



St. Edmund's Church

£1.00

# News from the Parish

March 2025



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

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

# St. Edmund's March 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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FRONT COVER: The photograph shows Paul Smith skillfully tossing a pancake at last year's Pancake Evening in St Edmund's Church Hall.  
See pages 4 and 7 for details of this year's Shrove Tuesday evening.  
BACK COVER: Shrove Tuesday is on 4th March and you can enjoy pancakes in St Edmund's Church Hall from 5.00pm to 7.00pm that evening.

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

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

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

# Reverend's Letter

Did you take part in this year's Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January? It seems to get more organised and supported every year. This was our first year of doing it at the vicarage and there were very high expectations as Darley Abbey seems to support a greater bird population than Littleover. At least our bits of them anyway.

Andrew and I blocked out an hour on the Saturday morning. The feeders were filled in readiness. Pen and paper were found. And we were off. Except there's actually not a lot to do then apart from watch and wait. I don't know about you but that's something I find difficult to do. Probably because most of the time there are so many things that need doing that I allow myself to get sucked into jumping on the 'doing' hamster wheel.

I've discovered that watching and waiting are things that take practise, which seems counter-intuitive doesn't it? How can we need practise at not 'doing'? I wonder if it's because watching and waiting are not 'doing nothing'. They require self-discipline if we're to avoid getting distracted by our thoughts, our phones, that pile of washing needing putting away... There is so much stimulus available to occupy our brains that we become habituated to its constant flow; the swift movement from one thing to another to another like a blue tit constantly flitting about, twisting and turning its head on the look-out for predators or other birds that might have the temerity to alight on the feeding station it considers its own.

But I wonder if this constant state of alertness, looking for the next thing, is what God intended us to rest from when he designated the seventh day of creation as sabbath? Because it keeps us from simply being in the moment, appreciating the world around us. Dwelling on one thing and allowing God to speak into our hearts about it by just staying with whatever it is.

I spoke last month about the challenge to be more child, to live in the now. That's what my hour of bird watching did for me that day. It was an hour of sabbath, appreciating the the beautiful birds with which we share our garden and noticing the peace that comes with stopping and being attentive to the natural world around us.

I wonder what sabbath looks like for you?

*Revd Rachael Brooks*

Associate Minister, St Edmund's

## SONG THRUSH



A familiar and popular garden songbird whose numbers have declined significantly on farmland and in towns and cities. It's smaller and browner than a Mistle Thrush with smaller spotting. Its habit of repeating song phrases sets it apart from singing Blackbirds. It likes to eat snails, breaking into them by smashing them against a stone with a flick of the head.

© [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

# Churchwardens' View

A Regular Update by Ann Miller and Paul Smith

## Church, Churchyard and Hall Fabric Update

Our heating group continues to meet regularly. We have looked at several options for improving the heating and are now taking advice from outside specialists. We need a more controllable system that is not fossil-fuel dependent. Also, we know our existing system is approaching the end of its useful life, and that we are unlikely to gain approval for a replacement gas boiler (the Church of England is aiming for Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030). As a result, the replacement is likely to be either an electrical solution or one based on one or more heat pumps.

Our architects, Smith & Roper, carried out their five-yearly (Quinquennial) inspection in November, and we have now had their report. There is lots to keep us busy over the next five years, but overall, they concluded “we consider the overall condition of the church to remain good and patently well-cared for”.

We hope to move Primrose’s shed shortly to its new location adjacent to the hall. We’re now asking people to bring their food bank donations to church (please don’t leave in the shed).

During February, a major piece of work has been done to clean, repair and repaint the main areas of the church hall (entrance lobby, kitchen, meeting room and the hall itself). The actual painting has been done free of charge by a team from Community Payback. This means we have only had to pay for the materials (paints and some tools and equipment). Thanks to the many people who have praised the new fresher look, and especially to Geoff Bailey who has masterminded and supervised this project.

Thanks also to Steve, Jane and the rest of the *Groundforce* team. They meet every month, rain or shine, and do a great job of keeping our churchyard neat, tidy and presentable.

And what’s in store...

As we move into Spring with warmer weather and longer daylight hours, we’ve lots to share with our local community. The traditional Shrove Tuesday - this year on 4th March - brings us the fun of pancakes, that last hurrah of eating up fats and eggs, before Lent. Do come and join us this Pancake Day, 5.00pm in the church hall.

### Shrove Tuesday

4 March, 5 - 7 pm  
St Edmund’s Church Hall



Join us for delicious  
pancakes with sweet  
toppings & cheese.

**All Welcome**

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## Churchwardens' View continued

Then we go on to mark Lent with special services in addition to our regular ones - see the diary and website.

Our new small discussion groups / house groups also begin soon. If you haven't signed up to join a group but wish you had, and fancy an informal chat, just ask one of us wardens.

At our sister church, St Matthew's, Darley Abbey, we have two concerts coming soon: Sunday 9 March at 3.00pm Derby City Singers and Tom Corfield (organ) present a short concert - from Bach to Over the rainbow - followed by delicious cakes and tea. Admission is free; we invite donations towards St Matthew's Church Tower Appeal. On Saturday 15th March at 7.30pm both church choirs join with Derventio to celebrate the life of Peter Barham - don't forget to contact Elizabeth Jack [eamjack@googlemail.com](mailto:eamjack@googlemail.com) to book your free ticket for that one.

