



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

News from the Parish

October 2026



www.stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

www.facebook.com/stedmundsallestree

St. Edmund's - October 2026

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

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

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

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

FOOD BANK - The SECOND Sunday of the month, 11th October 2026.

Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 13th October. REMEMBER, THE DONATION DAY IS NOW THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

FRONT COVER: Rev'd John Rice celebrated 50 years of service to the Church with a party in St Edmund's Church Hall - read all about it on page 12 and more photos can be found on the back cover.

BACK COVER: The Scarecrow Festival was on display throughout Allestree Village, including at St Edmund's. Michèle and her sister, Diane, set up in the Church Lychgate. More photos can be found on pages 22 and 23.

If you would like to sponsor a month's colour cover, at a cost of £35, please contact one of the editorial team or a Churchwarden.

Safeguarding Initiative

We have a strong Safeguarding Initiative here at St Edmund's Church.

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

The Rev'd Rachael Writes

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October is Black History Month, which offers our church community a time to reflect on our shared Christian calling to global justice and compassion. On July 30th the Church commemorates the anti-slavery work of William Wilberforce, who is remembered proudly by our nation for this work, but he was very far from alone in his endeavours. On the same day we remember his contemporary Olaudah Equiano, who was enslaved before winning his freedom and Thomas Clarkson, a tireless campaigner, researcher and lobbyist for the cause.

All three men worked for the abolition of the slave trade in Britain, which was passed into law in 1807, under the terms of which it was against the law for any British ship or British subject to trade in enslaved people. However, Wilberforce and Equiano had died before plantation slavery in British colonies was finally abolished in 1838, when slave owners were compensated for freeing their slaves, but, shockingly, the slaves themselves received nothing. Former slaves and their descendants were subject to strict vagrancy laws, wages often below subsistence level for those who were taken on by their former owners and largely denied political power.

We can each wrestle with how we respond to the injustice meted out by our forebears. But it's important that we as a wider Church live out our calling to global justice and compassion. So, I thought it would be helpful to give a little information on Project Spire, which some may have read about in The Times and other media, not all of which has reflected the full purpose of the project or given accurate information on where the money will come from.

PROJECT SPIRE

Project Spire is a long-term investment fund established by the Church Commissioners. It follows a 2023 research audit revealing that an historic endowment fund, Queen Anne's Bounty, heavily invested in the South Sea Company and received donations from figures connected to the slave trade. The fund aims to support communities affected by the legacy of slavery through economic, educational, and health investments where access to finance is heavily restricted, particularly within lower-income regions across the Global South.

Rather than a one-off handout, it functions as a sustainable investment model aimed at long-term community development with any financial returns generated by the fund directly reinvested into local grants and initiatives supporting those same underserved communities. It represents one of the few direct mechanisms the Church of England utilizes to support vulnerable populations facing systemic poverty abroad.

Some critics argue that the fund is too large and that it is beyond the remit of the Church Commissioners. However, when we weigh national church expenditure against the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission, projects like Spire align closely with our foundational priorities.

Continued on page 4

The Rev'd Rachael Writes continued

- Seeking Justice: Responding to structural economic inequality where finance is scarce.
- Showing Compassion: Standing in solidarity with our global neighbours experiencing poverty.
- Stewardship: The financial sums involved are relatively small compared to the total resources managed by the Church Commissioners, making it a modest yet targeted tool for good.

In any diverse church family, national initiatives can prompt differing views on how central funds ought to be allocated. Not every national initiative will directly benefit every church member or parish. However, the Church seeks to serve a wide range of needs and priorities, and there are many within the Church for whom projects such as Spire are of considerable importance.

There have been complaints that the project will divert money intended for parish use. These are unfounded. This funding commitment will be sourced in its entirety from the Endowment Fund managed by the Church Commissioners. None of the money given to a parish church will be used for this fund. None of the money will come from parish income.

There are also complaints that the historical links are miscalculated. These were firmly rebutted by the Church Commissioners. For more information about this and answers to other questions you may have please go to: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/national-church-institutions/church-commissioners-england/who-we-are/historic-links-enslavement/frequently-asked-questions>.

It's important for us as Church and for our nation to grapple with our history, to consider together how we respond to it. It's not good enough to simply point out that other cultures and countries also traded in slavery, that African slaves' own rulers traded them. That doesn't make the injustice go away. Each nation is responsible for reckoning with its own history. We bear collective responsibility before God for the consequences of the actions of our forebears, irrespective of what other nations do or have done.

"Our calling to confront historic injustice and our commitment to sustaining parish life both flow from the same Gospel imperative: to love our neighbour as ourselves and to enable all to flourish.*" The parable of the Good Samaritan makes clear that there is no one who is not our neighbour.

