

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

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The picture is a panel of the East window in the Bridge Chapel in Derby. It dates to 1973 and was designed by Mary Dobson. Here we have the lily (representing the Virgin Mary), rays of light for the resurrection, and even (if you look closely enough) a caterpillar and butterfly (another resurrection image). More details on my blog - <http://www.northernvicar.co.uk/2018/03/03/derby-chapel-of-st-mary-on-the-bridge/>

While our churches are closed, there is material for worship and prayer, a sermon, and links to music and live broadcasts at <https://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk/worship-while-our-buildings-are-clo>. The Collect, Psalm and Bible Readings, and a weekly noticesheet are posted on the front page.

We will not be able to produce printed Church Magazines for May, but a copy you can download will be on the website towards the end of April. If you don't have access to the internet, please phone me and we will arrange for a printed copy to be posted to you.

I don't want to mention money, but you can understand that church finances are being hit. Our expenditure has dropped (I won't be claiming mileage this month!), but some costs remain. Our income has dropped too. If you want to make an online donation, the details are

St Edmund's, Allestree - sort code 40 52 40, account number 00032364

St Matthew's, Darley Abbey - sort code 16 18 18, account number 13169619

If you do make a donation, could you let me, Paul or Clive know so we can trace the money please.

If you regularly give by envelope or in the collection plate, and would like to transfer to the Parish Giving Scheme (which works by direct debit), please speak to us and we can sort it.

Please keep in touch with each other. Julie and I are fine, as are our children. Let us know how you are, and if you need anything. Caroline is at home with her family (all are well), but is checking the office answer machine and emails regularly - 01332 552031, steds.stmatts@outlook.com. She printed and folded all these cards at home, and sorted the labels and envelopes - thank you. The church website is being regularly updated - www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk. We are using facebook @stmatthewsdarleyabbey, @stedmundsallestree (I'm posting daily, so please follow) and twitter steds&stmattsderby.

Derby Covid Community Support is a network of community, church and statutory organisations that has been formed to provide support and meet current needs and support our communities in Derby city during the management of the COVID-19 virus. For more information, for help, or to volunteer, please phone 01332 640000 or email covidsupport@communityactionderby.org.uk. There is also a Darley Abbey network being put in place - contact darleyabbeyvolunteernetwork@gmail.com.

Food bank - there is now a centralised food bank, and they welcome donations. They can be left in the Book Shed next to the Vicarage garage, or I can come and collect a bag from outside your house - phone if you can help. They are setting up a way for us to make online financial donations - I'll put details on the website when I have them.

We hope we got the details right on the address label - let us know if we didn't.

Have faith this Easter,
and keep in touch.

God bless,

This prayer is one of many which seems appropriate

Jesus had no servants, yet they called him Master.

Had no degree, yet they called him Teacher.

Had no medicines, yet they called him Healer.

Had no army, yet kings feared him.

He won no military battles, yet he conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified him.

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.