



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

# News from the Parish

March 2026



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

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

# St. Edmund's - March 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 first Sunday of the month, 1st March 2026.

Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 3rd March.

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FRONT COVER: Pancake Evening Chefs Paul Smith and Chris Jack. Top half of the back cover: Pancake Evening Happy Customers - see pages 22 & 23.

BACK COVER: Bottom Half - Love Your Yew Tree campaign - see page 14

**This month's colour cover is sponsored by House of Fraser in loving remembrance of Joane, who passed away last year.**

**If you would like to sponsor a month's colour cover 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 the Church noticeboards and on our website - key into your browser '[stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk](http://stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk)' to find us.

# The Revd Sarah Writes

Lent is a significant season in the church's year, where we reflect and prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter. If we reduce Lent to giving up one or more of our favourite treats, we miss something of its depth. That's not to say that different forms of fasting are wrong; in fact it is probably a spiritual discipline that is often missing in our culture, but there is much more to Lent than giving up chocolate or cake.

As a lover of music, I often find that I have a song resonating in my head and especially so during the seasons of the church year. This Lent the song that keeps replaying in my mind is the hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* which begins

*“Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence praise”*

This sums up for me something of the theme of Lent reflected in the Ash Wednesday service to *‘take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord’*. This call is not one of guilt, but of the freedom and forgiveness we find in Jesus and with it renewed hope and peace. God meets us not with condemnation, but with compassion, love and forgiveness. As the words of the gospel of John remind us

*“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.”*

The hymn also speaks of the *‘still small voice of calm,’* a reminder that God often meets us in the gentle and quiet places. In a 24/7 media world and as someone who can find it hard to slow down and be still, Lent reminds us to pause, to breathe, to lay down the franticness of life, including putting down my mobile phone and to allow God to meet me. In an ever busy, hectic and often troubled world this hymn brings us back to God to stillness, simple trust and rest in our gracious God of love, the one who gives us hope and peace. Again, in the words of the hymn as we pause and turn again to Christ, may God take from our souls the strain and stress and let our lives confess the beauty of God's peace.

The season of Lent invites us into a deeper, simpler and humbler walk with God, which may or may not involve giving up chocolate! It is an invitation from God to live in trust, humility, and in the peace we find in God's presence. A time that we reconnect with God, finding the love and forgiveness that is found in Christ and to take small, intentional steps that draw us closer to Jesus.

*Revd Sarah Watson*

Area Dean for Derby City & Priest-in-Charge of the Four Parishes

# Churchwardens' View

## A Regular Update by Ann Miller and Paul Smith

The projects we outlined last month - all aiming to maintain our church and improve our facilities - are progressing and moving forward. Many thanks to all those working hard to make these things happen.

Pancakes! The well-established St Ed's Shrove Tuesday event brought lots of our local community together - a super half term treat. It was great that lots of families came along and enjoyed the fun and those excellent pancakes! Huge thanks go to the helpers and volunteers who put in a great deal of hard work to ensure that there were plenty of delicious pancakes, and that everything ran smoothly.

### Events and Opportunities coming soon

**Brass cleaning:** Saturday 28th March 10.00am in church. It doesn't sound like fun, but it is! Don't miss out on the social side (chance for a good chat) of making our church sparkle. Enjoy the free refreshments too.

**The important APCM:** Sunday 19th April. Our annual meeting will be after morning service. Please save the date! Talk to Paul or Ann well beforehand if you're interested in standing for PCC membership, or as warden, or as a deanery synod rep.

We're blessed to have active and willing volunteers and teams, keen to do their bit to not only keep things going at St Ed's, but also to develop them. Do let us know if there's anything you're bursting to do and help with.

**Could you share your skills?** Calling all our closet sparkies, chippies, brickies and plums to help set up a new group - 'Buildingforce'. Inspired by the great success of Groundforce, led by Steve and Jane Burton, which meets each month to look after the gardens, churchyard and paths around our buildings, we're looking to establish this new group in order to be more self-sufficient, so we're asking for volunteers.

Buildingforce won't have regular meetings or events, but will be a group or list of volunteers willing to be called on when needed, as issues arise, to care for our buildings. Would you be able to change a lightbulb? Or help with any of the basic jobs that buildings need? At the moment all the jobs seem to land on the same two or three people, but we think there are hidden skills latent in our community, waiting to burst forth along with Spring! Please let us know if you'd be happy to join the list.