Rev'd. Rachael, Associate Minister, St Edmund's Church

*This sentence is a quote from the Archbishop of Canterbury. The link for which is <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/news-and-press-releases/bishop-sarah-mullally-archbishop-canterbury-elect-responds-parliamentarians-letter-regarding-church>

From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

FUNERAL at St Edmund's

17th August - Funeral of Pamela Hodson

BURIAL OF ASHES at St Edmund's

9th September - Burial of ashes of Wendy Lawrence

Parish Office Hours & Contact Details

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

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

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



BREAKFAST CHURCH

Last September, at St Nick's we launched 1st Sunday Breakfast Church. The morning follows four stages: **Welcome** (sharing breakfast and conversation), **Gather** (exploring the monthly theme), **Respond** (through interactive prayer, quiet reflection, all age activities, or Bible study), and **Send** (gathering to encourage one another to love God, each other, and our community throughout the week).

So far, we have explored the **Lord's Prayer** and the **Fruit of the Spirit**, with the **Creed** our current theme.

Please pray for:

- All age worship across the four parishes
- That we would be church in a way that connects across generations
- For the links between families, schools and church as we seek to nurture faith and discipleship
- For families to hear about and join the services and encounter the good news of Jesus

Churchwardens' View October 2026

A Regular Update from Ann Miller and Elizabeth Jack

Trees: we all love them and they do such a lot for us. We enjoy the lovely autumn colours as the season changes. Trees also, however, can occupy our time and minds in not-so-positive ways when they bring problems that we can do nothing about! Our churchyard at St Ed's is 'closed', meaning that as there are no longer spaces available for new graves, maintaining our space has become the responsibility of Derby City Council. As the relevant council teams are seriously short staffed we often have to wait some time for jobs to be done, but because DCC is responsible for the churchyard, we are not allowed to set to with pruners and saws! We're all aware of the problems, and we're grateful that when safety is an urgent issue we can jump to the top of the DCC queue; eg in the case of the recent sudden branch drop over Church Walk which you may have seen, and which the council team cleared up very quickly. Extra layers of complications arise too, of course, from our being in a conservation area.

Our smart new noticeboards, splendidly red and shiny, are continuing to spring up around the churchyard and hall. Our thanks go to the team, led by Geoff Bailey and Paul Smith, who are working so hard and giving so much time to complete this task.

The repointing work on our church stonework is now happening, complete with scaffolding, cherry picker and a team of stone experts. As we write this, the weather is, apparently, ideal for repointing work to be done. Let's hope it stays favourable until completion of the work.



Churchwardens' View October 2026 continued

The tower clock repair will, hopefully, have happened by the time you're reading this, so we should be accurate and striking again!

Coming soon:

On 4 October our All Age Worship service at 10am celebrates Harvest and looks at the theme of manna from heaven and water in the wilderness. Bring the family!

On 1 November at 3pm we mark All Souls' Day with our quiet service remembering our loved ones who are no longer with us. Everyone is very welcome to join us afterwards for refreshments and a chat in the hall. Please be sure to let our administrator, Caroline, know on 01332 552031 if you would like us to read out your loved one's name during the service.

On 8 November our Service of Remembrance combines our 10am service in church with the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial in the churchyard. Do join us, along with the Royal British Legion, to honour our fallen heroes.

Ann & Elizabeth, Churchwardens

GET READY - PLANT SALE 2027

We will be holding our annual plant sale in May next year. Now is the time to take cuttings and divide perennials. The sale will be in the Church Hall (not Choir vestry) so there will be plenty of room for your donations! We will be very grateful for plants of any sort, shape or size, next May.

Mary Pollett, Events committee



Community Pop-in Café

Coffee **Tea** **Toast**

Fellowship Room, St Matthew's Church, Darley Abbey
Friday 16th October'26 from 8.30am to 10.30am
All welcome - Share time with friends

Dates for your Diary - October 2026

Thursday 1 October 10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Friday 2 October

1.00pm - St Edmund's - Funeral of Michael Smith

Saturday 3 October 9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce

Sunday 4 October - *18th Sunday after Trinity*

10.00am - St Edmund's - All Age service, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks and the All Age Team

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

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

Monday 5 October 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 6 October

2.00-3.30pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FoSM - 'The Dark Side of Nursery Rhymes' by Tracey French

Wednesday 7 October

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

Thursday 8 October 10.00am – Allestree Park - Nature Tots

Sunday 11 October - *19th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 23)*

Today is Food Bank Sunday. Please leave your donations in St Edmund's Church or St Matthew's Fellowship Room by Tuesday 13 October. Thank you.

