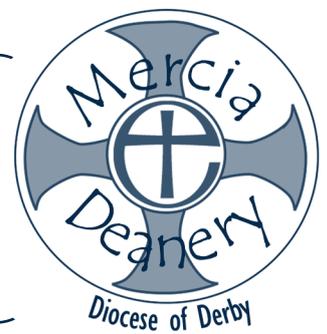


Deanery News

November 2020
Your Bi-monthly Newsletter



Shine...

35 years ago, as a student at Salisbury and Wells Theological College I responded to a request from the Cathedral to help light some candles. The event was their Advent Services of lessons and carols, 'From Darkness to Light'. The service lasted a good hour, starting in pitch black, which was then broken by a solitary light of one candle. The service, built around the Great 'O's of the advent season, that we know in the advent carol, O Come O Come Emmanuel...' That single light spread gradually through the Cathedral moving from West to East. For the hour of the Service I, along with 7 fellow students lit candles almost nonstop until the cathedral was ablaze with light.

Light, and in particular the light of a candle is a powerful symbol within many churches. In Advent we light our Advent Crown journeying through themes of salvation that bring us to Christmas Day. We light candles for Christingle and Carol Services. At Candlemas in February we can process the light out of church as we turn from the light seasons of Christmas and Epiphany towards the darker narratives of Lent and Holy Week. Then on Easter morning a new light, a new candle is lit proclaiming the resurrection of the risen Christ.

Each time, the candle, the motif, is 'Jesus Christ the Light of the World', and as we step again into uncertain times of another 'lockdown' with corporate worship in our churches again cancelled, as the prospect of a muted Christmas looks more certain, that light of the world is perhaps more keenly sort and needed.

At a Covid secure baptism, I took the other week I lit new candles for the two candidates and presented them with the words...

'God has delivered you from the dominion of Darkness
and has given us a place with the Saints in light.'

That hour-long Cathedral Service proclaimed in 1 sentence, we have been delivered from darkness. In that act of grace by God, we have been called to do something with the light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.
Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.

Now as days draw in, nights get colder, as politicians' squabble... now, perhaps more than ever is the time to shine. To shine for the salvation that we have received, to shine for those who have yet to hear this message, to shine for those who find themselves in dark places of loneliness, hunger and debt. To shine for those who are ill, for those who die, and for those who grieve. To shine for those who tend the sick, comfort the dying and hold the bereaved. In all that continues to take place in an uncertain and damaged world... perhaps more now than ever we need to Shine!

Rev Philip Basher

Acting Area Dean



If you would like to include your news in our next Deanery Newsletter, please contact Debbie. You can also subscribe (or unsubscribe) to the newsletter by emailing: debbie.patrick@derby.anglican.org

Launch of Friends of Repton Parish Church

St. Wystan's is following other historic parish churches in the Diocese (Bakewell, Chesterfield, Melbourne, Tideswell) in forming a Friends group for those in the community who are not members of the congregation but wish to support the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

Friends of Repton Parish Church (FRPC) has been set up as a registered charity with trustees, currently chaired by the vicar, being a mix of members of the congregation, representatives of the local community, and others interested in the history and archaeology of the building.

Professor Mark Horton, who with Cat Jarman has led recent excavations in the vicarage garden, has agreed to be President of the Friends. Professor Martin Biddle, who for many years led excavations around the building is a patron along with Mr Mark Semmence, Head of Repton School. Previous Bishops of Repton are also supporters as honorary patrons.

It is envisaged that Friends will be involved with practical help maintaining the building and churchyard, and also with fundraising for specific projects. It has been suggested that the initial Friends project will be funding new energy efficient floodlighting to illuminate the spire and tower, replacing the previous set up that has been out of use as it has been impossible to obtain replacement bulbs.



Meals 4 U

Meals 4 U is a food project run by Churches Together in Swadlincote and District out of Emmanuel Church. Working in conjunction with South Derbyshire CVS, South Derbyshire District Council, P3 and Children's services we prepare, cook and deliver a free hot meal and deliver a food parcel each Friday afternoon for the most vulnerable individuals in our community. The project has been going since May and now delivers up to 130 meals per week to vulnerable households.



