

Ashbourne Church News 06/09/2026



Welcome to this Week's Newsletter

Church and Parish Office Opening Times

St Oswald's Church is open daily from 10am to 5pm

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- *Bell Ringing Practice: Wednesday evenings from 19.30 to 21.00*
 - *Choir Practice: Friday evenings from 19.00 to 20.00*
-

The Parish Office is open

-
- *Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 to 12:00*
-

Telephone: 01335 343052

If you need a priest urgently, please call 01335 664159.

Pastoral Contact

If you would like to contact a member of the clergy team to discuss any pastoral matter please telephone 01335 664159.

Ministry Thought for the Week

It seems hardly possible, but already summer is ebbing into autumn and September is the start of the School Academic Year, which means we are more than halfway through 2026, and doesn't time fly! This was brought home to me quite forcibly today as I watched our neighbour's son go off to QEGS this morning in his new school uniform. It seems only yesterday that he was a babe in arms!

As a new season begins, schools have fresh timetables, businesses set new priorities and leaders cast their vision for the months ahead. There is a fresh start and life usually gets busier.

Jesus lived one of the busiest lives imaginable. Crowds constantly surrounded Him. People wanted His help from morning until night. Yet He never appeared rushed. He had time to pray. He made time to rest. He never hurried simply because everyone else was hurrying.

September often feels like a new beginning. Before we fill every spare space in our diary, perhaps we should first ask God to help us shape the pattern of our days. The busiest life is not necessarily the most fruitful. The most fruitful life is one that walks with God.

The Apostle Paul gives us a wonderful picture of that life:

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

Life is at its best when we discover God's rhythm. As we learn to keep in step with the Holy Spirit, we find that the deepest peace is not found in having an empty diary, but in walking each day with the One who walks beside us.

Blessings

Maggie



Welcome to Catherine Pettingale, Director of Music

We are delighted to welcome Catherine Pettingale to the role of Director of Music as she joins us this month.

Catherine brings a wealth of experience as a musician, choral director, and music educator with over fifteen years of experience leading choirs, playing the organ, and managing large-scale concert events. She read Music at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where she held the Senior Organ Scholarship from 2008 to 2011, directing and accompanying the chapel choir and maintaining the college's music library.

After graduating she spent three years in South Africa as part of an RSCM programme, conducting the boys' Chapel Choir at St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, and playing at cathedrals in Kimberley and Grahamstown. Catherine comes to us from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Ashbourne, where she was Deputy Head of Performing Arts. She conducted the main school choir and chamber choir, directed the music for the annual school musical, and organised the school's concert programme.

For almost twenty years Catherine has worked as Concerts Manager for the Lichfield Festival, coordinating all performances in Lichfield Cathedral during the ten-day event and liaising with artists, clergy, and technical crews.

We hope that you will make Catherine very welcome as she continues to extend the strong musical heritage associated with St Oswald's Church.

Church Services, Readings and Music

Weekly Online Service

Weekly Online Service

Each week a recorded service is prepared which can be streamed from the church [YouTube channel](#).

Recorded Services

Join us in the service. This week's recorded service can be downloaded using the following link:

[Morning Prayer from St.Peter's, Snelston](#)

Breakfast Church - 13th September



Education Sunday on Sunday 13 September

Join us for Education Sunday at Breakfast Church (9.00am) and/or at Holy Communion (10.30am) at St Oswald's as we celebrate the gift of learning, give thanks for our teachers, schools, and young people, and pray for the year ahead.

Bring your backpack to church for our special 'Blessings of the Backpacks'—a joyful moment of prayer and blessing for everyone heading back to school. Whether you're a pupil, student, teacher, or simply want to support our local schools, come along and be part of this special celebration!





Services

Find Services and Events in the Calendar

All of the Ashbourne Group of Churches services can be found on the website in the [Calendar](#). You can also see forthcoming events taking place in Church and in the Church Hall.

September Services

ASHBOURNE GROUP OF CHURCHES

Everyone is **WELCOME** at any of the Services in our Churches

Day	SEPT	Time	Church	Service
Sunday	6th	9.15	St John's, Buxton Hill	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.15	St Peter's, Snelston	Holy Communion
		10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
		11.00	St Mary & St Barlock, Norbury	Holy Communion
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Evensong
Sunday	13th	9.00	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Breakfast Church
		9.15	St Mary's Mappleton	Holy Communion
		10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Evensong
Sunday	20th	10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Evensong
Sunday	27th	10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Harvest Holy Communion
		16.00	Holy Trinity, Clifton	Harvest Festival
		16.00	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Messy Church
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Choral Evensong

ON LINE SERVICES

Daily Morning & Evening Prayer and Sunday Morning Service available on :

ashbournechurch.org.uk

WEDDING and BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

Please call Parish Office on 01335 343052

PASTORAL CONTACT

To speak to a member of the Clergy call 01335 664159

Music in September

Thank you!