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

10.00am - St Matthew's - Service of the Word, led by Melonie Hambly

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

Monday 12 October

2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms: 'A Room with a View' by E M Forster

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

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 13 October 12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - Luncheon Club

Wednesday 14 October

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

Thursday 15 October

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

2.30 pm - St Edmund's - Funeral of Ian Rochiffe

Dates for your Diary - October 2026 continued

Friday 16 October

8.30am - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - Community Cafe

Sunday 18 October - *Luke the Evangelist*

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

10.00am - St Matthew's - Choral Holy Communion, led by David Anderson

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

Monday 19 October 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Wednesday 21 October

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

Thursday 22 October 10.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Baby & Toddler Group

Saturday 24 October

1.00pm - St Edmund's - Wedding of Adam Bennett & Amy Broad

Sunday 25 October - *Bible Sunday*

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

After the 10.00 am service - St Edmund's - Burial of ashes of Patricia Cant

10.00am - St Matthews - All Age service, led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks and
the All Age Team

6.00pm - St Edmund's - Evensong (Said) led by David Anderson

Monday 26 October 7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbells

Tuesday 27 October 12 noon - St Edmund's Church Hall - Luncheon Club

Wednesday 28 October

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

Thursday 29 October

11.00am - St Edmund's - Burial of ashes of Sandra Thornton

Sat 31 October

9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party

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 and/or fiona.fraser@burnsgraphics.co.uk by the 20th of a month to be in the next issue. Our Parish magazines are also on our website:- www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk.

Pastoral Care Team

St Edmund's has a long-standing pastoral care team who pray for people who would like us to pray for them and visit members of the congregation who are housebound, whether temporarily or long-term, at home or in our local residential care homes.

If you or someone you know would like us to pray for you or visit you then please get in touch. Either via Caroline at the Church office: steds.stmatts@outlook.com via me: rev.rachaelbrooks@gmail.com or 07305 140573 or talk to one of the team. The team are: Louise Whittaker, Anne Cogley, Cyra Buxton, Rev'd John Rice, Gill and Richard Flatman, Paul Smith and me. We usually visit in pairs and are all DBS checked.

Please give thanks in your prayers for the team, they support so many so well.

With blessings, *Rev'd Rachael Brooks*



Allestree Flower Group 20th October

Our next meeting will be on 20th October from 7.00pm for 7.30pm, at our usual venue, The Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree, Derbyshire, DE22 2FT. There will be a demonstration by Lynne Sharpe entitled "Flagtastic".

Admission: Members £5.00 Non-member £9.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457



Allestree W.I. meeting on 20th October 2026

We meet on Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 2.00pm at Woodlands Church, Blenheim Drive, Allestree, DE22 2GP. The speaker will be Janet Moore, who will give a talk on Local Justice in Ilkeston 60yrs ago. The competition is "A 1960's memento". Visitors welcome £5.00pp.

For further information telephone Sandra on 01332 554899.

Sunday services at St Edmund's in October



Sunday 4	10 am	All Age Service
Sunday 11	10 am	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 18	10am	Service of the Word (with organ)
Sunday 25	10 am	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Evensong (Said) led by David Anderson

ALL WELCOME

All Age Harvest, 10am



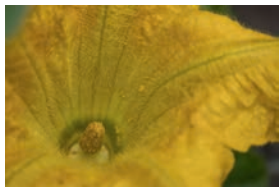
4 October - St Edmund's

The theme will be God provides in the wilderness.

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

All welcome

Sunday services at St Matthew's in October



Sunday 4	10 am	Choral Holy Communion
	6 pm	Evensong
Sunday 11	10 am	Service of the Word
Sunday 18	10 am	Choral Holy Communion
	6 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 25	10 am	All Age service

All welcome

All Age service, 10am



25 October - St Matthew's

The theme will be
Passover: The importance of remembering.

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

All welcome

Rev'd John Rice - Celebration

The joint Choral Communion at St Edmund's on the 20th September was led by Rev'd Rachael Brooks and by Rev'd John Rice, and it was a celebration of John's 50 years of ordained ministry. The church was full with the two congregations and John's family and friends. It was a joyous occasion – in fact a choral feast. All the music was chosen by John and his family, and truly reflects the impetus of his life's work – which is the love of Jesus.

The service began with Tallis' If Ye Love Me, the hymns were How shall I sing that majesty, Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire, Come down O love divine, Be Thou my vision, and the anthem Expectans Expectavi. The words of this anthem are worth including here because again they embody John's commitment – they are the final two verses of a poem by Capt. C H Sorley which Charles Wood set to music.

This sanctuary of my soul
Unwitting I keep white and whole,
Unlatched and lit, if Thou should'st care
To enter or to tarry there.

With parted lips and outstretched hands
And listening ears Thy servant stands,
Call Thou early, call Thou late,
To Thy great service dedicate.

In his sermon John told us that his parents were missionaries in Egypt, of war years spent in North London with his mother and elder brother. He spoke of steadfastness in difficult times and spoke of his own trauma when facing the suicide of his beloved wife Ruth. He told us of the Ukrainian couple to whom he offered a home several years ago, and who are still with him.



Rev'd John Rice - Celebration

Afterwards in the Church Hall where so many gathered for drinks and cake, Rachael thanked John for all that he had done and continues to do, for always being there ready to help and support, enabling her to benefit from his pastoral care of the congregation and from his wisdom. John's daughter Ellie spoke about his wonderful attributes, and, with a reference to the Warden in Trollope's *Barchester Towers*, indicated that he had all the qualities and core values that a man should have.