On Friday 30th October, Canon Malcolm Macnaughton was named as the next Bishop of Repton. That same day, Bishop Libby brought Canon Malcolm to Swadlincote to see how Meals 4 U was helping those in need in our area. Bishop Libby, along with Canon Malcolm, his wife Rev Pam Macnaughton and Diocesan Media Officer Dave King the project and the wider impacts of COVID on Swadlincote over lunch and then the Bishop and Bishop elect borrowed a couple of aprons and set about chopping onions ready for use in meal being prepared. Later 130 portions of Chilli and Rice were delivered to 36 addresses across Swadlincote.

St Marks, Winshill's Scarecrow Harvest Festival

Because we could not meet in church to decorate for Sunday due to Coronavirus regulations so we asked members of the congregation and the local school to make a scarecrow for a decoration.

They were delivered on Saturday morning along with non perishable gifts of food to be donated to the YMCA.



This scarecrow was made by 5 year olds and is wearing school uniform.



It was good to see baskets of apples and fir cones from the garden.



Rev Philip's Scarecrow reminding us to wash hands, cover faces and keep distanced.



The altar was set up with the traditional harvest loaf of bread and wine for our Eucharist on Sunday morning.



This scarecrow is also from Tower View School and represents The Tin Man

The font was adorned with scarecrows made by members of the congregation. Below are gifts of food for the YMCA donated by church members. A collection plate was available for donations to be split between Bishop Libby's appeal and the YMCA.



All the scarecrows in church can be seen on Saint Mark's Church, Winshill Website which is stmarkswinshill.co.uk

Pumpkin Trail at Hartshorne Church

St Peters welcomed children and their families to the Churchyard on Saturday 31st October to shine Jesus' light.

It was so lovely to see these families especially as we haven't seen most of them since the beginning of Lockdown.

The children walked around the Churchyard looking at the pumpkins on display and then were given a 'bag of hope' with a yummy chocolate biscuit to take home.



St Wilfrid's, Barrow upon Trent—Transformation

Since May our Anglo-Saxon / Mediaeval church has been undergoing a massive transformation with builders making our church into a place for everyone to use, not just on Sundays.

The first stage of the transformation work began in February; following the sale of the pews we took the opportunity to remove all of our rubbish and redundant items from the church.

A team of willing volunteers filled a skip with our old furniture and fittings, and many of the books etc. that we will retain were packed into boxes for removal to safe storage for the duration of the building work.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who gave their time to help with this big task – many hands make light work of a seriously daunting task.

Although it is with a slight tinge of sadness that we saw our old friends going out of the church door, we are delighted that our well-loved pews are going to new homes that will cherish and care for them for the next 100+ years.



Since the clearance, the church has been completely stripped out and reconfigured, the floor dismantled, a new floor laid and new lighting, heating and broadband installed. The new kitchen will make the building accessible for use by many people for many different activities, not just our church services.



We hope to welcome many people from the Deanery, and around the area, over the next few months for visits, meetings, and any other activities that may be provided.

We hope to reopen St Wilfrid's in December with a Covid-friendly Christmas Tree festival. This will give everyone a chance to see their church with its new appearance, taking it back to its Anglo-Saxon roots – a community open space for everyone. The Christmas event will, we hope, provide a good start to a very different style of Christmas for 2020 - the Christmas trees, decorated by all of the different organisations in the village, will be on display, with carols playing in the background.

In the New Year we shall be organising other events – if you are interested in coming to these 2021 events and to have a look at St Wilfrid's, please get in touch: stwilfridsbarrow@gmail.com

Christmas 2020

If the people can't come to your church to celebrate Christmas.... Then how do we take Christmas to the people?
Here are some ideas of how to take Covid out of Christmas.

Put together a booklet of carols and designate a community carol evening (this could be a great churches together event). Small groups of people (6 or fewer, depending on restrictions) could gather in various parts of a parish and each of the groups would sing the same carol at the same time, so that throughout the parish people were singing carols together though physically apart. People could be invited to come out to their front gardens or steps and join in.