If you can lend a hand to help polish the brasses and silverware, our cleaning party next meets on Saturday 22nd March at 10.00am in St Edmund's. Equipment is provided (but if you want to bring your own gloves and cloths that would be great) and tea, coffee and biscuits will be enjoyed. The work goes very quickly if enough people turn up, so please do come and help. It's lovely to come back the following day and find everything sparkling for our morning worship!

Mothering Sunday on 30th March gives us a special opportunity to honour motherhood and caring for one another, including thinking about how we can all nurture and encourage each other. For many of us, it's a time to remember our mothers who are no longer with us.

Looking further forward, after the great celebration of Easter in April, we have more exciting plans, including more concerts here on your doorstep in Allestree, a plant sale, and Afternoon Tea with Jane Austen. Watch this space!

Do keep an eye on the website - work is being done, and before long you'll see a new look.

Don't forget that we'd love to welcome you to join us for coffee and biscuits on Sundays 11.00am in the church hall and Wednesdays 10.45am in church.

Wishing you every blessing,

*Ann & Paul*  
*Churchwardens*



# St Edmund's Charities 2025 - Help to Choose

Dear all,

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

Please **submit your nomination** and why it should be supported on the attached form **by 10.00am Sunday 30th March 2025 at latest**, either by email to me at markhalliwell10@gmail.com, or by putting in the 'H' pigeon hole at the back of church addressed to me.

We'll look forward to seeing your proposals!

Best wishes,

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

**Detach Here**

Your name:

Phone number or email contact:

Full Name of nominated Charity:

Purpose of Charity:

Why you believe St Edmund's should support this charity.  
Also please state any specific objective or project within the charity that the money should be used for, and any donation amount requirement.

Return form to: **Mark Halliwell, St Edmund's Church Allestree**

# From the Registers of St Edmund's Church

No Baptisms or Weddings at St Edmund's during February.

FUNERALS and BURIAL OF ASHES at St Edmund's

18 February 2025 -Burial of ashes of Dorothy Burnill

24 February 2025 - Funeral of Geraldine Moore

24 February 2025 - Burial of ashes of Eric Grimster

*We welcome photos of weddings and baptisms that have taken place at St Edmund's, please email to [steds.stmatts@outlook.com](mailto:steds.stmatts@outlook.com) for the attention of Caroline.*

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## Tuesday, 4th March! Yes, it's Shrove Tuesday and PANCAKES...

As usual we will be celebrating in St Edmund's Church Hall with food and drink. Do come and meet friends, make friends... Bring your family and meet other families

who will also be enjoying our savoury and sweet pancakes.

Doors open at 5.00pm and pancakes will be served until 7.00pm, along with hot and cold drinks. There will be hot and cold drinks available and a raffle.

Last year it was a lovely evening and enjoyed by all. Do come again this year, we look forward to seeing you - and if you would like to be a helper you would be most welcome - ring Ann Miller, Church Warden, on 07831 506978.



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

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

The Talk is by Mr.Chris Harrington, a Blind Retired Teacher together with his Guide Dog, Oli. No competition at this meeting.

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

# Dates for your Diary March 2025

## **Wednesday 26th February**

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

10.45am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

## **Thursday 27th February**

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

## **Friday 28th February**

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

## **Saturday 1st March**

9.30am - St Edmund's - Groundforce - meet at the Church Hall car park.

## **Sunday 2nd March - *Sunday next before Lent***

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

10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer, led by John Rice

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

11.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

11.30am - St Edmund's - Burial of ashes of Miriam Harvey

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

## **Tuesday 4th March- *Shrove Tuesday***

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

2.00pm - St Matthew's Fellowship Room - FOSM - RLNI by Will Stainer

**5.00-7.00pm - St Edmund's Church Hall - PANCAKES, savoury & sweet, are being served. See page 7 and back cover for more details.**

## **Wednesday 5th March - *Ash Wednesday***

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

10.45am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

7.30pm - St Matthew's - Holy Communion

## **Thursday 6th March**

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

## **Sunday 9th March - *First Sunday of Lent***

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

10.00am - St Matthew's - Morning Prayer, led by Melonie Hambly

11.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

3.00pm - St Matthew's - Derby City Singers with Tom Corfield on organ & piano - a concert in aid of St Matthew's Tower Appeal

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

## **Monday 10th March**

2.00pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Bookworms. 'The Man of Property' by John Galsworthy

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

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbell Practice

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# Dates for your Diary March 2025 continued