Last Sunday was so very special in every way. Your generosity was wonderful. The outside mirror, suitably decorated with bee designs, will be going up shortly, the voucher for the RSC will be used in Stratford upon Avon soon, the bottle of fizz enjoyed when the dust settles and the large cheque will pay for a stay in Stratford upon Avon. Sally is enjoying her flowers too. The bring and share meal on Sunday was excellent, the Songs of Praise at Norbury very well supported and enjoyed and then the Choral Evensong with the friends of St George's Church, Paris, a perfect end to the day.

Thank you does not really do enough to express my appreciation of everything. I have amazing memories, friendships and experiences that I shall treasure for years to come. Saturday 5th is the Turnditch and Windley Show and those of you in the know will appreciate that it consumes all available time this week so sitting back and enjoying the view is not an option. It is something we can look forward to though! Thank you!

Michael Halls

September 2026			
SUNDAY 6th	14th Sunday after Trinity	Green	
10.30 496	Lead us heavenly Father lead us	6.30	Blessed are the pure in heart/Walford Davis
313	My God and is thy table spread	533	O for a heart to praise my God
589	The King of Love	Psalm 34 vs 1-8	
	I lift my eyes to the hills above	476	In a world where people walk in darkness
324	Sweet sacrament divine		Jesu joy/Bach
311	Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour	21	Sun of my soul
SUNDAY 13th	15th Sunday after Trinity/ Holy Cross	Green	
10.30 555	Praise my soul...	6.30 163	O taste and see/Vaughan Williams
581	Take my life		All hail the power of Jesu's name
122	The royal banners forward go	Psalm 110	
	God so loved the world/Stainer	608	Thy kingdom come
127	When I survey the wondrous cross.		Lord for thy tender mercies' sake/Tye
81	Lord for the years	22	The day thou gavest
SUNDAY 20th	16th Sunday after Trinity/ St Matthew	Green	
10.30 230	Ye watchers and ye holy ones	6.30	Comfort O Lord/Crotch
474	Immortal invisible God only wise	583	Teach me my God and King
455	Guide me O thou great Redeemer	Psalm 34 vs 1-8	
	Day by day/How	385	Be thou my guardian and my guide
277	All for Jesus		Lord give me faith/Robson
435	Glorious things of thee are spoken	23	The duteous day now closeth
SUNDAY 27th	17th Sunday after Trinity/ Harvest Festival	Green	
10.30 270	Come ye thankful people come	6.30	Choral Evensong
251	All things bright and beautiful (Royal Oak)		Stanford in Bb Smith responses
275	We plough the fields and scatter		Fear not O land/Elgar
	Thou visitest the earth/Greene	258	Lord of beauty (Regent Square)
272	Praise and thanksgiving	271	God whose farm is all creation
253	For the beauty of the earth	Psalm 65	
250	All creatures of our God and King (omit vs 5+6)	274	For the beauty of the earth/Rutter
			To Thee O Lord our hearts we raise
October			
SUNDAY 4th	18th Sunday after Trinity/St Francis	Green	
10.30		6.30	
250	All creatures of our God and King		To Thee O Lord/Rachmaninoff
386	Be thou my vision	618	When in our music God is glorified
449	God of mercy God of grace	252	As water to the thirsty
	Gaelic Blessing/Rutter	Psalm 23	
519	Make me a channel of your peace		Ave Verum Corpus/Byrd
468	Lord of the dance	11	As now the sun's declining rays
SUNDAY 11th	19th Sunday after Trinity	Green	
10.30 400	City of God		Choral Evensong
313	My God and is thy table spread	6.30	Brewer in D Sanders responses
418	Father Lord of all creation		Now to God sing praises/ Somerset
	Non Nobis Domini/Quilter	415	Eternal light shine in my heart
383	Be still for the presence of the Lord	391	Blest are the pure in heart
482	Jerusalem the golden	Psalm 139 vs 1-11	
			Psalm 23/Goodall
		12	At even ere the sun was set (omit 2 and 6)

Choral Scholarships at St Oswald's

Music is an important part of the life of St Oswald's church in Ashbourne, especially through the musical ministry of the choir. We are developing our choral scholarships here, building on the success of the scheme so far.