### Looking ahead

**Plant Sale:** Saturday May 16th. Just reminding you in good time that we hope you're planting and sowing so that we've plenty of plants to sell, and that you'll reserve the date to be sure of coming along to pick up amazing bargains, along with coffee and biscuits, and meeting friends.

*Ann & Paul, Churchwardens*

# From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

## BURIAL OF ASHES

1st February 2026 - Burial of ashes of Peter Hough

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## 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:-

<b>Monday &amp; Wednesday</b> 9.30am - 3.00pm	<b>Tuesday</b> Closed	<b>Thursday</b> 11.30am - 3.00pm (after Baby & Toddler Group)	<b>Friday</b> 9.30am - 1.00pm
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If out of hours please leave a message; the answer phone is checked daily.

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## Dates for your Diary - March 2026

### **Sunday 1st - *Second Sunday of Lent***

**Food Bank Sunday:** *Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 3rd March. Thank you.*

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

10.00am - St Matthews - Choral Holy Communion, led by David Anderson

2.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Bible Course

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

### **Monday 2nd March**

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

### **Tuesday 3rd March**

2-3.30pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM: 'Attachment, Trauma and Fostering' by Melonie Hambly

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

### **Wednesday 4th March**

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by David Anderson

10.45am - Holy Communion at Stanley House

11.20am - Holy Communion at Abbeydale

### **Thursday 5th March**

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

### **Saturday 7th March**

9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

Continued on page 6

# Dates for your Diary - March 2026 continued

## **Sunday 8th March - *Third Sunday of Lent***

- 10.00am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion, led by Paul Smith & Revd Rachael
- 10.00am - St Matthews - Morning Prayer, led by Clive Lemmon
- 2.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Bible Course
- 6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by David Anderson

## **Monday 9th March**

- 2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: The Women by Kristin Hannah
- 7.30pm - Community Room, Catherine McAuley House - Ascension Prayer Group
- 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

## **Wednesday 11th March**

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

## **Thursday 12th March**

- 10.00am - Allestree Park - Nature Tots

## **Friday 13th March**

- 1.30pm - St Edmund's - Funeral of Winifred Mary Woodhouse
- 9.00pm - St Edmund's - Compline

## **Sunday 15th March - *Mothering Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Lent***

- 10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer, led by Diana Mellor
- 10.00am - St Matthews - Choral Holy Communion, led by Revd Rachael & Colette Desborough
- 6.00pm - St Matthew's - Choral Evensong, led by Clive Lemmon

## **Monday 16th March**

- 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

## **Tuesday 17th March**

- 10.30am - St Edmund's - Funeral of Barry Woodward
- 12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - Luncheon Club

## **Wednesday 18th March**

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

## **Thursday 19th March**

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

## **Friday 20th March**

- 8.30am - 10.30 am - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Community Café
- 3.00pm - St Edmund's - Burial of ashes of Eileen O'Key

## **Sunday 22nd March - *Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)***

- 10.00am - St Edmund's - Choral Holy Communion, led by Revd Rachael & Colette Desborough

# Dates for your Diary - March 2026 continued

## **Sunday 22nd March - *Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)* continued**

10.00am - St Matthews - Morning Prayer - led by Melonie Hambly

2.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Bible Course

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Choral Evensong, led by Paul Smith

## **Monday 23rd March**

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

## **Wednesday 25th March**

10.30am - St Edmund's - Holy Communion - led by David Anderson

## **Thursday 26th March**

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

## **Friday 27th March**

9.00pm - St Edmund's - Compline

## **Saturday 28th March**

9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party

10.00am - St Edmund's - Brass cleaning

## **Sunday 29th March - *Palm Sunday***

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

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

2.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Bible Course

## **Monday 30th March**

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

## **Tuesday 31st March**

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

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

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## Remember 10.30am is the new time for the Wednesday Holy Communion Service

From 3rd December 2025 the Wednesday Holy Communion service at St Edmund's has moved to the later start time of 10.30am. The experiment is running for a trial period to the end of March 2026 and we hope that this slightly later time may help more people to attend which would be lovely.