## **Tuesday 11th March**

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

## **Wednesday 12th March**

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

10.45am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

## **Thursday 13th March**

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

## **Friday 14th March**

9.00pm - St Edmund's Church - Compline

## **Saturday 15th March**

7.30pm - St Matthew's - a concert in celebration of Peter Barham

## **Sunday 16th March - *Second Sunday of Lent***

10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer, led by John Rice

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

11.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

11.30am - St Matthew's - Burial of ashes of Trevor Snelling

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

## **Monday 17th March**

7.00pm - St Matthew's - PCC Meeting

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbell Practice

## **Tuesday 18th March**

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

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

## **Wednesday 19th March**

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

10.45am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

## **Thursday 20th March**

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

## **Friday 21st March**

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

9.00pm - St Edmund's Church - Compline

## **Saturday 22nd March**

10.00am - St Edmund's - Brass cleaning

## **Sunday 23rd March - *Third Sunday of Lent***

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

10.00am - St Matthew's - Morning Prayer, led by Clive Lemmon

11.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

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

# Dates for your Diary March 2025 continued

## **Monday 24th March**

7.30pm - St Edmund's Choir Vestry - Handbell Practice

## **Wednesday 26th March**

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

10.45am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

## **Thursday 27th March**

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

## **Saturday 29th March**

9.30am - St Matthew's - Churchyard Working Party - Come & help to make the churchyard clean and tidy

2.30-4.00pm - St Edmund's Church Hall - Messy Church

## **Sunday 30th March - *Mothering Sunday, Fourth of Lent***

10.00am - St Edmund's - Morning Prayer,

10.00am - St Matthew's - Morning Prayer, led by Rachael Brooks

11.00am - St Edmund's Church Hall - Coffee & Biscuits

12.30pm - St Edmund's - Baptism of Nellie Dot Thompson

There will be no evening service in either church.

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## Do Tell Us of Future Events or Celebrations

PLEASE CONTACT the Parish Administrator, Caroline Audley, with details of future events for them to be included in the Diary Dates:- email: [Steds.stmatts@outlook.com](mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com) or telephone her on 552031.

Office opening hours:-

**Monday & Wednesday**

9..30am - 3.00pm

**Tuesday**

Closed

**Thursday**

11.30am - 3.00pm  
(after Baby & Toddler  
Group)

**Friday**

9.30am - 1.00pm

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

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## Allestree Flower Group - 18th March 2025

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 18th March at The Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree. There will be a demonstration entitled 'Oscar Winning Movies' given by Sue Hodgson.

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Admission: Members £5.00. Non- members £9.00

For further details telephone 07968 237457





**ST EDMUND'S**



## Sunday services at St Edmund's in March



- Sunday 2nd** 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 9th** 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 16th** 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 23rd** 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 30th** 10 am Morning Prayer

**All welcome**



**ST EDMUND'S**



## Join us for Holy Communion



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

**All welcome**



**ST MATTHEW'S**



## Sunday services at St Matthew's in March



- Sunday 2nd** 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Evensong
- Sunday 9th** 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 16th** 10 am Holy Communion  
6 pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 23rd** 10 am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 30th** 10 am Morning Prayer

**All welcome**



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



## Mothering Sunday

**30 March  
10 am**



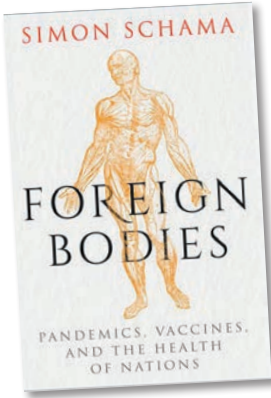
*There will be services in both  
churches and posies  
available to take away.*

**Join us and celebrate!**

# Revised Book Review

**“FOREIGN BODIES: PANDEMICS, VACCINES AND THE HEALTH OF NATIONS”**  
by SIMON SCHAMA

**Pub Hardback by Simon & Schuster, 2023 ISBN 978-1-4711-6989-2**  
**(Also available in e-Book format ISBN 978-1-4711-6991-5)**



Catharine Arnold published “Pandemic 1918” to coincide with the 2018 centenary of the outbreak of “Spanish Flu” that hit much of the world in the immediate aftermath of WW1, and I reviewed it in these pages not long after it came out. That landmark book was pressing in its call for more research on potential new pandemics, and prescient – but, even so, neither she nor anyone could have foreseen that we would all be plunged into the Covid-19 emergency less than two years later.

Schama’s new, huge and long-awaited book, written mainly in the USA, looks more broadly at the world history of epidemics, and in some ways does so through the lens of a scientific historian. Whilst Sir Simon (widely regarded as “our national historian”) is eminently qualified in historical research, he clearly regarded the scientific aspects of this work as a challenge to which to rise.

The themes are many, and they include zoonotic transfer (movement of disease from originating animals to humans), the variety of disease threats both historically and now, the constant need for international vigilance and co-operation, and barriers that can get in the way of understanding, respecting or even knowing of the existence of, epidemiological or other evidence. (Some of the worst examples of such barriers are from 2019-2022 in the USA, including the “anti-vaxxer” movement and the obsessive view that both disease and its pharmacological solutions are forms of “government control”.)

The cast of characters is vast and varied, but a major one emerges in the form of Dr Adrien Proust, father of the better-known Marcel Proust who wrote “In Search of Lost Time”. An even more important one is the somewhat unlikely Waldemar Haffkine, a Jewish Ukrainian born in 1860, whose superb mind and sheer hard work make him a giant among bacteriologists. This was a name I (like many) had never heard of before, and it is fascinating to read of Haffkine’s political-dissident origins, studies at Oxford and work on cholera, bubonic plague, typhus, malaria and many other longstanding scourges. He was practical, understood human behaviour, and instilled in others the urgent need to research, create and above all use large-scale inoculation to protect populations and reduce mortality and disease severity.