Ideally, 4 students ('scholars') will have mentored places in the choir, alongside more experienced singers. This will optimally be one per voice part (soprano/alto/ tenor/bass); the expectation is that you will be Y10 and upwards (i.e. age 15-18).

Scholars will be expected to regularly attend choir practice, and at least one of the two services on Sunday. You will gain experience of a vast range of repertoire, improved choral singing skills, teamwork with adults, regular gold standard music in services and excellent sight-reading skills. This gives you experience to enable you potentially to apply for a choral scholarship at university, and to add to UCAS forms when applying for university/college. In return, we will offer scholars 30 minutes of tuition, at the end of choir practice. This will cover sight reading, aural skills, and general music perception. A basis for this will be the RSCM Voice for Life Singing Awards – St Oswald's has had a good track record of young singers gaining Bronze, Silver and Gold awards (NB the Awards are about to be submitted for OFQUAL accreditation giving them value on a UCAS form).

You will receive an honorarium of £100 for the year plus £1 for each practice and service attended. St Oswald's church choir has an excellent reputation for good music sung in our church as well as for weddings elsewhere, services in cathedrals (including York Minster, Salisbury and Hereford) and concerts too.

Please find out more by contacting Catherine Pettingale (Director of Music as from September 1st) at music@ashbournechurch.org.uk. Application forms will be sent to you after the initial contact. I shall look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you.

Catherine Pettingale - email: music@ashbournechurch.org.uk

St Oswald's Choir

This is a good time of year for new choristers to join us. Given that no-one in the choir is able to be present for all choral services, it is very helpful when we have more choristers on the books than we need at any one time. Children aged 7 or more will always be made very welcome. Basses, tenors, altos and sopranos will also be welcome. An ability to sing in tune is at least desirable but a sense of humour, a wish to enjoy good music and an enthusiasm to learn new pieces is really helpful. Currently, choir practice is on Fridays for an hour at 7.30. Anthems are sung at both main services on Sunday. Choral Evensong, once a month, requires more

complicated music from the choir. Decide on what you think you could offer in terms of time or skills and then have a word with one of us. Don't forget our Choral Scholarship scheme too: you may well know someone who could benefit from this.

September Readings Notes

Sunday 6 September – (14th Sunday after Trinity - Continuous)

Exodus 12.1-14

After their escape from slavery in Egypt, the Hebrews are told they must hold a thanksgiving feast annually to celebrate their delivery. They are told what to eat and drink and how to be dressed. They must also smear blood on the doorpost of their homes.

Romans 13.8-14

Paul continues his advice to the Christians in Rome on how they must behave. Love must be the most important quality in their lives, following the example of Jesus.

Matthew 18.15-20

Jesus spoke to his disciples

In answer to their queries, Jesus gave his disciples advice on how to deal with members of the church who have disobeyed, giving them his authority to discipline offenders.

For all the readings notes this month, please [visit the website](#).

Readings - 6th September: Trinity 14

Exodus 12.1-14

After their escape from slavery in Egypt, the Hebrews are told they must hold a thanksgiving feast annually to celebrate their delivery. They are told what to eat and drink and how to be dressed. They must also smear blood on the doorpost of their homes.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter

herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

For all the readings this week, please visit this week's [Readings and Prayers](#) on the website.

Please remember in your prayers this week

Those who are unable to be with us in church.

Those who are ill.

The recently bereaved.

Areas of conflict: the Ukraine, the Middle East, the Sudan and too many others.

Our local churches.

Our Ministry Team: Dwayne, Maggie, Nigel, Rachel, Anne, Ash & Lynda.

Pop in for Prayer with Anna Chaplain, Lindsay Walker

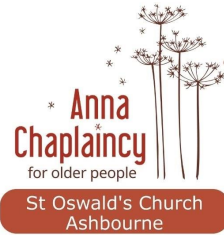
Pop in for Prayer:

Cornerstone Café, Ashbourne on Thursdays from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Turnbull Room, St Oswald's Church Hall on Fridays 11.00am - 12.00 noon

Find out what God is doing and join in - Rowan Williams

Pop in for Prayer



Join Lindsay on Thursdays from
10:00 am - 12:00 noon at the
Cornerstone Café



Join Lindsay on Fridays from
11:00 am - 12:00 noon in St
Oswald's Chapel



What's New

Confirmation Explained

This News Letter features an Invitation to prepare for Confirmation.