A special cake had been procured by Michèle - the decorative icing of which included the sacred symbols of the Communion. It was cut by John with due ceremony and shared around, and a beautiful bunch of Sunflower flowers was presented to him.

Chris Willis



Bookworms Meeting on 12th October

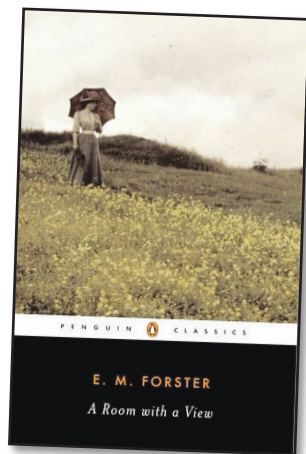
Bookworms have continued to meet throughout the year in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm.

The next session will take place on 12th October when the book under discussion is 'A Room with a View' by E M Forster.

We are a small friendly group who enjoy lively discussions centred around the chosen books.

If you think you might like to join us, please ring or text

Cyra Buxton on 07719776501, or email her on cyrabuxton@gmail.com



Bookworms Reading List to April 2027

9th November	Sarah Winman – Still Life
14th December	Jenny Colgan – Midnight at the Christmas Bookshop
11th January	Deborah Moggach – The Carer
8h February	Bonnie Garmus – Lessons in Chemistry
8th March	Sebastian Faulks – The Seventh Son
12th April	Gill Hornby – Godmersham Park



The Bookworms

The photos below and at the bottom of page 14 show our group at our September bookworms meeting. We had just had a good discussion about *The Seven Sisters* by Lucinda Riley. All of us are present apart from one member who is sadly in hospital. We send her best wishes to recover soon and join us at our October gathering.



Christmas Cards - just an idea

Some of us thought we could wish everyone in the congregation a happy Christmas by each displaying a card in church and donating the money saved to charity.

If this idea appeals to you, there will be somewhere to display your Christmas greetings in December. Hope we've got this notice in before you've bought your cards - they've been in the shops since July!

We realise many people enjoy giving and receiving cards, so hope no one is offended by this suggestion.

Happy Christmas!

Cyra

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (8)

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

HARDWICK ESTATE AND THE ROWTHORNE TRAIL

Notably famous for one of the grand houses of the Elizabethan period, the Hardwick Estate is also popular for the freedom to explore grounds lying outside its formal gardens. Accordingly, a walk around the present estate of about 5 miles is outlined, taking in its two pleasant lakes created from the infant Doe Lea river, and making use of part of the Rowthorne Trail, created from one of the estate's former colliery railways. Return is via the attractive tree-lined Lady Spencer's Walk from which the Hall itself can be reached if required. There is one steepish ascent and some steps.

Alternatively, a walk just around the two lakes situated near the public car park makes a pleasant 1½ miles circuit (if perhaps marred by a hum from the nearby M1!).



Hardwick Hall & garden

Hardwick Hall was uilt in the 1590's by leading architect Robert Smythson for Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, better known as Bess of Hardwick (1521-1608). Her initials 'ES' adorn its great towers. It superceded the Old Hall which had been built not many years earlier, resulting in the former's gradual abandonment and deterioration. The estate, dating from the 13thc, had become her property through William Cavendish, her son from a previous marriage. On Bess's death, William united Hardwick



Miller's Pond walk

with Chatsworth and various other estates, eventually becoming Earl of Devonshire and the largest landowner in the county. This resulted in a diminishing use of Hardwick, although the 6th Duke did modernise and improve the estate circa 1850.

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (8)

Coal had long been mined locally for the estate's own use, but in the late 19thc boom-period large collieries were opened around the periphery. The estate's royalties from coal overtook farming income for a time but otherwise the Hardwick estate provided only a small part of the family income. The last family member to live there was the 9th Duke's widow up to 1960. By that time the Hall and its estate had been transferred to the National Trust in lieu of Devonshire family death duties; and apart from the Old Hall ruins (under English Heritage) it is still maintained by the NT. The western part of the estate near the lakes, after use by the Parachute Regiment in WW2 and then by mine workers, was restored and opened as a Countryside Park in 1968.



The Old Hall



The Great Pond

Ault Hucknall is the name of the old parish from which the Hardwick estate was formed, including several surrounding villages. Now it simply comprises an attractive church and a few houses, calling itself 'the smallest village in England!' The church has monuments to Anne, 1st Countess of Devonshire (1598) and philosopher Thomas Hobbes (1679). The **Rowthorne Trail** is one of the many old mineral railway tracks which served the local collieries, now turned into a recreational route as part of the Phoenix Greenways network. It passes through a local Nature Reserve of mature oak and ash woodland, and is named after the conservation village of Rowthorne, one of six farming communities which lay within the estate. At the time of railway construction, the Duke successfully opposed a proposed Chesterfield to Newark line which would have passed too close to the Hall, but he did insist on a private station on a colliery

Continued on page 18

Good Walks Revisited: Castles, Halls & Abbeys (8)

HARDWICK ESTATE AND THE ROWTHORNE TRAIL *continued*

line about a mile away! **Stainsby Mill**, which is not on the walk but is passed if one drives up to the Hall itself, is named after another of the estate villages. Flour is still ground in the 18thc mill, which can be visited, care of the National Trust.