It was in the 19th century that long-distance travel, most obviously by newly-expanding rail systems, became more universal than it had ever been – first in Western Europe,

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## Revised Book Review continued

then gradually elsewhere. One of the major lessons of this piece of work is that, just as travel is an enabler of international collaborative action, unfortunately it is also a vector facilitating the spread of human diseases by infection. This simple fact speeds up every factor, in a world picture already complicated by diplomatic standoffs, political alliances and disagreements, wars, and perhaps most of all cultural misunderstandings. Without rail, Haffkine and many others would never have been able to go from Oxford to India, or from there to Russia, South America, and back to the UK – or, indeed, the International Sanitary Conference (first held in Geneva as early as the 1850s). Without long-distance travel, news of outbreaks would not have reached other parts of the world; but equally, without it, many of these epidemic incidents would not have happened (or, at least, been publicised by telegraph, the press, postal services and the resulting word of mouth).

Like other forgotten heroes, Haffkine comes to a sad end, ultimately because, despite his admirable work, he is seen politically as a “foreign body”. Our author (himself of Jewish heritage) leaves us to decide for ourselves whether he, too, is a “foreign body” – a deliberately-framed controversial point, perhaps. But the writing, the learning, the fascinating early photographs, the readability, the sheer scale and the world value of this monumental piece of work are not in question. A long and wide-ranging read, greatly enjoyed – and I admire Schama enormously for responding to the challenge. Recommended; I will gladly lend..

Kate Smith

Mid-September 2024



**ST EDMUND'S**



### Compline

14th, 21st March &

4th, 11th April

9 pm, St Edmund's Church



*Compline is a night prayer service that is a time for quiet reflection.*

**ALL WELCOME**

**THE SCHEMING MIND**  
A MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT  
WITH ROD REPTON

The murder squad will be sworn in and given the facts of the true unsolved murder of Julia Wallace, by the Senior Investigating Officer Rod Repton. They then will decide “Whodunit”, this is an interactive presentation

**14th March**  
**Doors open 7pm**  
**£10 a ticket**

Tickets on sale via the church office or using the QR code

**CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR ST NICKS CHURCH**

# Rita's Recipe: Matilda Cake

Oven 160/170deg. Shallow greased tray approx. 6in x 10in.  
Saucepan for mixing.

## Ingredients -

6ozs Butter	4ozs Sultanas
6ozs sugar, caster or light brown	4ozs Chopped glacé cherries
2 tbsps Syrup	10ozs Self raising flour.

## Method

Place the butter and sugar in the saucepan and carefully heat until **only just** melted. Stir the syrup, sultanas and glacé cherries into the saucepan. Gradually add the self raising flour, stirring thoroughly but gently.

Spread into shallow greased tray.

Bake for about 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until lightly golden brown.

Rita says "Goes well with a cup of tea! Enjoy."

*Rita Wrigley*



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## An Alternative "Nunc Dimittis"

I first wrote this piece around 2004, but it never found its way into the Magazine. It was read aloud for the first time at the Epiphany Entertainment done by the choir and others at St Ed's Hall in early January 2025.

Hmm, looks as if the myrrh is low  
In that third left-hand urn;  
But maybe Thursday night would do –  
It's old Thaddaeus' turn.

Who's this? A girl, in rags of blue,  
Up temple-steps now stumbling –  
A babe, a scrap, in arms so full,  
His hunger loudly grumbling.

Her breathless voice most firmly asks,  
"Sir, will you bless him for me?"  
I can't say No, I do her will,  
I wonder at her youth, and still  
No Saviour is before me.

Get back to work – now, where's my stick?  
It's not me that's all-knowing.  
Lord knows alone when Saviours come;  
Till then, let's just keep going.

*Kate Smith*

Candlemas 2025

PS Coming Soon: an Alternative Magnificat

# A trip to Normandy this summer...?

Particularly in the light of Rev'd Rachael's recent piece about her wonderful visit to Normandy, Allestree folk may be interested in this opportunity? Derby City Singers & Voices are off to Normandy for a concert tour 17th to 20th August. We have spare places and people would be very welcome to join us as supporters. Visits include the Bayeux Tapestry, D Day landing beaches and Honfleur.

Depart/Return: The coach will set off from Park Lane, Allestree, an early start, on 17th August and return late on the 20th. Accommodation: Bayeux Campanile Hotel.

For info contact Ann on 07831 506978



## Allestree History Group - March 2025

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

5th March - A talk by Ged Potter, Councillor and Mayor of Derby, on "The role of Mayor past, present and future".

19th March - A talk by Ian Jackson on "Water: the Power that Changed the World (Belper)".

Visitors are welcome at £4.00 per person.

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



## 2024 Christmas Appeal Raised...

Thank you to all who contributed to the Appeal at our Crib Services on Christmas Eve 2024. **Thanks to your generosity we were able to pass on a total of £445.12** to Christian Aid for their worldwide disaster relief and ongoing development work.