*Revd. Rachael Brooks*

# Bookworms Meeting is on 9th March

Bookworms meet in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm. Our next meeting is on Monday 9th February and we will be discussing "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell. When we prepared our book list last year, who could have predicted the film made from this book would have been in the headlines when the month came round for us to read it.

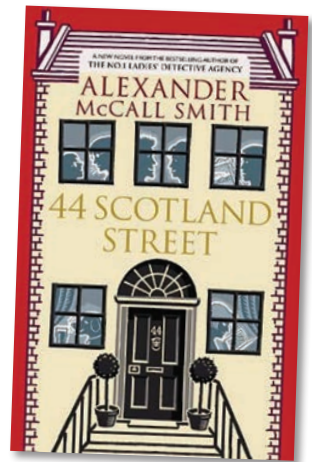
For the following months the reading list is as follows:

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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## Happy Birthday to Paul Smith

Our soon to retire Churchwarden, Paul Smith, celebrated his forthcoming 70th birthday with friends from St Edmund's Choir and the congregation after he led the Choral 6.00pm service on Sunday 22nd February. The magnificent cake was shared by those there, and portions taken to others who could not attend.



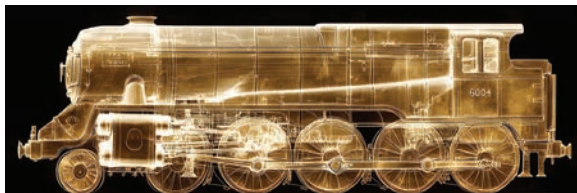


## Monthly Magazine Share?

I receive Steam railway magazine monthly and I had the thought that someone might be interested in reading the magazine after me. Let me know.

*Richard Wood*

Derby 559700 Mob 07866 286338



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## Happy Birthday to Jill Knight

Jean Knight has just celebrated her 90th birthday and when visited for home communion she was found to be surrounded by beautiful cards and flowers!



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## Allestree W.I. Meeting on 17th March 2026

The Allestree W.I. will meet Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby. DE22 2GP.

The Talk is 'The Magic Circle' by Mr. Clive Moore. The Competition is a puzzle in any form. Visitors welcome £5.00.pp

Enquiries can be made to Sandra on 01332 554899.

# Your Parish Magazine

Your Parish Magazine – a much loved and appreciated publication. I thought you might like to know how it's produced. I don't mean the regular contributions that come so reliably and make it so interesting and vital to the smooth running of the Parish, I mean the process of getting the actual copy in your hand.

Top of the Triangle : Fiona Fraser – organiser in chief

Second Layer : Claire Pegg and Chris Willis – proof readers

Third Layer : The distribution team. Dr Gill Bailey, Diane Bakhda, Michelle Bennett, Jane Burton, Anne Cogley, Gill and Richard Flatman, Pam and Paul Highman, Colin and Margaret Pearson, Terry Poole, Louise Whittaker and me. (Three are missing from the photo - Louise, Richard and Diane).

Layers one and two are called the 'Editorial Team', but there's no editor as such. When contributions are received one person, Fiona Fraser – the top of the triangle and amazingly skilled - arranges the material in acceptable format, sends it to layer two – the proof readers - and then liaises with the printers.

I'm writing this now, not only as a way of shining a 'thank you' light on the 14 people in the wonderful delivery team, who never fail to deliver magazines to the subscribers, BUT ALSO as a way of letting you know that a few months ago Fiona was considering giving up her role. Fiona's management of the process is irreplaceable, second to none, but it can be arduous – especially the double issue at Christmas. After some consideration she's decided to stay for now, but it's up to us as contributors to make her job as easy as possible by submitting articles that are complete in themselves and require no other input than that provided by the proof readers.

All the best for now – and do please keep the contributions coming. People write to me from far and near to say how much this magazine is appreciated.

*Chris Willis*



# Snowdrops at Hopton Hall

I wonder how many of us enjoyed the magnificent array of snowdrops at Hopton Hall this year? This is a tradition which goes back over at least 20 years and each year has seen additions and improvements along the 1.25 mile track. Highly recommended for February 2027!

*Gill Flatman*



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## This Year's Plant Sale will be on 16th May

Following last year's hugely successful plant sale we shall be holding one again on Saturday May 16th 10.00 - 12.00, in/outside St Edmund's Choir Vestry.

