



Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Today's service

**10:45 Holy Communion**  
with Rev Mike Firbank



### Today's Reading



Ezekiel 36

### A thought from Mike

Ezekiel 36 is a fascinating chapter. In the small section we will study we can glean something of what we should mean by nationalism, and we are challenged about what it really means to follow the Lord and His commands.

Today there are lots of people, including political parties, using God and the Bible to justify their actions and their words... let's explore Ezekiel and seek God together.

### Prayer for the week

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power  
and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness and know your  
peace,  
to the glory of God, the Father. Amen



When I was a child growing up in the 1950s every week, we would have the Sunday Express delivered. It was read cover to cover by my dad, and I remember that each week there would be a small

gardening item called **Adam the Gardener**.

My dad was a keen gardener, growing vegetables, that is; flowers were left to my mother. I must have picked up quite a few tips from my dad because, at this time of year, I always think May 12<sup>th</sup> is the day to plant runner beans. So, last week I prepared the raised beds. I wanted to improve the soil, so I added a few bags of general-purpose compost. Then, on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, it was a sunny day, and I erected the cane wigwams and sowed the beans. However, I can't be doing with the faff of stringing and slicing runner beans, so for the last few years I have grown climbing French beans instead. These are much easier to pick and prepare and need relatively little looking after once growing strongly.

Last year, I didn't have a good crop because the rabbits got there first. Hopefully, this year they have effectively been banished from the garden, so I will have more success. Jane

### We've just marked Mental Health Awareness Week.

Jesus said, come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (*Matthew 11:28*)

He does not say, come when you are strong; he says, come when you are weary. And sometimes the most courageous expression of faith is not pressing on alone, but reaching out, speaking to someone, asking for help, allowing others to walk with you.

Struggling does not mean you are failing. It does not mean your faith is deficient. It means you are human and deeply, tenderly loved by God. With Christ, even a troubled mind can know peace, strength for today, and a steady hope for tomorrow.

*Lord Jesus, you know us completely—every thought, every fear, every hidden burden. Thank you that you meet us with kindness, not condemnation.*

*For those who feel anxious, speak your peace.*

*For those who feel overwhelmed, impart your strength.*

*For those whose minds are restless, bring your calm and grant a sound mind.*

*Surround us with your presence, steady our hearts, and renew our minds day by day. Amen.*

J. John

<https://fb.watch/H4E6NGb2fD/>

## CHURCH CALENDAR



**ALL SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL WHILST THE CHURCH IS CLOSED FOR RESTORATION WORK**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**10:45 Morning Worship**

with Sean O'Toole

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

**10:30 Coffee & Conversation**

at Goseley Community Centre

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**10:00 Joint Minster Service**

at Emmanuel Church

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

**10:45 Morning Worship**

with Rev Patrick Douglas

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**10:45 Morning Worship**

with Nigel Worth

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

**10:45 Holy Communion**

with Rev Mike Firbank

## ROTAS

Thank you to all our volunteers.

If you would like help in any way, please have a word with Jane Horan.



### Reading, Intercessions and Refreshments Rota

	Reading	Intercessions	Tea/coffee
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Paul	Nigel	James
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff	Brian	Carol
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	MINSTER SERVICE AT EMMANUEL		
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	John	Christine	Maxine & Jane
Jun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Emily	Friday HG	Deb W
Jun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Brian	Nigel	Gwen
Jun 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra	Brian	James

### Meet & greet/Tidying after the service Rota

	Meet and greet	Tidying after service
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christine T	Jean
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Carol J – Jeff	Jeff
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	MINSTER SERVICE AT EMMANUEL	
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Christine G - Sean	Emily
Jun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christine T	Nathan
Jun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Carol J – Jeff	Jeff
Jun 28 <sup>th</sup>	Christine T	Nathan



Swadlincote & District  
**YOUTH FOR CHRIST**

If you would like to find out more about the work of SDYFC, or would like to pray for the work or donate please speak to Helen after the service, or contact her on [helen.davis@yfc.co.uk](mailto:helen.davis@yfc.co.uk)



Do you have a story, recipe, gardening tip, or testimony to share? We'd love to feature it in this newsletter. Email your contributions to

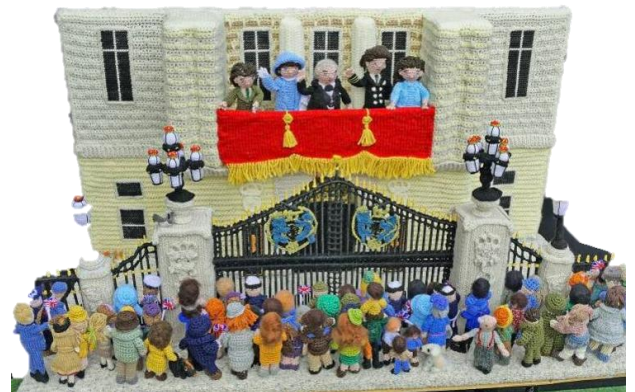
[jane.horan52@gmail.com](mailto:jane.horan52@gmail.com)

or contact me for more info. Many thanks, Jane

**If you would like to to subscribe to the Minster Newsletter to find out what is happening across all four churches: Scan the QR Code**



**THE LONGEST YARN 2: Britain at War** is currently hosted at Lichfield Cathedral from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May.



Open Monday-Saturday 10:00 - 16:00 & Sunday 12:00-14:30 - Please check our [calendar](#) carefully, for specific dates, before travelling.

A study of Britain from 3rd September 1939 to VE Day, 8th May 1945. Covering all aspects of life: rationing, evacuees, the blitz, grim headlines during Britain's darkest hour, ending in the euphoria of peace.

Britain at War showcases 80 engaging panels alongside a cast of life-sized characters, each representing key figures who played pivotal roles during the war.