*Geoff Bailey*

PS. This year's Christian Aid Week is 11 – 17 May 2025.



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



Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March  
St Edmund's Church Hall  
2.30-4 pm



*Join us for our first Messy Church with  
a Mothering Sunday theme.  
It will be fun, it may get messy & there  
will be a sprinkling of Jesus.*

**All welcome**



# The St Edmund's Parish Chest - C16 Vicar's Will

Our parish chest contains some very interesting documents. The document below, with explanatory notes, is the Will of a priest who served at St Edmunds in the 16th century. I think it is an interesting mixture of historical and personal information regarding that period.

Chris Jack

**THE WILL OF WILLIAM SOWTER, PRIEST, WHO HAD BEEN A CANON OF DARLEY ABBEY UNTIL ITS DISSOLUTION IN 1538, AFTER WHICH HE CAME TO SERVE AS CURATE TO THE CHAPEL OF SAINT EDMUND, ALLESTREE.**

In the Name of God, Amen, the 21st. day of March in the year of our Lord God 1544, I Sir William Sowter, sick in body and whole of mind make my last will and testament in this manner. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to his blessed mother, the lady Saint Mary and to all the holy company of heaven and my body to be buried in the church of Saint Edmund in Allestree nigh to our lady's altar.

Also I will that there be two pounds of wax (i.e. candles) to burn about my body the day of my burial and the seventh day also.

Also I will that there be fourty pence weight of bread and two pots of ale to make my neighbours to drink in the day of my burial.

Also I will have a trentall of masses said in the day of my burial.

Also I will that Sir Henry Hey sings another trentall at our lady's altar where I say mass.

Also I will that the church at Duffield have a suit of vestments.

Also I will that the chapel of Allestree have two copes and two corporus with cases.

Also I will that the chapel of Turnditch have a corporus and a case.

Also I will that the chapel of (Little) Eaton have a corporus and case.

Also I will that the chapel of Allestree have my surplices.

Also I will that Sir William Stanbanke have my short gown that lyeth at Smith's wifes.

Also I will that Sir Henry Toft have my frock.

Also I will that William Barber have 12 pence.

Also I make my executor my brother Henry Sowter.

Also I will that all things not bequeathed be at the disposing of my executor for the health of my soul.

Witness of this my last will Sir Henry Toft, William Johnson with...

Also I make my supervisor Sir Henry Toft.

THIS IS THE INVENTORY OF THE GOODS BELONGING TO SIR WILLIAM SOWTER, PRIEST, APPRAISED BY FOUR INDIFFERENT MEN, THAT IS TO SAY WILLIAM BARBER, HUGH WILSON, HENRY COLYER AND NICHOLAS COLYER, THE 14th. DAY OF FEBRUARY.

Imprimis, A suit of vestments	£10 - 00 - 00
Item Two copes	£1 - 06 - 00
Item A gown	13 - 04
Item A short gown	6 - 08
Item Two jackets and doublets	1 - 00 - 00
Item Two pairs of hose	4 - 00
Item A cap and a quiffe	2 - 00
Item A tippet of russet	2 - 00
Item Shirts	2 - 00
Item All the beddings	1 - 00 - 00
Item Two cushions and a chair	1 - 04
Item Four corporus with cases	5 - 00
Item Three coffers	2 - 00
Item Six silver spoons	1 - 00 - 00
Item Three tasches (purses?)	6 - 00
Item books	3 - 04
Item two pair of shoes	1 - 04
Item Two bed hangings	2 - 00
Item In money	6 - 00 - 00

**Notes**

The honorary title 'Sir' was given to the canons of Darley Abbey.

William Stanbanke had been the Prior of Darley Abbey. He went to St. Peter's in Derby after the dissolution.

Henry Toft and Henry Hey had been fellow canons at Darley.

The vestments, copes and corporus with cases were probably brought from the abbey when it was dissolved.

A corporus was a collection of religious writings, possibly a missal.

A tippet was a cape or a short cloak.

The valuations in the inventory were given in Roman figures and were not always clear to read. They are given as accurately as possible.

Joan D'Arcy informs us that a cottage in St. Edmund's Close was made available for the priest.

William Sowter was succeeded at St. Edmund's by Thomas Harrison who had also been a canon at Darley.

Don't confuse the Dissolution of the Monasteries with the Reformation. The Reformation came later. England was still Catholic at this time



This image shows what an original parchment Will would have looked like.

# Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (2)

## HAYFIELD AND THE KINDER SCOUT MASS TRESPASS

The outcome of the famous mass trespass onto Kinder Scout in 1932 was a watershed of freedom and social mobility for the whole country and the achievement still resonates with those who love to roam the open spaces. So it seems appropriate to finish this series\* with an outline of the event and a walk based upon the original trespass route from Bowden Bridge near Hayfield, which, linked with the Pennine Way on Kinder's western edge, gives a circular route of 8½ miles. Reference points are based on Ordnance Survey Map OL1. As a gentler alternative, a 3 mile linear walk from Hayfield using the Sett Valley Trail is offered.