If you are not Confirmed, you may well be wondering why Confirmation is necessary at all, for nowhere is it mentioned in the Bible and the Early Church didn't practise it in the way that we do. Baptism, by contrast, is spoken of frequently in the New Testament.

In the Early Church one was baptised by a Bishop and would receive the Holy Spirit by his laying on of hands. Over the years, Bishops were taking responsibility for much larger areas and rarely could they be present at a Baptism to lay their hands on the person concerned.

After the Reformation, the Church of England in effect turned Confirmation into a rite for teenagers to enable them to ratify the faith their parents and godparents had professed on their behalf at Baptism and led them to receiving their first Eucharist, or Holy Communion.

The Common Worship Initiation Services that we use today return us to something like the practice of the Early Church by providing a Service which includes Baptism, Confirmation and a

Eucharist, presided over by a Bishop. Those who come to faith in adulthood are baptised and confirmed at the same time and immediately become full members of the Church and receive the bread and wine.

As I said earlier, nowhere in the Bible does it say that one should be confirmed before receiving the bread and wine, which is why we, in our Services, invite all who wish to receive to come to God's table and receive.

However, the essence of Confirmation is not just the bread and wine, it is the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands by a Bishop. It sets the seal on all that God has done for each individual up to that point and, as they are confirmed with the Holy Spirit, the Bishop prays for one's *understanding* how our faith contributes to our everyday lives, for *Strength* as we need God's help day-by-day and for *Spirituality* as we grow more and more to be like Jesus as we seek God's will and try to serve him.

If you are not yet Confirmed then, with the support of our prayers, please do take another step in your faith journey and take up our invitation to prepare for Confirmation this October at St Oswald's. We look forward to journeying with you.

With blessings

Nigel

On behalf of the Ministry Team

Invitation to join our upcoming Confirmation Course

We are delighted to invite you to join our upcoming Confirmation Course to be confirmed in late October when Bishop Jackie comes to St Oswald's Church for a Deanery Confirmation Service! Confirmation is a wonderful opportunity to explore your faith, ask deep questions about God, and publicly affirm your baptismal promises as part of our church family. During the course, we will gather to learn, pray, and discuss the foundations of the Christian faith in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Please RSVP to Nicola at parishoffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk or direct any questions to any of the clergy by late August.

We look forward to taking this next step in your spiritual journey with you!

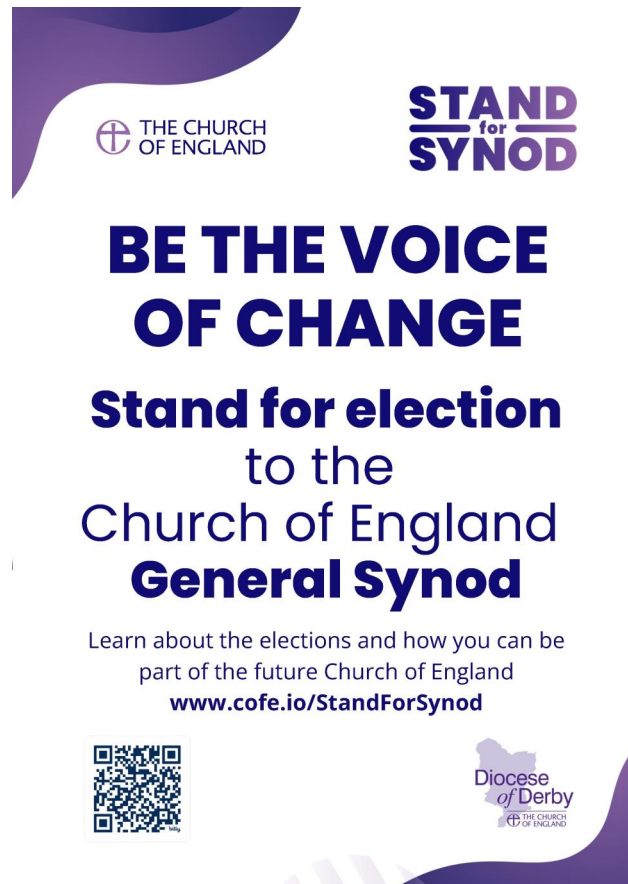
General Synod Elections 2026

General Synod is the national decision-making body of the Church of England. It brings together people from across the country to discuss important issues, shape policy, and make decisions about the future life and mission of the Church

This year, elections are taking place for new members. Clergy and Laity who are passionate about the Church and would like to help represent the views of local churches at a national level are encouraged to stand.

