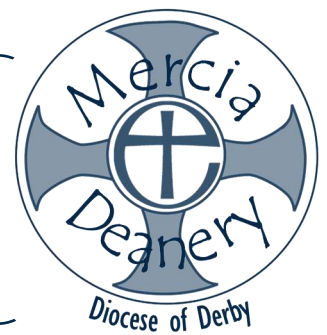


Deanery News

February 2021
Your Bi-monthly Newsletter



Dear all

Yet again, trying to plan for the future seems difficult to do, as we continue with national restrictions, the gradual roll out of Vaccines and the ever-changing dynamic of our relationship with those around us, nationally and internationally. It would be easy and is easy to lose heart.

Looking back at Christmas, we perhaps discovered or rediscovered ways of celebrating the Feast of Christ's Birth, either through physical services or online gatherings. In my part of the vineyard, we held outdoor Carol Services (and I know others did as well). One was held in torrential rain and ever-increasing wind speed, the other dry but bitterly cold. The weather was not conducive to people gathering... but they did, and they stayed, and they sang. We had as many people as we would have had in past times, but the people were different, they were predominantly the non-church, reaching out to the church to hear the narrative of hope in a dark world. I have also heard of Churches in the Deanery offering online services over Christmas that were well attended, another example of the Church finding creative and new ways of reaching out into the community.

Christmas has been and gone and we turn from Christmas/Epiphany towards Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We move also from Winter to Spring, from darkness to light, we turn towards promise and hope.

Despite the uncertainty around us with Covid and all the other uncertainties of life at this time, the certainty of the saving act of God through Jesus' Death and Resurrection is always before us, and that message is perhaps needed more now than at any other time in the past 50 years. It is the message of love, a love that came with the ultimate price tag. Many in our communities understand that price, and we as church have something to share in this time of grieving.

Whatever your plans for the coming months as we move towards Easter, may they be underpinned by the firm foundation of God's Love for you... a love that is generous and profligate, a love that is God's alone graciously given through grace. Knowing that, perhaps in some small way we may reflect that in our journey to the Cross and beyond to the Empty Tomb.

Every Blessing

Philip

Acting Area Dean

Stapenhill, St Peters & St Giles, Caldwell

Well 2020 was a Christmas like no other we had experienced. However, although there were restrictions, we saw a coming together of community and the Christmas message proclaimed.

A first for Stapenhill was to have a virtual Joint Carol Service with Immanuel, the Community Church and Short Street Methodists. Each of the churches in Stapenhill individually filmed their contribution which were then combined and posted on YouTube (400+ views). A great effort from all delivering 6,500 Christmas cards to every home in Stapenhill, advertising the service which brought the message of Hope.

St Giles Caldwell invited the villagers to an outside, socially distanced, carol sing which proved popular. Some of us from St Peters supported the singing and served refreshments at the socially distanced outside carol sing at Drakelow Park, making a connection between St Peters and this new housing development. 100 people attended, and even the cold rain did not dampen the spirits!



It was a joy after our 20th December morning service in church to complete our praise outside, socially distanced, by singing a carol. The people walking in the adjacent park stopped to listen, and we hope they thought about the words of that carol.

This was an experience that was repeated following our Christmas morning service.

Our in person services have been live streamed since we were able to restart, for those unable to attend in person. We have also had some YouTube recordings.

Children's activities have been severely curtailed this year so Christmas packs were made and delivered to our toddler group.

Christmas at Christ Church, Linton with Castle Gresley

It was a very different Christmas which we celebrated at Christ Church last December. We missed our usual round of Carol Services which usually includes one for our local primary school.

Along with so many others we were just thankful to open our doors for Sunday services and encouraged by the fact that we do meet a real need in the community as attendance has been very good.

We had a lovely service of Holy Communion on Christmas Morning taken by the Rev. Edwina Wallace. She used her knitted 'Nativity' to retell the joyous story of Christ's birth. The sun shone in through the windows and it was a lovely occasion which lifted everyone's spirits.