Hayfield Village

**The Trespas Incident:** Ever since the 19thc Enclosure Movement, most Peak District moorland had been strictly preserved and guarded for shooting or water catchment. The Ramblers' Group had long negotiated with landowners for open access, but the Lancashire branch of the Workers' Sports Federation eventually lost patience and decided to act. Thus, in April 1932 about 400 Manchester-based ramblers converged on a rallying point at Bowden Bridge, with the well-advertised aim of trespassing on Kinder Scout. Inevitably, as soon as some of the group stepped off the path up William Clough (an old right-of-way to Snake Pass) onto private moorland they were intercepted by armed gamekeepers. After a few scuffles most of the ramblers continued up to Ashop Head where they met an enthusiastic group of about 30 from Sheffield^ who had ascended from Edale. After discussion the two groups reluctantly retraced their separate routes. On reaching Hayfield the Manchester ramblers were met by waiting police, six were promptly arrested, locked up and charged next day at New Mills Police Court. Five were found guilty at Derby Assizes in July 1932 and jailed for between 2 and 6 months.



Pennine Way on Kinder Scout

**The Outcome:** Initially, it was felt that these ramblers had done more harm than good and were openly criticised by their official federation; and some, particularly the leader Benny Rothman, were labeled as communist sympathisers.

## Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (2)

### HAYFIELD AND THE KINDER SCOUT MASS TRESPASS continued



Swine's Back & Oaken Clough

However, their arrest and severe sentences unleashed a huge wave of public sympathy, ultimately strengthening their cause and helped by reports that some police dressed as ramblers had infiltrated their group. Later that year two other mass rallies (some 10,000 ramblers) took place at Winnats Pass and Bradfield Moor but with no further arrests. Campaigning continued until, eventually, the National Parks and Countryside Act was passed in 1949, setting up the process for

negotiating access agreements. The Peak District was first in line, with access swiftly agreed for Kinder Scout and Bleaklow. In 2012 the 80th anniversary of the trespass was celebrated with events and a group re-enactment along the original routes.

**Hayfield** began as a staging post for packhorses crossing the Pennines via the Sett Valley and Edale. It grew considerably in the 16-17thc, with weaving as a thriving cottage industry, later overtaken by woollen mills, dye works and calico printing. The arrival of the railway in 1868 accelerated this growth; but inevitably, as the local industry declined, closure eventually came in 1970. The fine church of St. Matthew, a reminder of the town's former prosperity, had to be rebuilt in 1818 after a disastrous flood. Floods have also destroyed two predecessors of the present Town Bridge.

Lovers of the old TV series *Dad's Army* may be interested to know that Arthur Lowe, alias the indefatigable Captain Mainwaring, was born in Hayfield. The **Sett Valley Trail** can be followed from Hayfield's old station, now a picnic site and information centre, along the route of the railway track for 2½ miles to the town of **New Mills**;



Kinder summit & Trig Point

here, the Rivers Sett and Goyt combine, entering a deep winding gorge where water power was once harnessed for the town's cotton mills. One of these, 200 years old when closed in the year 2000, became the longest continually operated millsite in England. Now, opposite the mill and elevated above the gorge, the **Millenium Walkway** provides a spectacular short extension to the Trail walk.

## Some Good Walks Revisited - Panoramic (2)

### HAYFIELD AND THE KINDER SCOUT MASS TRESPASS continued

**Kinder Scout**, the highest point in Derbyshire at 2088ft, is an extensive moorland plateau and National Nature Reserve with many amazing weather-sculpted rock formations. Crossing the plateau is difficult because of peat bogs and groughs but there is a well-trodden track around the rim (with accompanying erosion concerns) which forms part of the Pennine Way. This crosses Kinder Downfall, where the stream drops nearly 100ft on its way to Kinder Reservoir (opened in 1912 to supply Stockport) and varies from a trickle in summer to a spectacular fall after winter snowmelt. The trig point of Kinder Low is only 11ft below the true summit and is close to the perimeter track.

**The Route** starts from the Bowden Bridge c/p (reached from Hayfield: turn R past the church on Bank St. and along Kinder Rd. for ¾ mile). Follow the road, cross the stream at Booth Sheepwash and recross further on, following the f/p past the Water Treatment Works up to the reservoir. Then, either L & R up to the White Brow track (the trespassers route) or follow the reservoir f/p; both converge near the N inflow (059888). Next comes the long pull up William Clough following the stream to Ashop Head (063902). At the cairn bear R on a rising flagged path and follow the edge track SE to Kinder Downfall (083889). Cross the stream and continue SSW to Kinder Low OS column (079871) and then S via Edale Rocks towards Swine's Back, where a flagged f/p passes on either side down to Edale Cross (077861). Turn R on the rough stony track down Oaken Clough, with South Head and Mount Famine prominent on the L. The track joins the Sett Valley road which swings R alongside the river; then fork R at a farm gate on the pedestrian route back to Bowden Bridge.

### *The Rambler*



Kinder Reservoir from White Brow

^ References:

(a) Derbyshire Life article by Roly Smith (Chairman of Kinder 80 Committee), April 2012.