The Route starts from the NT c/p located just on the E side of the M1, accessed via Tibshelf and Hardstoft. Follow the track N alongside Miller's Pond and across the dam, to join a f/p on the other side and turn L. The



Lady Spencer's Walk

f/p rises and swings E, crossing the Hall drive en route; on levelling out, a gate L (signed Hardwick-Rowthorne walks) leads along a drive towards Ault Hucknall Church (467652). Turn R at the road for about 200yds; at a bend take the RH f/p leading SE across fields to a road, along which lies the Rowthorne Trail c/p. Turn R here on the trail (or a f/p alongside) for ½mile to a f/p crossing (478640). Turn R (signed Norwood) across a field and stream, up through woods and cross another field to a minor road and cottages. Turn R for ½mile as far as a large red gate; take the f/p R via a gate and down steps. More steps ahead lead up to Lady Spencer's Walk (466634) which passes alongside the Hall's main c/p; from the Walk a f/p half-L drops gradually down, leading to the main exit drive. Follow this downhill briefly then leave half-R on a grass track, crossing the meadow towards Great Pond (a gate in the iron

fence L provides an optional path round the lake). At the end of this lake cross the dam and turn R back to the c/p.

For an extra 1½ miles you can stay on the Rowthorne Trail up to Batley Lane and its junction with the Teversal Trail. Turn sharp R here, following the latter via a long cutting to Newbound Lane (484630) and turn R, rejoining the above route at Norwood Lodge.



Ault Hucknall Church

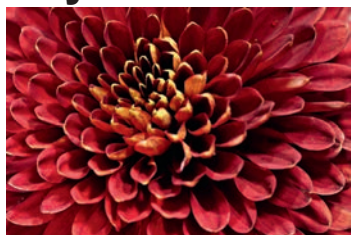
The Rambler



ST EDMUND'S



Join us for Holy Communion



Wednesday
7, 14, 21 & 28 October
St Edmund's
10.30am

All welcome



ST EDMUND'S



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



Nature Tots

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



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

Thursday 8 October,
10-11.30am, Allestree Park

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

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

£2 suggested donation per child.

All welcome

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

Rotary 

Derby Rotary's Quiz & Chips Evening
Fellowship Room next to St.
Matthews Church, Darley Abbey

Friday 16th October 2026 **7.30 pm**
prompt start to Quiz

Teams of 4

 **Quiz TIME**

Raffle

Tickets £18

Available from Ticket Source using adjacent QR Code
or
at <https://www.ticketsource.com/rotary-club-of-derby/t-njdyyjd>
In case of any problems contact Eric at eric_shaw_phillips@hotmail.com
or 07984 457659



includes Fish & Chip Supper about 8:30 pm
In aid of our projects supporting
Education in rural African villages

Book Review

"Stalin Ate My Homework" by Alexei Sayle

Published by Sceptre, Softback, 2011

ISBN 978 0 340 91959 0

(Also available in e-book format)



Alexei Sayle is a unique voice in standup, having been among the first few to rise through early iterations of the Comedy Store, alongside the likes of Ben Elton, Jennifer Saunders and Paul Merton. These days he is also occasionally on-screen in a character part in a serious drama (one instance being an eerily eccentric psychiatrist in a “Miss Marple”). Part of his distinctiveness is the strong Scouse accent, and this book tells of his childhood and early development in Liverpool.

What a unique couple his parents were. Molly was from a numerous Jewish family and Joe a Latvian Communist who worked as a guard on the railways. Little Alexei, always an only child, starts life with the (for many) triple stigmas of being a Jew, a Scouser and a Communist. He describes his life as “subject to all kinds of restrictions, caveats and provisos”. The first example given is at the age of six, when the new film *Bambi* is about to be shown at his local cinema; all the local kids are talking about it excitedly, but he knows he’ll never be allowed to see it because Mum and Dad are ideologically opposed to the Disney organisation. Instead, he is taken “for a treat” to see Eisenstein’s 1938 *Alexander Nevsky*, with its “several scenes of ritualistic child sacrifice” and various other horrors. Molly and Joe are happy that honour has been satisfied; it never occurs to them that this might be far more psychologically damaging than a cartoon deer. (Much the same happens slightly later, in the form of the Red Army Choir instead of a Beatles concert.)

The railway job (including Union Repping) and the Communist Party membership allow Joe and his family untold free rail travel, and no holiday is complete without an inexpensive visit to Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary and other mainly then-USSR countries. While at their various destinations, the family are almost always put up for free at the homes of fellow Communists or their friends. Sayle writes with wry resignation about the physical privations and shortages in some of these places at the height of the Cold War, as well as the often precarious nature of train and human connections.