There will be a wide selection of flower and vegetable plants available and we would welcome donations of any surplus plants (any quantity, shape or size!) nearer the time.

Refreshments will be available during the event. More details to follow in next month's magazine

*Mary Pollett, Events Committee*

# Allestree Flower Group 17th March 2026

Our March meeting is on Tuesday 17. with a demonstration given by Claire Bond entitled "Spring Gifts". Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

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

Admission: Members £5.00 Non-Members £9.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457



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## Allestree History Group Meetings March 2026

The group meet twice a month at 7.00pm on the first and third Wednesdays in the Choir Vestry at St Nicholas' Church, Allestree Lane, Allestree, Derby DE22 2DS.

4th March: "Stanton Gone but not Forgotten – The Story of a Derbyshire Ironworks and its People" by Stephen Flinders.

18th March: "Derbyshire at Sea, the connections Derbyshire has with the ocean" by Liz Keeley.

Membership £22 per half year.

Visitors welcome – fee £5 per talk (includes a drink and biscuit)

For enquiries about the programmes, contact Andrew on 07969 295796 or visit [www.allestreehistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.allestreehistorygroup.org.uk)

### THE REPAIR CAFÉ 7th March

The volunteer-run Derby Repair Cafe will be open on Saturday 7th March at the West End Community Centre, Mackworth Road, DE22 3BL.

**Dust off your bikes and get them ready for Spring!** Trained volunteers will be on hand to help with repairs, check your bikes for safety and give advice. As always, we will also accept other items for repair to prevent them going into landfill and a community cafe will be open for drinks and cake.

Last repairs taken at 3.30pm. Don't forget that we can only take cash for donations and refreshments.

Full details can be found on the Repair Café Facebook page.

### 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, 07971 680377**

## All Age Worship, 10am



### 1st March at St Edmund's

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

The theme will be the four women who outwitted Pharaoh

**ALL WELCOME**

## Sunday services at St Edmund's in March



- Sun. 1st** 10am All Age Service
- Sun. 8th** 10am Holy Communion  
6pm Choral Evensong
- Sun. 15th** 10am Morning Prayer
- Sun. 22nd** 10am Choral Holy Communion  
6pm Choral Evensong
- Sun. 29th** 10am Choral Holy Communion

**ALL WELCOME**

## Compline

13th & 27th March, 9pm  
at St Edmund's Church



*Compline is a short 15 minute service of reflection for Lent, sung by the men of the choir.*

**All welcome**

## Sunday services at St Matthew's in March



- Sun. 1st** 10am Choral Holy Communion  
6pm Evensong
- Sun. 8th** 10am Morning Prayer
- Sun. 15th** 10am Choral Holy Communion  
6pm Choral Evensong
- Sun. 22nd** 10am Morning Prayer
- Sun. 29th** 10am All Age Service

**ALL WELCOME**

# "Love Your Yew Tree" Week Took Place w/c 9th Feb.



**Love Your Yew Tree Week** - What's it all about? Well, it's an opportunity to recognise the wealth of ancient and veteran yew trees, which we have in the UK, the majority of which are standing in the churchyards of England and Wales. The idea behind it is not only to re-acquaint ourselves with these ancient trees, but to give them a little of the care and attention from which they would benefit.

Since we are fortunate enough to have a veteran yew tree which is mooted to be 1000 years old standing close to our church building (and is very much a symbol of Allestree sitting alongside the crown and sword of St

Edmund in our church logo,) we thought it would be appropriate to take part in this special week which has been organised by Caring for God's Acre, in collaboration with the Ancient Yew Group.

Although yew trees need little management and are very resilient overall, there are a few things which can cause problems and it was proposed that each year we might focus on specific tasks to keep both the ancient, and other younger, yew trees growing in churchyards healthy.

Accordingly, the Groundforce team, braving another wet morning, turned their attention this month to our churchyard yews. This involved pulling up a vast number of small holly seedlings which were growing beneath the canopy of our veteran tree to reduce competition for nutrients and future damage to its root system.