Whilst candidates do not need to be a member of Deanery Synod to stand, there are eligibility requirements that apply. The Church of England website has more information about what General Synod does, an eligibility checker and details of what is involved in standing for election.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 7th September 2026.



The poster features a large purple abstract shape in the top left corner. In the top right, the text 'STAND for SYNOD' is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'for' in a smaller font size. Below this, the Church of England logo (a cross inside a circle) is followed by the text 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'. The central text reads 'BE THE VOICE OF CHANGE' in large, bold, blue capital letters, followed by 'Stand for election to the Church of England General Synod' in a mix of bold and regular blue font. Below this, it says 'Learn about the elections and how you can be part of the future Church of England' and provides the website 'www.cofe.io/StandForSynod'. A QR code is located in the bottom left. In the bottom right, there is a logo for the 'Diocese of Derby' which includes a map of the diocese and the text 'Diocese of Derby' and 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'. A purple abstract shape is also in the bottom right corner.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

STAND
for
SYNOD

**BE THE VOICE
OF CHANGE**

**Stand for election
to the
Church of England
General Synod**

Learn about the elections and how you can be
part of the future Church of England
www.cofe.io/StandForSynod

Diocese
of Derby
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 25th September, 10:30 - 12:30, St Oswald's Church



We are holding a Macmillan coffee Morning here at St Oswald's Church on Friday 25th September 10.30 am – 12.30 pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity for members of our community to come together 'however we do it, whether we raise a little or a lot, let's do something amazing and raise money to help people living with cancer'. (Macmillan)

Do please come and join us, share a coffee and a piece of cake.

We are looking for small gifts for our tombola and shall welcome cakes and biscuits nearer the time

If you feel you would like to offer help on the day, please contact Chris 07798561312/ Lindsay 7971802671.

Ashbourne Gospel

We are excited to launch the Ashbourne Gospel as a creative visitor project throughout the Summer.

We're creating the Ashbourne Gospel, a church and community project in Ashbourne.

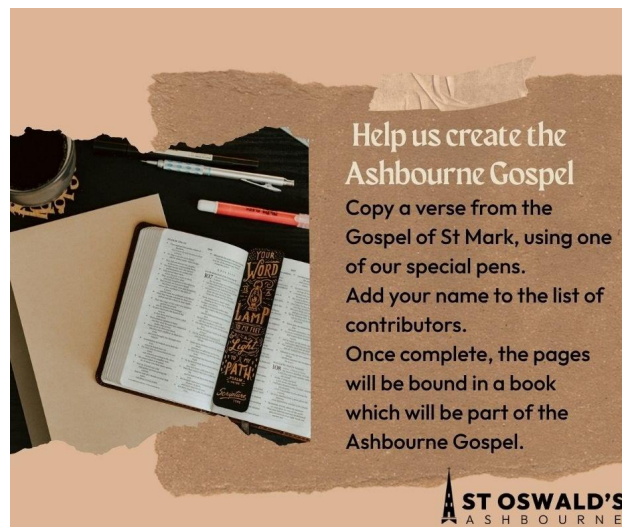
Here's how you can get involved:

Call into St Oswald's Church. We have set up a table and chair under the Crossing, complete with pen and paper.

Press the on button of the light box. You will then see the guidelines underneath the paper.

Choose the next verse from the printed sheet and write that in your best handwriting. Once complete, cross through the verse on the printed sheet and add your name to the list of contributors, if you would like to be listed in the back of the bound book.

[Find out more.](#)



Church Groups

Walking and Rambling with St Oswalds

St Oswald's has a choice of two walking groups.

The Ramblers group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month, starts walking at 10.00am and covers approximately 5 miles.

The Walking group meets on the last Saturday of the month, starts walking at 9.30am and covers approximately 10 miles.

Ramblers Group Dates (All rambles start at 10 a.m.)