At school the author finds himself no great academic performer and often bullied, but he gradually finds that he can perform and enjoys taking part in plays. Meanwhile we get to know Molly in particular, and she is quite capable of screaming her views in public places and embarrassing all who see her, not least her son.

Book Review continued

Sayle experiences morning Assemblies in school, and despite his parents' best efforts is drawn into singing hymns. He also spends time in Liverpool's two cathedrals (the Catholic one, locally known as "Paddy's Wigwam", was completed in 1967 when he was about 15). He remarks that "five years at forced Christian worship did at least make me one of the few atheist Communist Jews who knew all the words to "All Things Bright and Beautiful ... " (p 225).

After his mid-teens, Sayle's trajectory is more and more into Communism, combined with anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, of which there were a lot in Liverpool since in 1968 it was the only UK city outside London with a USA Consulate. He also ventures several times into performance poetry, and, having been expelled from school, has ambitions to go to Art School. His interview for this institution is scheduled for when he plans to be away in the Netherlands, so in the end it's agreed that Molly will go to the interview on her son's behalf. She does well and gets him in, and the memoir ends with his first few days at the Art School in Southport.

This book is quite unlike anything I'd previously read; it has a self-deprecating yet engaging flippancy of style which is somewhere near unique, and some totally hilarious situations which had me laughing out loud. The Sayle voice is unmistakable, and the writing fluent, highly literate and quite fast to read.

The wit is never far away, but there is a pretty constant undertow of half-grudging but loving respect for his extraordinary parents, and a strong impulse to help the reader understand his constantly-contradictory upbringing and the person he has grown up to be. A surprisingly enjoyable and recommended read – especially for anyone beginning to feel sorry for themselves, since the writer won't allow that for a single moment.

Kate Smith

Early April 2022

Wednesday Holy Communion Services 10.30am start

Remember the Wednesday Holy Communion service at St Edmund's has moved to the later start time of 10.30am.

Rev'd. Rachael Brooks

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. **The next session is on Saturday 3rd October, and after that Saturday 7th November.** If you would like to know more please contact Steve Burton on 07914 884197.

St Edmund's Ongoing Church Maintenance

The repointing at St Edmund's started on 16th September, using a cherry picker rather than scaffolding to economically access small upper areas of the tower needing urgent attention. Work will continue elsewhere, including internally, using traditional lime mortar on the stonework and all is expected to be complete by 23rd October.

Geoff Bailey



Allestree Scarecrow Festival continued from Back Cover



On Saturday 5th September, Michèle Aspinall and her sister, Diane Whittaker, very kindly set up a joint display promoting both St Edmund's and St Matthew's churches. After an afternoon spent attending that, they managed to walk around Allestree and visit other Scarecrow displays - as you can see from the second photo on the back cover, they had a joyful time.



Allestree Scarecrow Festival continued



Buzzy Bees Physiotherapy

Feeling a bit unsteady,
stiff or losing confidence
with walking?

Give yourself confidence and safety to
move freely and stay active

Physiotherapy helps people regain strength,
reduce falls and stay independent

Scan the QR code to book a home
physiotherapy session today

 www.buzzybeesphysio.co.uk

Helping you live comfortably and safely!



Come and see the

People's Emergency Briefing



On the climate and nature crisis

Not suitable for those under 16 years of age

Join us at Darley Abbey Village Hall for a showing
of the National Emergency Briefing a short film
about tackling climate change.

Meet others who have taken on such activity already,
are working together, want to have a go, need your help and
see what we can do in Darley Abbey to meet these challenges.

7pm on Thursday 22nd October 2026
Darley Abbey Village Hall

Abbey Yard off New Road, Darley Abbey DE22 1DS

• With refreshments



Book on Eventbrite using QR code
100 places max.

The 50-minute film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster and features Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, Jennifer Saunders and a wide range of other influential figures.

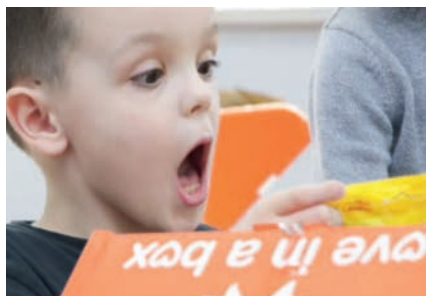
SHOEBOX APPEAL: My Life as a Shoebox

Believe it or not, I am a shoebox and I thought you may be interested to read about my story, because last year was a really exciting one for me. It all began when I arrived in the Clark's shoe shop, after starting my life in a factory where they put a new pair of shoes inside me. They were very nice shoes, and I was not at all surprised when the little girl chose them after having her feet measured. I was a bit disappointed when she only wanted the shoes though, and that left me stuffed on the shelf in the store room.

But then a strange thing happened. A lady came into the shop who didn't want shoes, she only wanted empty boxes, and apparently I was just the right size, so along with six more empty boxes, she very excitedly took me home with her.