Although this tree was largely free of ivy, many of the other yew trees in the churchyard have masses of ivy growing on their trunks, and into their canopies, which causes considerable damage to the trees themselves due to its sheer weight. So, the rest of the session was spent cutting the ivy round one of the larger yew trees to discourage growth and clearing the mass of fallen ivy-covered branches from other large trees. Overall we had a hard, but very satisfying session, but it was a sobering thought that there are many more trees in our churchyard that would benefit from such attention.

*Jane and Steve Burton*  
St Edmund's Groundforce

# From the Archives - St Edmund's Ancient Yew

**AYG** About Us Find A Yew Yew Map Churchyard Yews Care and Management Research

Go to map  
Back to search

## Allestree

**Nearest town:** Derby  
**Site type:** churchyard  
**Access:** Public  
**Church name:** St Edmund  
**Diocese:** Derby  
**County:** Derbyshire  
**Country:** England  
**Grid ref:** SK34773970  
**Lost yew site:** No  
**Date visited:** 8-Aug-99  
**Recorded by:** Tim Hills  
**Protection & responsibility:** Parochial Church Council  
**Yews recorded at this site:** Ancient 5m-7m

**Notes:** A Saxon dedication suggests a 10th century chapel originally on this site. The yew, which grows S of the present church, is considered important enough to be included as part of the church logo.



## ST EDMUND'S



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

Thank you.

# Community Pop-in Café

Coffee Tea Toast

Fellowship Room  
St Matthew's Church  
Darley Abbey  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
8.30 - 10.30am

All welcome  
Share time with friends

# Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (1)

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

## LUMSDALE AND RIBER CASTLE

Two quite dissimilar features of Matlock's history are visited on the walk described below, one being well hidden and very workaday, the other extremely visible and grandiose (in its time), with both owing their existence in different ways to the properties of water. The route is 5 miles long with some steep slopes (well, this is Matlock!).

**Lumsdale**, about a mile to the east, can be called the hidden valley of Matlock. Bentley Brook, which receives its water from Matlock Moor via Cuckoostone Dale, drops some 80 feet down this steep, narrow valley, at one time powering up to (it is said) 17 mills on the way! These included cotton, tape, paper, corn, saw-mills and bleach works; there was even a small railway. Generally referred to as 'Matlock Mill', the site is actually in Tansley parish from where it drew its workers and is now in the care of the Arkwright Society's Lumsdale Project. Although most



Lumsdale millpond



Ribber Hill from Lumsdale

buildings (typically mid-18thc) are in ruins and no machinery survives, an interesting path and steps wind through the site up to the millpond, with good views of the falls and empty water-wheel pit en-route. The Arkwright Society have since added information boards and improved access with handrails up the old flights of steps.

# Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (1)



Riber Castle from High Tor

**Riber Castle** was built in 1862-8 by John Smedley, Matlock's hosier and hydrotherapy magnate, famed for his Hydro-palace once patronized by wealthy celebrities. Acting as his own architect, he used stone from a nearby quarry and employed skilled craftsmen such as Italian plasterers on his mock-castle; electricity and gas were supplied but water was from a deep well. He died a few years later but his wife

continued to live there. Later it served as a school, became derelict until bought by Matlock Council in 1936, then requisitioned by Government in 1940 for an emergency food depot. Few original internal features or early records have survived. In 1962 a group of zoologists formed a popular nature reserve on the site, until forced to close in 2000 following criticism of the animals' deteriorating conditions. Subsequently, after years of argument, permission was granted in 2006 for conversion of the building into residential apartments.

**Lead Mining** features prominently in Matlock's history and the entrance to the old riverside Ladygate Mine is passed on our route, but it was not very productive.

Incredibly, the mine's pumps were powered by a water wheel on the opposite bank



Riber Manor

via operating rods which crossed the river on a wooden bridge. Later, power came from a steam engine on top of the cliff. High Tor, further downstream is riddled with shafts and drainage levels. Although lead mining declined in the 1800's, Riber Mine, situated behind High Tor, survived up to the 1950's, using electric pumps to counter the worsening problem of flooding.