- Monday 14th September 2026

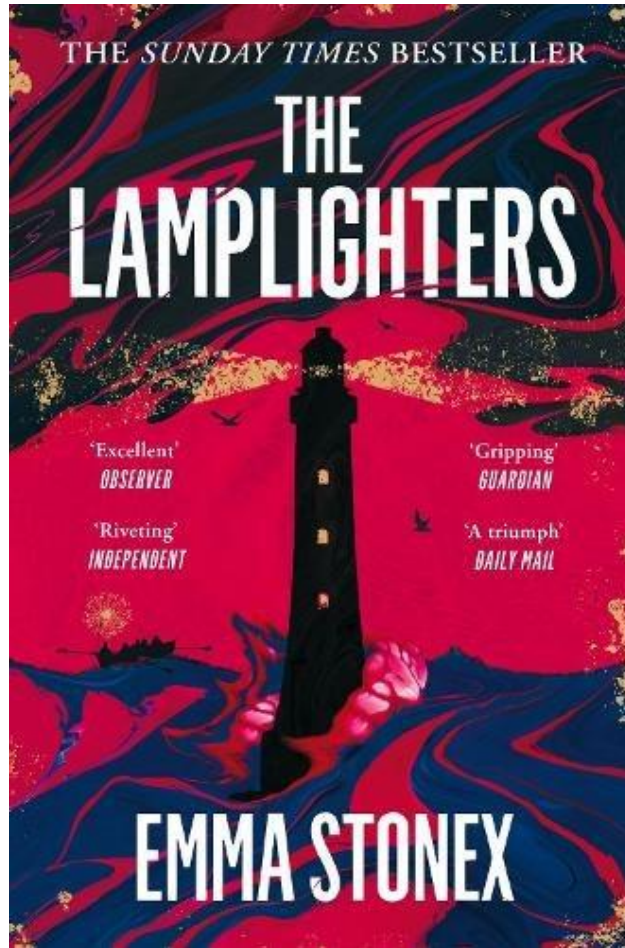
Walking Group Dates (All walks start at 9:30 a.m.)

- Saturday 26th September 2026

Gill

Email : paulgillelliott@outlook.com

St Oswald's Bookclub

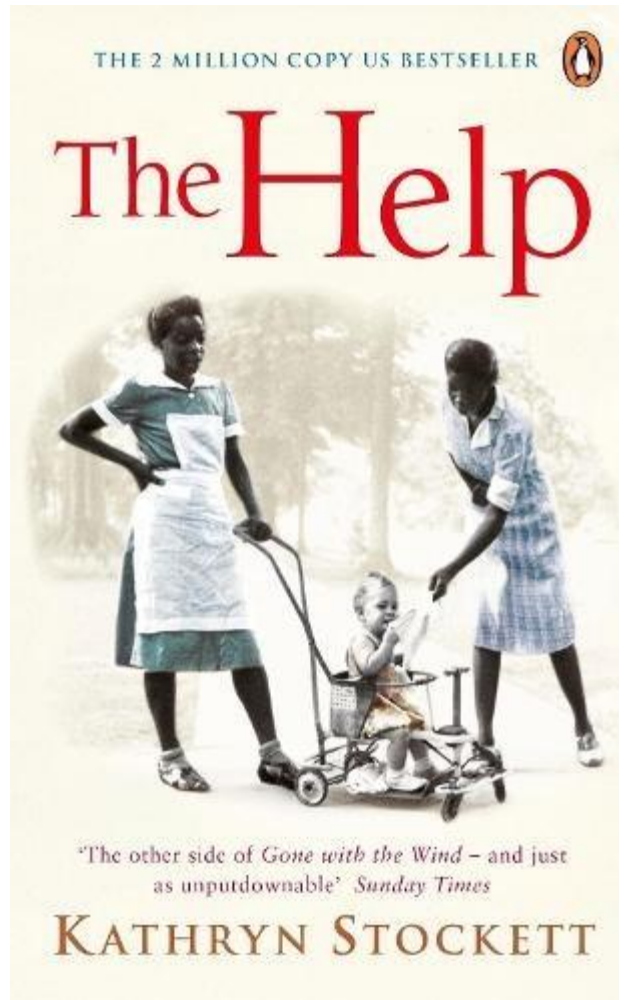


St Oswald's Book club meets every month in Ashbourne Library.

In August we have read 'The Lamplighters' by Emma Stonex. A challenging read set in Cornwall in 1972.

Three keepers vanish from a remote lighthouse miles from the shore. The entrance door is locked from the inside. The clocks have stopped. The Principal Lighthouse keeper's weather log describes a mighty storm, but the skies have been clear. Twenty years later, the women they left behind are still struggling to move on. When a writer arrives, trying to solve the puzzle. But only in confronting their darkest fears can the truth begin to surface.....

Inspired by real events.



September's read is to be 'The Help' by Kathryn Stockett. A historical fiction novel about African Americans working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi during the early 1960's.

Next meeting, Monday 7th September 10.00am – 11.00am.