I was even more surprised when the lady started to cover me, and lots of other boxes she had, in Christmas wrapping paper. I wondered what was going to happen next, but the next thing I knew, I was being filled with the strangest things. To start with, in went a cuddly toy, a note book and pencil case, toothbrush and paste, soap and flannel. Then came a lovely warm hat, scarf and a pair of mittens, along with socks. A skipping rope and a pack of snap cards were added, and then a really pretty necklace and bracelet, hair brush, some shampoo and hair clips. I was really full by this time, but there was more! Sweets! Then on the top went a little card with Happy Christmas written on it. My lid only just closed, but it stayed firmly shut with the elastic band that went right round me.

You may wonder what all this was for, as I did, but all was revealed when I was taken to a church and put into a big box with some



SHOEBOX APPEAL continued



more shoeboxes, before we were taken by lorry all the way to a country called Bosnia, and then to a rather run down building which turned out to be a school. I was going to be a Christmas present for a little girl who otherwise wouldn't have received one. Imagine how happy I felt when I was handed over to her and saw her face when she opened me up and saw all these little gifts. I couldn't help but think it was a very good job that the little girl in Clark's didn't want me after all. She may have just thrown me away!

This year's appeal is already underway. From Derby we sent 3000 boxes last Christmas, which was amazing, and if you would like to take part this year,

then it's never too early to start collecting bits and bobs to go in a box, which we will collect during October and November. Please just drop them off at either St Edmund's or St Matthews Church.

There is also lots of information on the Teams4u website www.teams4u.com. We really can change lives, one box at a time, by sending love in a box.

John Worthy, St Matthews

Confirmation Candidates meet Bishop Jackie

A joint Choral Holy Communion and Confirmation service was held at St Matthews on 13th September, with Bishop Jackie in attendance. Thanks to a kind attendee from St Nicks, here is a photograph of the confirmation candidates with their clergy and Bishop Jackie. From Left to right: Rev Sarah with Jasmine Freeman (St Paul's)



and Dawn-Marie Willmer (St Nick's); Rev Phillippa Taylor with Christian Armstrong (St Mary's, Boulton, Alvaston); Bishop Jackie; and Teddy Hyde and Kionie Cunliffe (both St Matthew's) with Rev Rachael.



**St Edmunds
Preschool CIC**
Allestree

Just off the **A38** ➔

**FULLY FUNDED
SPACES AVAILABLE!**

For Children Aged 2 to 4 Years
07934 380561
Email: admin@stedmundspreschool.org




W Jones & Son

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ESTABLISHED 1864

**An independent family funeral business
offering a professional and caring service**

*Pre-arranged funeral plans available
through Ecclesiastical Planning Services*

01335 360319

Main Road, Brailsford, Ashbourne DE6 3DA
E: cwjones600@yahoo.co.uk www.wjonesandson.com

October 2026

The Ven. Nicky Fenton writes...



Giving thanks to God for God's goodness

One of the theological threads running throughout the Psalms is giving thanks to God for God's goodness. Remembering all God's benefits and blessings including forgiveness, healing, salvation, provision, love and compassion (Psalm 103).

Our liturgies reflect this attitude of gratitude too. The Book of Common Prayer's General Thanksgiving begins: 'Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all.....' A wide-ranging prayer exhorting us to thank God for creation, everyday blessings, salvation, God's present help and future hope of eternal glory. It encourages us to rediscover the centrality of gratitude in our lives, as well as in our words.

Throughout the Autumn, our worship and teaching emphasises gratitude. The giving of ourselves in love and service when gratitude flows out of our hearts in response to everything God has first given us.

Celebrating harvest and God's faithful provision, we will reflect upon all those who partner with God in feeding and caring for the needs of the disadvantaged and marginalised. We will share the resources at our disposal supporting foodbanks, community projects, missionary organisations and charities. Many churches will hold stewardship days or giving campaigns, helping us take seriously our commitment to discipleship and good stewardship giving generously out of gratitude for God's abundant generosity to us.

October 11th marks Clergy Appreciation Day. Jody Stowell, a rural parish priest, in her book *Bruised Reeds and Mustard Seeds* (2026, Canterbury Press) talks about the impact on clergy wellbeing when clergy are unsure whether they have done a good job. October is an opportunity to address that concern offering affirmation, encouragement and positive feedback to the clergy we know.

And, if you are serious about supporting our clergy, you might like to encourage your PCC to review their pledged giving to Common Fund as every penny that is asked for is needed to sustain our current staffing. The 2027 diocesan budget goes to Diocesan Synod for approval this month and we need to work together to ensure the finance is available to continue to resource the vital ministry of our clergy.

'And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' (Colossians 3:17)

The Ven. Nicky Fenton

Archdeacon of Peak and Derbyshire Dales



BLAIR GRATTON ARCHITECTS

DESIGN • CONSERVATION • PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Would it be helpful to meet a local Architect to discuss ideas to improve your home?
Contact us to arrange a free, no obligation consultation at our office in central Derby.

www.blairgratton-architects.co.uk

✉ info@blairgratton-architects.co.uk ☎ 01332 340458

Find us at: 4 St George's House
Vernon Gate
Derby
DE1 1UQ



Architects
Registration
Board

RIBA 
Architecture.com



J BARLOW & FAMILY

Funeral Service

01332 409182

A truly independent, award winning,
family-run funeral directors committed to providing you with the
highest level of service.