Continued on page 18

# Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (1)

## LUMSDALE AND RIBER CASTLE *continued*

**The Route** From the centre of Matlock, pass through the length of Hall Leys Park and along Knowleston Place into Alfreton Road. Turn L into Butts Drive (opposite the Red Cross) and R onto a footpath, continuing past a playground and the Ford garage into the lane up Lumsdale. Turn L uphill, past printing works, to the old mill complex. Pass through the ruins and up steps by the rocky gorge, emerging at the old millpond (314607) – a pleasant spot with convenient seats for lunch. Cross the millpond bridge, passing Lumsdale Farm, and along the bridleway/lane which rises into Tansley. Halfway up the rise, turn R (opposite White Leas Cottage) along The Knoll and into the village playground. Cross the playground to a footpath at the top RH corner, passing behind the church and swinging back to the road; then turn L and take the next footpath R, branching L to cross a stream and up to Alfreton Road (320595). Cross to the footpath opposite, rising straight ahead through two gates and four stiles. The path levels and crosses fields (with a dog-leg part-way) towards Riber, where a drive leads past Riber Hall and up the narrow lane past Rose Cottages towards the castle. Turn R at the top on a footpath which passes below the castle and gradually drops down to Starkholmes Road (300594) alongside Highfields School. Turn R until, just before the Duke of York pub, a footpath L leads under the railway and R along the river bank to Knowleston & Hall Leys Parks.



Matlock from Riber



Castle from Hearthstone Lane

## Catching up with Julie in Hexham

We had a most enjoyable trip to Hexham to visit Julie Barham. We can confirm that she is very well and extremely busy. She is a lay reader and steward at the Abbey, works in a library, sits on several committees and is thrilled that the charity book shop has moved to disabled friendly premises allowing her to volunteer there. We came out with 13 books – Diane Bakhda watch out!

We had a lovely day out with Julie at the Hancock Museum at Newcastle University. Despite the pouring rain and non-functioning external lift, we spent several enjoyable hours looking at a model of Hadrian's Wall which took up the whole length of a very large room, a stuffed dodo (plus other animals), classical and pre-history plus geological and archaeological exhibits. Julie came back to our hotel for an excellent afternoon tea, seen in the photo below. We were joined at the weekend by Hannah who had driven down from the Glamis estate. Hannah is working as a GP two days a week and lectures at Dundee University the other three.

We were able to attend choral Evensong at the Abbey sung by a large choir and then morning Communion for Candlemas. Both services included one of our favourite anthems by Eccard (which we then sang the following Sunday at St. Ed'munds).

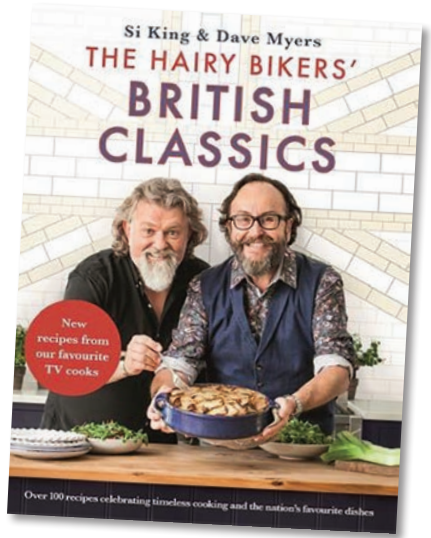
*Elizabeth and Chris Jack*



# Book Review

## “The Hairy Bikers' British Classics” by Si King and Dave Myers

Pub hardback by Seven Dials (Orion Publishing),  
2018 ISBN 9781 4091 71959 (Also available in  
e-book format, ISBN 9781 40917 71966)



Not long before release on TV of one of the last series by these two distinctive cooks, “The Hairy Bikers Go West”, Dave Myers says in a brief trailer, “The Hairies are on the road again !” and shortly after, “I never stop learning about food”.

This pair of comments aptly sums up their philosophy, combining creative energy with a thoughtful willingness to listen and adapt. Of course the brand would be nowhere without also including great skills and experience with motorbikes – but on the cookery side, it’s hard to beat.

Does this translate into readability, practical help and good results in the kitchen ? Or just the boundless enthusiasm we have come to expect on the screen ?

The book is certainly well organised. We have chapters such as “Smashing Sunday Dinners”, “Cosy Comfort Classics”, “Tasty Teatime” and “Fab Festive Feasts”. Reassuringly or confusingly depending on your demographic, “Teatime” clearly refers to traditional “high teas” as served in Scotland, Northern Ireland and much of the North of England in the years the Bikers were growing up – so under this heading we see at least as many recipes for final cake offerings as we do for savoury classics like Rarebit, Quiche Lorraine and Tomato and Chutney Turnovers.