(b) The Pioneer Ramblers 1850-1940 by David Hollett, March 2002

\* Refers to original issue No.50 of 'Historical Derbyshire

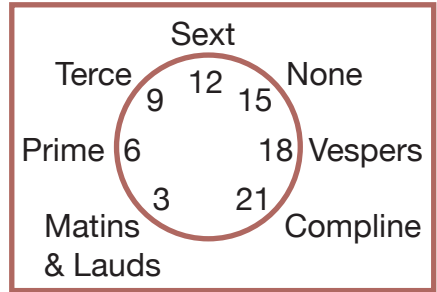
# Compline Services from mid-March to mid-April

Compline will be sung by the men of the choir at St Edmund's on the following Friday evenings at 9.00pm -

MARCH 14th and 21st — APRIL 4th and 11th

This peaceful and contemplative service, about 15 minutes long, is rooted in the Western Christian monastic tradition of fixed prayer times, or canonical hours. Each day there were seven services three hours apart, beginning at 3am with Matins and Lauds, and ending at 9.00pm with Compline, the emphasis of this being on quiet reflection and spiritual peace at the end of the day.

*Chris Willis*



## Bookworms Meeting: 10th March '25

Bookworms meet in St Edmund's choir vestry once a month on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm. We will be discussing 'The Man of Property' by John Galsworthy at our next meeting on Monday 10th March.

The reading list continues:-

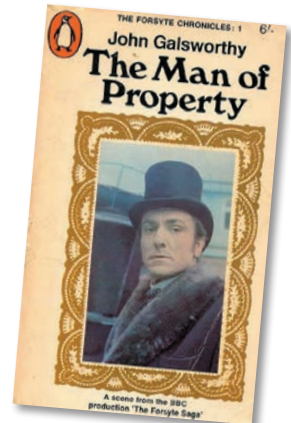
14th April 2025 Mary Wood - The Guernsey Girls Go to War

12th May 2025 Jodi Picoult - Wish You Were Here

9th June 2025 Maggie O'Farrell - The Hand That First Held Mine

14th July 2025 Rose Tremain - The Colour

11th Aug 2025 Rachel Joyce - The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry



For further details please ring or text Cyra Buxton on 07719 776501 or email her on cyrabuxton@gmail.com.

# Community Pop-in Café

Coffee

Tea

Toast

Fellowship Room, St Matthew's Church  
Darley Abbey

Friday 21st March 2025 from 8.30am to 10.30am

All welcome  
Share time with friends



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**SUNDAY, 9th March 2025 at 3.00pm**

(Doors open 2.40pm)

St Matthew's Church, Darley Abbey

**Free Admission. Donations invited towards  
St Matthew's Tower Appeal**



# Surviving Bereavement

In February, I went on a three-day retreat at Launde Abbey called “Living with Loss”. The course was led by Abi May, an experienced teacher who tragically lost both of her children prematurely, which had an overarching impact on her life. Much of her focus is now on bereavement support.

On the retreat with me were nine women and two men. All had experienced the loss of a loved one, a child or spouse, most to illness and a few by suicide.

Launde Abbey is a very comfortable, well-equipped, Diocesan Retreat and Conference Centre, surrounded by fields and woods. The food was very good - too good for someone losing weight? Cake with drinks was available before, after and between sessions.



The retreat was well structured, with plenty of practical exercises to draw out memories and feelings. Nine formal sessions in the Abbey’s comfortable Oak room, where we sat in armchairs, were interspersed with times for rest, private reflection or walking in the beautiful and extensive grounds.



There were many opportunities to talk, on a one-to-one basis or in a small group, about our experience of loss - all quite different. These were, perhaps, some of the most valuable times.

Abi was a cheerful soul, whose light touch guided us along the grief journey with humour and understanding.

Altogether, I found it a very helpful, though emotionally exhausting time. I strongly recommend it to anyone who wishes to explore in confidence the topic that most of us avoid. Perhaps we should explore the issue of death more in our church life together?

Search online ‘Abi May’ for more details.

*John Rice*



# Concert in celebration of Peter Barham

Derventio Choir – Conducted by Alexander Binns

St Matthews, Darley Abbey choir

St Edmunds, Allestree choir

St Matthew's Church, Darley Abbey

15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm

Admission free, by ticket from

Elizabeth Jack ([EAMJack@gmail.com](mailto:EAMJack@gmail.com))

Collection in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice



# Advance Notice - Donate or Buy at May Plant Sale

We will be holding a plant sale in St Edmund's Choir Vestry on Saturday 17th May from 10.00am to 12 noon. We hope to have a wide selection of flower and vegetable plants available and would welcome donations of any surplus plants you might have nearer the time. Refreshments available

Elizabeth Jack



## Darley Abbey Scout Hall Saturday Social on 22nd March

We will be coming up to our 1-year anniversary soon (the first Saturday Social was held in April last year) but we still have enough money left to continue running it free of charge, probably until the end of the year.

At this month's Social we will be holding a taster-class in seated yoga... so, if you fancy having a go at yoga or just fancy a chat over a cuppa in a lovely, warm space with biscuits and good company then why not join us at Darley Abbey Scout Hall (DE22 1DT) from 1.30-3.30 p.m.? With plenty of games to play and newspapers and magazines to read, what's not to like?