Our commitment is to you and your family by providing a personal service in
your hour of need. Together we will provide a professional and dignified funeral service
that will also be unique and personal and we will guide you every step of the way. We
will listen carefully to your family wishes and offer a complete choice and flexibility in
the arrangements.

Here for you every step of the way

www.jbarlowfuneralservice.co.uk



OPEN HOUSE COFFEE AT ST. EDMUND'S

Join us for coffee - everyone welcome.

We'd love to see you!

We serve coffee and biscuits on Sunday mornings
between 11.00am and 11.45am in St Edmund's Church Hall.

Please come and join us for a chat.

On Wednesday mornings
there's coffee inside the
church at 11.15am - again,
do pop along.



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





The Family Funeral Service®



Greg Martin
Our Funeral Director at Derby

Experts in Funeral Care

For generations we have provided exceptional funeral services with professionalism, compassion and attention to detail.

As a family-run business with nearly 120 years of experience, we understand the importance of dignity, respect, and personal care at every step.

- ✓ Trusted Expertise
- ✓ Unmatched Service
- ✓ Family Values

Here for you, whenever you need us.

Derby

Derwent House, 9 Becket Street, DE1 1HT

01332 348 800

derby@lymn.co.uk

www.lymn.co.uk f /awlymn x /awlymn i /a.w.lymn

"Our family serving your family since 1907"

ALLESTREE SATELLITE AERIAL SERVICES

**BASED IN ALLESTREE BUT COVERING
ALL AREAS IN DERBY & DERBYSHIRE**

- Professional conscientious Engineer with over 25 years experience
- TV Aerial repairs and installations
- FREEVIEW wideband digital aerials
- FREESAT installations
- SKY installations, dish realignment
- Additional points installed
- Telephone points installed

Call Paul today for a free estimate.

Tel: 07985 405244

email: paulflowersas@aol.com

33 Lockwood Road
Allestree, Derby, DE22 2JD



STEVE FIXES COMPUTERS

STEVE CAN FIX & SERVICE YOUR PC, LAPTOP, TABLET, PHONE

*Running slow? *Stopped working? *Can't get online? * Issues with emails, broadband, printing, setting up, installing/using apps?

DON'T PANIC!!

I'm in Belper and can come to you.
All surrounding areas too!

STEVE CAN GIVE YOU TUITION

*Want to learn how to use or do something on your PC/ laptop?

*Need help with your phone/ tablet/ iPad?

**Plus:- Affordable WEBSITES created
VIDEOS transferred to DVD**

Call: Steve Little on 07947 868605

Email: steve_little@hotmail.com

St. Edmund's Parish

Church Website: stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk

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

Office opening hours:- Monday and Wednesday: 9.30am - 3.00pm

Thursday: 11.30am - 3.00pm Friday: 9.30am - 1.00pm 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:	Rev'd Rachael Brooks: rev.rachaelbrooks@gmail.com	07305 140573
Churchwardens:	Ann Miller	07831 506978
	Elizabeth Jack	07779 255412
Parish Administrator:	Caroline Audley: Steds.stmatts@outlook.com	552031
Readers:	Diana Mellor: diana.mellor1@gmail.com	07773 630001
Choir:	Elizabeth Jack	07779 255412
Treasurer/Gift Aid Sec.:	Chris Jack, 12 Regency Close, Littleover	07805 027515
PCC Correspondence Sec:	Paul Smith: smithppaul@aol.com	07792 569758
Electoral Roll:	Matt Cooper	07572 110185
Flower Group:	Rosemary Yates	552742
	Michèle Aspinall	07773 784009
Luncheon Club:	Anne Madge	07971 680377
Baby and Toddler Group:	Caroline Audley: Steds.stmatts@outlook.com	552031
Parish Safeguarding Links	Madeleine Fullerton	554762
	Louise Whittaker	556455

Hall Bookings:	Caroline Audley - Steds.stmatts@outlook.com	552031
Handbells:	Ann Miller	07831 506978
St Edmund's Preschool CIC:	Hannah	07934 380561
	admin@stedmundspreschool.org for enquiries	
Rainbows, Brownies & Guides:	Alwyn Young	07740 201963

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

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

Magazine Distribution: Chris Willis 558136

DEADLINES: 20th Oct for Nov magazine & 20th Nov for Dec'26/January'27 magazine.

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

Rev'd John Rice Celebrates 50 Years

The service held to celebrate John's 50 years of Ministry with the Church of England was followed by a party in St Edmund's Church Hall. See Pages 12 and 13.



Allestree Scarecrow Festival

Michèle Aspinall and Diane Whittaker set up a Scarecrow display at St Edmund's lychgate, and also managed to take photos of the other scarecrows around the village. Go to pages 22 and 23 for more photos.