Randomly taking a two-page spread from “Favourite Family Suppers” (p 58), my comments are these, on Homity Pie. First it’s refreshing to see a vegetarian dish, and the photography, always superb, makes it look interesting and tempting, should it be new to the reader. Secondly, you could always use bought shortcrust pastry, but no apology is offered for Part 1 being how to make this pastry in easy steps, clearly described and approachably broken down. Thirdly, suggested variations on the vegetable fillings are clever and suit a range of tastes. Fourthly, if you are unfamiliar with the TV programmes, you are generally not at a disadvantage, though the sole cheese recommendation could perhaps have benefited from, “Several other British cheeses would work well; maybe try Lancashire or Red Leicester”. Lastly, all the steps are clearly described and cooking-times (while of course approximate and dependent on individual oven) realistically estimated. I am tempted to make this pie for the first time !

Continued on page 21

# Book Review continued


An aspect of this cookbook that is quite stimulating is the broader-than-usual interpretation of the phrase, “British Classics”. The Bikers say in their introductory Welcome on p 6 that in the last half-century or so, “We’ve embraced the food of other countries too”. So, alongside the usual Toad-in-the-hole etc, we meet dishes like Jerk Chicken, American Pulled Pork and a Thai curry. Fair point, and a good illustration of Biker enthusiasm going straight from physical journey to TV account of that journey and on to the page. (From experience, one of the recipes in this chapter which I make regularly, their Kedgeree on p 96, works well.)

There are things in this book which might worry a dietitian. Some would say that most or all recipes are indulgent, even too much so. Cream, butter, lard etc all feature, often lavishly, and sometimes plain carbohydrates are in short supply. But of course the cook has to interpret intelligently on points like this. The Homity Pie is a good example – serve non-enormous slices with plenty of mashed potato ? If we “classically” serve slices of bread with Fish and Chips, why not with buttery Kedgeree too ? Don’t damage the recipe, just be kind to the eaters ...


A very enjoyable cookbook to work with practically as well as delve into, and warmly recommended.

Kate Smith

Late September 2025




**ST EDMUND'S  
ST MATTHEW'S**



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

**15 March  
10 am**




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

**Join us and celebrate!**

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

ST EDMUND'S, ST MATTHEW'S, ST NICK'S & ST PAUL'S CHURCHES

Service	When	Where
Palm Sunday Service	29 <sup>th</sup> March 10am	St Edmund's, St Nick's & St Paul's
Palm Sunday All Age	10am	St Matthew's
Evening Prayer	30 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup> March & 1 <sup>st</sup> April 7pm	Online
Stripping Altar	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 7.30pm	St Edmund's
Hour at the Cross	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2pm	St Edmund's
All age Informal	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 3pm	St Nick's
Good Friday reflective services	7pm 7.30pm	St Nick's St Matthew's
Easter Day Holy Communion	5 <sup>th</sup> April 10am	St Matthew's
Easter Day Holy Communion All age	10am	St Edmund's, St Nick's & St Paul's



# Pancake Evening



Continued on page 23

# Pancake Evening continued

Our annual Shrove Tuesday event was a great success with large numbers of adults and children tucking into pancakes with a cheese or selection of sweet toppings. The raffle was well supported and raised nearly £120. A further £237 was given in donations. Many thanks to the individuals and local businesses who donated the excellent array of prizes. Children also enjoyed various colouring activities and Lego.

Huge thanks to Paul Smith and his team for keeping up with the constant demand for pancakes and to the Events committee for organising the raffle, toppings, decoration of the hall and washing up!

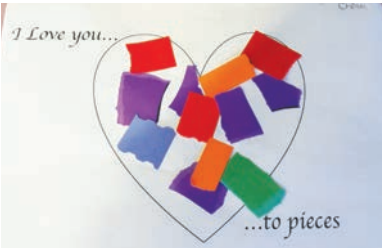
Our Lent project of eating the contents then filling small jam jars with coins got off to a good start. Further jars are available at the back of church. Please return filled jars at Easter.