Dates for your Diary

- 8 September, 13:00 - Ossie's Potters
- 8 September, 14:30 - Mother's Union
- 13 September, 09:00 and 10:30 - Blessing of the Backpacks/Breakfast Church
- 13 September, 14:00 - 16:00 - Bright Minds, Bold Pride
- 15 September, 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen

Get Involved

- Saturday 12 September - Diocese of Derby Lay Conference

See [Forthcoming Events](#) on the website.

Generous faith.
Diocese of Derby Lay Conference 2026
Saturday 12 September 9.30am-4.30pm
at Cliff College

Speakers and Workshops include:
Rt Rev Sophie Jelley - Bishop of Coventry and national episcopal lead for lay ministries
John Allister - Neurodiverse Church
Carrie Myers - National Lead for Lay Ministry
Bob Goody - Rural Missions
with more to be announced

A day of worship, speakers, workshops, prayer, networking and fellowship for those involved in lay ministry across the Diocese of Derby.

Hot drinks, light breakfast, and lunch provided.

Free but need to book.

This conference is aimed at: Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers), Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, and all lay volunteers and teams.

All are truly welcome!

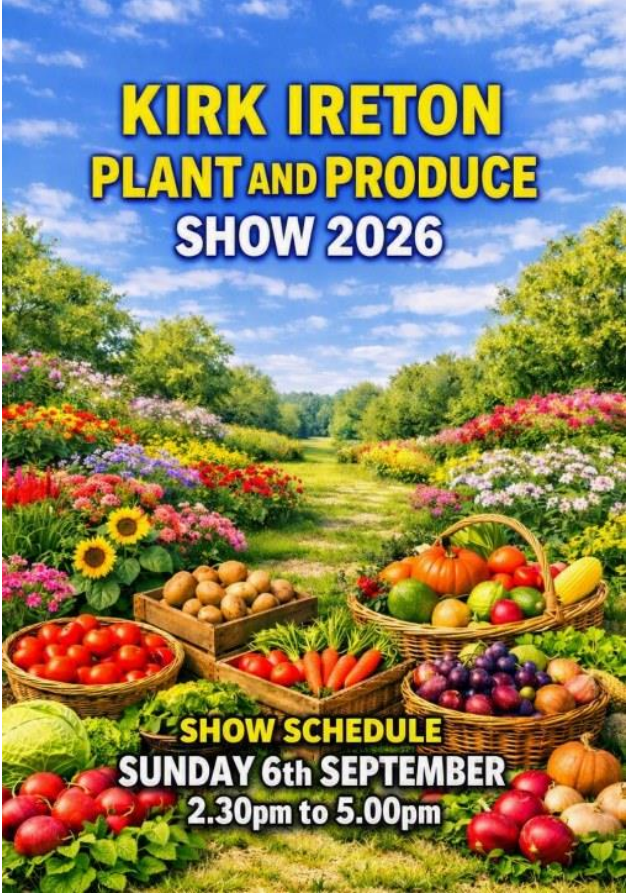
Book now at bit.ly/layministryconference26

Parish Support Team for the Diocese of Derby, Derby Church House, Full Street, Derby DE1 3DR
01332 388650 | Website: derby.anglican.org | Email: enquiries@derby.anglican.org
Derby Diocesan Board of Finance: Company number 229700 England. Registered Charity number 249767

Diocese of Derby
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Plant and Produce Show - 6th September

The ever-popular Kirk Ireton Plant & Produce Show in aid of Holy Trinity Church will take place in the gardens of The Barley Mow Inn, Kirk Ireton on 6th September starting at 2.30pm with the Ashbourne Town Band.



KIRK IRETON PLANT AND PRODUCE SHOW 2026

SHOW SCHEDULE
SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER
2.30pm to 5.00pm

Bright Minds, Bold Pride: A Celebration of Back to School and Pride'



I wanted to share some exciting news with you personally. I'm really pleased to be involved in planning what we believe is Ashbourne's very first Education and Pride event, 'Bright Minds, Bold Pride: A Celebration of Back to School and Pride'. It will be happening in the Market Place on Sunday 13 September, from 2–6pm, and I'm really looking forward to being part of it. I invite you to come and support it.

I am aware that St Oswald's is being represented simply by my presence.

Although I am a strong supporter of our LGBTQ+ siblings in the Queer Community, my presence at Pride is not intended to suggest that everyone at St Oswald's holds the same views or understands questions around sexuality in exactly the same way. We won't all agree, and I'm not suggesting that we have to. Rather, I am there as a representative of our church community, making a visible commitment to being present, listening, building relationships, and offering a welcome to people who may not always have felt welcomed by the church.

