetti Bolognese, Tattoo, Teeth, Toad-in-the-Hole and Wolf brings moments of joy and laughter in the midst of dark, cold Saturday evenings.

Trying to guess the identities of the characters from the clues is fun. Cheering people on as they perform with such confidence and pizzazz, regardless of their skill level, feels good. Their courage is inspiring and brings out the best in the audience and judges who applaud, praise, encourage and affirm.

I want to follow their example and find ways that I can bring joy and laughter to people in the midst of the harsh realities of life.

I want to notice where people try something new, practice skills, take on different roles and responsibilities, and I want to encourage, support and cheer them on.

I want to find the courage to keep trying new things, step out of my comfort zone and not worry about what other people think.

I want to be consistent and real and give people enough clues to work out who I really am, even the bits of me I'm not so

keen on. I want to remove the masks I wear, and not hide or disguise myself but become more fully myself.

For each and every person is fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. We are known, loved and accepted as we are. God's Spirit is at work within us transforming us into God's likeness and helping us become the people we were created to be. And I want to co-operate more fully with God's work in me and to encourage others to be open to the working of God's Spirit within them.

It is my prayer that we will seek to grow into the person we were created to be with confidence. Having the courage to remove the masks we wear, to stop trying to disguise who we really are and allow others to see us as we really are. Being bold in trying new things, stepping out of our comfort zone and growing as people.

Encouraging, supporting and cheering one another on. Journeying together, growing in our discipleship and allowing God's Spirit to transform our lives as we encounter Christ and our relationship with him deepens and influences every aspect of our being.

*Nicky Fenton*

**The Venerable Nicky Fenton**  
Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales



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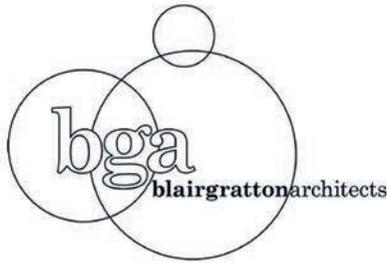
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# St. Edmund's Parish

Church Website: [stedsandstmatts.co.uk](http://stedsandstmatts.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, Tuesday & Friday: 9.30am – 12.30pm  
Wednesday: 9.30am – 3.00pm Thursday: 11.30am – 3.00pm

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

In an emergency, please contact one of the churchwardens.

## 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
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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
Handbells:	Gill Flatman	557028
St Edmund's Preschool		
CIC:	Becky Radford <a href="mailto:admin@stedmundspreschool.org">admin@stedmundspreschool.org</a> for enquiries	07934 380561
Brownies:	Alwyn Young	07740 201963

---

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

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

**Copy Deadlines: 20 February for the March issue and 20 March for the April issue.**

Our Parish magazines are available as printed copies in Church and digitally on the website:- [www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk](http://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk).

# Events that took place over Christmas 2024

## CAROLS IN THE CHURCHYARD

On the evening of the 18th December the weather was so wet and inclement that this event took place inside the church. Lots of people came – the church was full of all manner of people including the Brownies and other families and individuals.

There were readings from scripture, carols to sing, cribs to admire, children wearing Santa hats. Revd Rachael led the service, and a highlight was Andrew's presentation of Nicholas Allan's story of The Grumpy Innkeeper, very ably assisted by several children.

Delicious hot mulled wine was served by John and Michèlle, and folk stayed chatting for some time – it was all so enjoyable that they seemed reluctant to leave.....

*Chris Willis*



**ST EDMUND'S LUNCHEON CLUB**  
Margaret and Joan were surely not eating alone...See page 10 for the full picture.



**ST EDMUND'S CHRISTINGLE**  
More photos on page 23.