*Elizabeth Jack*



# If you have young children, you may be interested in ... St Edmund's Baby & Toddler Group

**WHAT?** St Edmund's Baby & Toddler Group is a small friendly group where parents & carers can enjoy a tea or coffee with a biscuit whilst their little people (up to pre-school age) can play with a variety of toys or head to the craft table. There is



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

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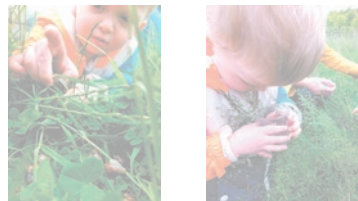
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**Thursday 12 March, 10-11.30am,**  
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member of the team will direct you.

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

# Help to Choose St Edmund's Charities 2026

Dear all,

St Edmund's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) donated to seven charitable causes during 2025, based on proposals made by members of this parish. The PCC is now looking for appropriate charities to support in 2026. You can nominate charities covering mission, children's charities, education, training, community, medical charities, etc., and your input can be for a local, national or overseas charitable cause.

Please submit your nomination and why it should be supported by **10.00am Sunday 5th April 2026 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, in either case responding to the prompts in the form below. 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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# March 2026

## Dean Peter writes...

Our journey through Lent has a particular shape to it, one that is revealed to us through the Gospel reading that many of us heard read in our churches on the Sunday before Lent, the story of Jesus' Transfiguration from St Matthew's Gospel.



When the Transfiguration is read to us, we stand in our imaginations on the top of the mountain with Jesus and his disciples, recovering our breath from the steep climb. That was my experience in the Holy Land many years ago when with friends we decided not to take the local taxis but clambered up the never-ending, winding road, regretting our decision to walk!

So, it's an inspired choice because a few days before Lent begins, we take in the view of the valley that stretches out below us, and we see a picture of the journey to come. Just as Jesus and his disciples would have looked toward Jerusalem from the mountain's summit, so we look to what is to come. In the distance we can see three crosses standing outside the city walls of Jerusalem. In our mind's eye we can see Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension and even beyond that the birthday of the church at Pentecost.

Before us we can see the winding path down into the valley which represents to us our journey through Lent, which is a spiritual pathway down the mountainside. The valley floor is Lent itself, the space the church creates for us through its promotion of personal discipline, fasting, bible reading, study and prayer for the next few weeks.

Spending dedicated time with God, wrapped around by activities that practise restraint, creates a deeper awareness of ourselves, our desires and our relationship with God. Lent is like entering a valley where the noise of the world decreases, where we become alert to the sounds of the countryside that we often fail otherwise to hear, and the stillness allows us to lift up hearts to God.

This is just one of the reasons why we read the story of the Transfiguration just before Lent begins, but there are deeper ones. Seeing God's glory in Jesus represents the goal of our journey as followers of Jesus as we encounter face to face the one who is fully human and fully divine. We glimpse our ultimate destination as Christians on the mountain of Transfiguration, but, as Peter became deeply aware, on this earth we cannot freeze the moment but need to continue our journey. Seeing Jesus in his glory impels us to engage with the realities of our lives, our communities and of this world.

Jesus with his disciples descended the mountain and entered back into ordinary everyday life, no doubt with a fresh vision of God, but more aware of path towards the suffering, agony and death of crucifixion and the hope of resurrection.

And the words of God the Father from the cloud that settled on the mountaintop can also guide us on our Lenten journey. 'This is my Son, the beloved: with whom I am well pleased; listen to him'. Focus on the person of Jesus our Saviour and listen to God's voice to us through all that we do during Lent. On behalf of the Bishop's Leadership Team, I send my prayers for a profitable time in the valley of Lent, and as we anticipate our encounter with the crucified and risen one at Easter.

**The Very Revd Dr Peter Robinson**  
**Dean of Derby**

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# St. Edmund's Parish

Church Website: [stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk](http://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
Handbells:	Gill Flatman	557028
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Rainbows, Brownies & Guides:	Alwyn Young	07740 201963

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

**DEADLINES: 20th March for April magazine & 20th April for May 2026 magazine.**

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

# Pancake Evening - See inside, pages 22 & 23



## Love Your Yew Tree Week

Love Your Yew Tree Week - what's that? St Edmund's Groundforce team hadn't come across it either, but that's hardly surprising since it was only introduced last year.



Read all about it on pages 14 & 15.