I know that, historically, the church hasn't always been a safe or welcoming place for people whose lives and loves look different from what might be considered the 2.4 'norm'. That is something we need to recognise and be honest about. But at the heart of our Christian faith is

the inclusive love of God — a love we see so clearly in Jesus, who welcomed people, crossed boundaries, and made space for those who were often pushed to the edges.

As a church, we believe all lives and all loves matter. Every single person is created in the image of God and is worthy of dignity, love, and belonging. For me, being involved in Pride is one way of living out Jesus' call to love our neighbours and showing our wider community that they are welcome among us.

If you have questions, thoughts, or concerns, please come and find me. Let's grab a cuppa and have a chat. I'd genuinely love to listen, talk, and journey together.

I'm really excited about what this first Pride might mean for Ashbourne, and I hope it will be a joyful celebration of who we are as a community. I hope my presence will communicate something of the welcome of St Oswald's — that you don't have to have everything figured out, or believe exactly what we believe, to be met with kindness, respect, hospitality, and love.

Dwayne

Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir - St John's Church



**DERBYSHIRE
COMMUNITY MALE
VOICE CHOIR**

Saturday October 10th
7.30pm - St John's Church
Tickets £10 adults, under 18s £5
Tickets available in advance from Natural
Choice or on the door (cash only).
Licensed bar available.

Ukrainian Film Night

Kirk Ireton's
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
featuring three masterpieces of Ukrainian cinema
in Holy Trinity Church, Kirk Ireton

Kirk Ireton joins countries all around the world to celebrate
35 years of Ukraine's independence
with three classic films and talks about Ukraine.

Monday 24 August
6.15pm - John Sinclair describes his experiences driving in an aid convoy to Ukraine this year,
and Zoë Sharp talks about her plans to drive in an aid convoy to the front line in October.
7.30pm - film *The Lost Letter* (1972, 70 mins)

Monday 31 August
6.30pm – Maria Falconer and Paul Hill show their short film '*How Do You Dance In A War Zone?*',
and talk about filming dancers on the Ukraine front line.
7.30pm – film *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*. (1965, 98 minutes)

Monday 7 September
7.30pm – film *The White Bird Marked With Black* (1971, 98 mins)

Admission free - you don't need a ticket – but please make a donation to Zoë's aid convoy.
Come and help to fund Zoë Sharp's October aid convoy trip to the Ukraine front line.
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/zoe-sharp-author>

Bereavement Journey Course - 16th October

A daytime Bereavement Journey course starts on 16 October at 10 am at Ashbourne Elim Church. For further details, email hope@ashbourneelim.church.

Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

The Bereavement Journey
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for anyone bereaved anytime

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:

**From 16 October 2026
at 10am
for 7 weeks.**

At Ashbourne Elim Church

To book on or for more info about
this and future courses email:
hope@ashbourneelim.church

Giving and Donations

Donate to St Oswald's

If you would like to set up a regular payment to St Oswald's Church then you can do so through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).. You can find out more information on [the PGS website](#) where you can also set up a regular payment.

Alternatively you can telephone the Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1260 to set up a payment. (The PGS code for St Oswald's Church is 120612186).



Give a Little

St Oswald's church is open every day of the week. If you would like to make a donation to the work of St Oswald's Church you can do so from the [Give a Little website](#).



Easyfundraising

St Oswald's Church is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Since joining we have raised £500, and that is with only 29 supporters.

Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page by [>> CLICKING HERE](#)



Safeguarding

Keeping People Safe

We are committed to ensuring that our church is a safe place for everyone and take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. We adhere to safeguarding rules laid down by the Church of England and the diocese of Derby.

Report a Safeguarding Concern: Protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of us all, whether they are in the communities in which we live or part of our Christian family. If you have a concern about a child, young person or adult who may be at risk of harm please speak to the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator via the Parish Office.

If you have concerns about a member of the clergy or an employee of the church please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding. To confidentially report a safeguarding concern please complete the [Safeguarding Concern Form](#) or call 01332 388678. You can also report any concerns to the Police or Social Care. The important thing is that your concerns are shared with someone in a position to help.

Footnotes

If you have any comments about this newsletter or wish to submit any material to be included, please email: parishoffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk.

If you have not already subscribed to receive an email reminder when a new update to the newsletter is available, you can [subscribe here](#).

To keep up with the latest church news, please follow us on our [Facebook Page](#).

We now have a new [Instagram](#) account too.