To save you time you could download a carol sheet from a website, here a link that you might find useful:

<https://www.liturgytools.net/2010/12/christmas-carol-word-sheet.html>



Send a card to everyone on our street with a teabag or sweet.



Taking inspiration from a traditional carol service, it features daily reflections for the Christmas season from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcot, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby.



Beginning on Christmas Day and ending on 2 January, each day explores a Bible reading and a familiar carol, encouraging us to look with fresh eyes at how the timeless truth of Christmas might shape our lives in these extraordinary times, and inviting us to hear again the message of the angels – good news of God's unfailing love for a world that is weary and hurting.

Churches all over the country will be marking Advent and Christmas in both new and familiar ways, both in person and online. Find out more about the campaign, access online services, download the free app featuring audio versions of all the featured carols at: www.churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy

News from the Diocese

How will you be marking Christmas 2020?

This year advent and Christmas will be unlike any other year, but it will still happen. We would like to make sure that the spirit of Christmas reaches all corners of the county to celebrate with those people who can and support those that will find this year extra hard.

This year we are looking for contributions from all over the diocese for a special project that will go live on 1 December. We are looking for real stories of how you are planning to celebrate, how you will reach out to friends, family and others within your community, the ways your church will encourage worship, how your community is coming together - figurative if we can't physically - to share around the diocese. We would also like to hear about any projects that are coming up, night shelters, food banks, collection of gifts for the community, serving meals, work with school etc.

We would like you to send us short (30seconds – 1 minute) videos or photographs and a short written article (approx 100 words) explaining how Advent and Christmas will be different for you this year and how you will be marking it. Submissions should be with us by Friday 4 December but the earlier the better! If you have an exciting project coming up but are unable to film a video yourself do get in touch and we will try and support you.

Please send your submissions to communications@derby.anglican.org including your full name, area where you live and the church you worship in (if appropriate). We will share as many as we can within the project, our social media channels and publications. We look forward to hearing from you.

Learning webinars run by The Church of England

There are a wide variety of Webinars available and, having been on some, I can highly recommend having a look at the Church of England website and seeing if there is anything that could be useful to your church.

Go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/digital-labs/digital-labs-webinars#na>

And see what is available.

Dealing with loneliness and isolation: 5 top tips

Find simple ways to deal with loneliness and isolation.

1. **Pray. Light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.**
2. **Talk about how you feel.** This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but do use the telephone, internet, and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor this can be arranged by your GP, or via local agencies, or privately. The [Samaritans are there](#) 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.
3. **Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.**
4. **Look after yourself - physically, emotionally, spiritually.** Plan in things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.
5. **Look after others. Even if only in small ways, but do what you can:** a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

Deadline for February Deanery Newsletter

Please send in your articles to debbie.patrick@derby.anglican.org

Deadline - 29th January 2021

Remember that anything you send looks much better with photo's so please send anything you have.

Dates for your Diary

Deanery Synod dates for 2020
Tuesday 15th December

Your Deanery Leadership team are...

Acting Area Dean (statutory role) - Revd Philip boshier –Chair –Winhill & Bretby
Maggie Fenby-Taylor - Lay Chair - St George, Ticknall
Liz Ballinger -Deanery Treasurer - St Mark, Winhill
Jon Whiten - Leadership Team Member and Diocesan Synod Rep - St George & St Mary, Gresley
Debbie Patrick - Deanery Administrator and Deanery Synod Secretary

Mercia Deanery Benefices

● Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney ● Church Gresley ● Melbourne, Ticknal, Smisby and Stanton-by-Bridge ● Newhall ● Seale: Lullington, Linton, Castle Gresley and Overseal ● Stapenhill (including Caldwell) ● Swadlincote and Hartshorne ● Trent and Derwent: Aston-on-Trent, Elvaston, Weston-onTrent and Shardlow, Barrow-upon-Trent with Twyford and swarkestone ● Trent United: Walton-on-Trent and Croxall, Stapenhill:Immanuel, Rosliston, Coton-in-the-Elms, Catton ● Winhill and Bretby