## Venue: Darley Abbey Scout Hall

Pantoschokk Productions, Darley Abbey's own Panto company, based at Darley Abbey Scout Hall, present: **Welcome to Grunderland!** A prosperous realm, ruled over by the good King, Gristlewick... but ambitious warriors, hapless courtiers and a beast from the bowels of Hell threaten to destroy this paradise. The wise old crows know something is wrong. Can the Mystic Wizard save the day?

Drinks available at the interval

Please note this is not a fund-raising event being run by the Scout Group but a show put on by one of our regular bookers. We benefit from their hire of the Hall and have received generous donations from them in previous years. Always fabulous and hilarious, it's a must in your diary for March.

# 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 10.45am - again,  
do pop along.




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# The Repair Café is open 1st March & 5th April

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

Bring your broken household items along to our Repair Cafe Saturday 1st March 1-4pm. No specialist repairs (eg clock, antiques) and nothing too big. Cash and electronic donations are accepted to keep our Repair Cafe going. After the March session, the next is on Saturday 5th April 1-4pm.

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

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

---

## St Ed's Safeguarding initiative - SUPPORT SERVICE CONTACTS

**Action on Elder Abuse** (0808 808 8141) [www.wearehourglass.org](http://www.wearehourglass.org)

End the harm, abuse and exploitation of older people in the UK.

**Age UK** (0800 678 1602) [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

Practical support for older people as well as their families, friends and carers.

**Alzheimer's Society** (0333 150 3456) [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

Dementia Support line

**Childline** (0800 1111) [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

Advice and support to children who can share issues and problems, and find a listening ear.

**Family Lives** (0808 800 2222) [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

Information, advice, guidance and support on any aspect of parenting and family life.

**NAPAC** (08088 0103 31) [www.napac.org.uk](http://www.napac.org.uk)

National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC).

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** (0808 2000 247) [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

Informing and empowering individuals to understand their options and support them.

**NSPCC** (0808 800 5000) [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

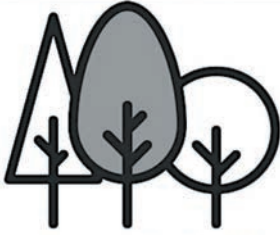
**Samaritans - National** - Tel. 116 123 [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

**Derby and District** - Tel. 0330 094 5717

Supporting individuals who are feeling suicidal and desperate.

**Stop it now** (0808 1000 900) [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)

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# March 2025

## Archdeacon Karen writes...



What are you noticing at the moment I wonder? Take a moment and think. Take a moment? I'm not sure how easy we find that. The culture, the habits and practices that surround us, the newsfeed, the pace and challenge of life can mean we get to the end of the day without 'taking a moment'.

Maybe as we 'March' out of winter however, we can resolve to do that, to pause, to notice and to be still. How? The created order can encourage us to do that I think as we notice signs of returning and new life, as the days lengthen and we (hopefully) see some blue sky. It can be a time to metaphorically lift our heads, to leave winter behind, to look up, and yes, to be still.

For most of this month we travel through Lent, which starts on March 5th, Ash Wednesday.

'What are you giving up for Lent?' is a question that is often asked amongst church communities (and wider) as we spend time in penitence and self-denial, both a reflection of Jesus' time in the wilderness and a preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

I want to suggest, in addition, that we consider taking something on for Lent, that we resolve to 'Take a Moment', that we choose to deliberately press the pause button, lift our heads to the light and be still.

Why? Because in that place of stillness, God can draw close, we can become aware of His presence and we can breathe deeply of His light, love and hope. As we look up and breathe, the 'things of earth can grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace' (to quote an old chorus) and we can know the transforming work of God's Spirit, helping us to turn away from the sin and mess that we're all caught up in and changing us to be more like Jesus.

What are you taking on for Lent?  
Take a moment, press pause and be still ...

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'K Hamblin'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.


**The Venerable Karen Hamblin**  
Archdeacon of East Derbyshire





Come and join us!

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Contact Diane for more information on - 07496 142721

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

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2025

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However, don't rush out and buy a new PC/laptop, please contact me instead. In most cases I will be able to upgrade your existing device with Windows 11, plus offer guidance on using it, if required.

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# St. Edmund's Parish

Church Website: [stedsandstmatts.co.uk](http://stedsandstmatts.co.uk)

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

Office opening hours:- Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 9.30am – 12.30pm  
Wednesday: 9.30am – 3.00pm Thursday: 11.30am – 3.00pm

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

In an emergency, please contact one of the churchwardens.

## Directory

Associate Minister:	Revd Rachael Brooks: <a href="mailto:rev.rachaelbrooks@gmail.com">rev.rachaelbrooks@gmail.com</a>	07305 140573
Churchwardens:	Paul Smith	07792 569758
	Ann Miller	07831 506978
Parish Administrator:	Caroline Audley: <a href="mailto:Steds.stmatts@outlook.com">Steds.stmatts@outlook.com</a>	552031
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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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)

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

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



**St Matthew**  
DARLEY ABBEY

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



# Shrove Tuesday

4 March, 5 - 7 pm  
St Edmund's Church Hall



Join us for delicious  
pancakes with sweet  
toppings & cheese.

## All Welcome