On January 3rd we celebrated Epiphany with Steve Payne - another happy occasion.

During this latest lockdown the PCC have taken the decision that we should remain open for Sunday Worship. This has been with the willing consent of our visiting clergy.



We can only pray that with the rollout of the Covid Vaccine we will be able to return to normal later this year.

Christmas at Meals 4 U

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. Matthew 25:35

Meals 4 U is a collaborative project between Churches Together in Swadlincote and District, South Derbyshire CVS, South Derbyshire District Council, P3 and the SDSD Early Help Team from Children's Services. The team have been delivering a hot meal to families in need once a week since May 2020.

As we approached Christmas we wanted to do something special for those we support, to show them that they are valued and worthwhile.

Firstly as Christmas was on a Friday, our usual delivery day, and volunteers would be difficult to find, we moved our Christmas and new year deliveries to Wednesday delivering a full Christmas dinner on 23rd December and a New Year cottage pie on 30th December.

Thanks for donations from individuals and organisations we were also able, alongside the meals to deliver a food hamper of basics and some special treats and presents for each member of the family.

Thank you to Sainsburys for food for Christmas dinner, Morrisons for Mince pies and treats, Young Ones for Gifts, Derek's Tree for Gifts, A Gift from you for Shoe box gifts, St Peter's Netherseal for Advent calendars and Chocolate gifts and others who passed on gifts or donations.

Finally many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who came and prepared, cooked, served and delivered the meals.



Donation from Sainsburys



Donation from Morrisons



Donation from Morrisons



Christmas Dinner



Hampers

Christmas at St Peter's, Hartshorne



How to celebrate Christmas with our community when not in Church? That was the question asked at St Peter's, as it was across many churches last Christmas.

At St Peter's we considered a number of options: large scale nativity scene in the Churchyard, large neon 'Happy Christmas' sign on the spire, neither of which proved practical.

While the Church was closed for worship we did still open for private prayer so the decision was made to put the Christmas tree and decorations up as usual and this was where the inspiration came.

The large crib scene, that usually stands in front of the vestry door was moved to the church porch, turning the porch into a stable and allowing visitors to visit the crib even when the church was closed.



Winshill and Bretby

Christingles to the Community

Because we could not hold our usual Christingle service which would fill our church it was decided to take the Christingles to the Community. Every child at our Primary Schools, Tower View and Winshill Village received a bag containing the items to make a Christingle, all they had to supply was an orange.

Others were delivered to homes for the elderly.



This is the bag that contains the items to make a Christingle

These are the items in the bag plus the history of Christingle and other literature including instructions on how to make a Christingle.

Share the light, a prayer and safety instructions and a card for colouring.



Look what we made.

We also held a Carol Service in the churchyard for church members and anyone in the Community passing by.



Outdoor Carol Services in the Wind and Rain at St Marks and the Biting Wind at Bretby.



Sunday after Christmas at a combined Service in St Marks.

We were treated to live music from Ella Gummow, a local Harpist, who played a selection of Christmas Carols through the Service. It was a delight to listen to and made our Christmas Season very Special.



Ash Wednesday – A creative way of marking the day.

Ash Wednesday is on February 17th this year and marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

In our churches we have long had the tradition of receiving a 'Cross' of ashes and holy oil on our foreheads at a special service on that day. The Cross is both a sign of our commitment to Christ and of our embarking on a Lenten journey of self-exploration and learning about our faith. Travelling with Christ for the 40 days of Lent prepares us to celebrate the joy of Easter.



I heard that Revd. Martin Flowerdew is marking Ash Wednesday in a creative way this year by offering to share it with the parishioners in his Benefice of Foremark, Repton and Newton Solney. Maybe it will inspire you to find creative ways of sharing these significant days in creative and safe ways.

Martin will be offering 'Covid-Safe' ashing, this is how he has organised it for his parishes. He will be using this opportunity to bring the church out to households in his local communities, indeed to their front door!

He will be going to their home on Ash Wednesday. They can choose to stand at an open front door if they wish [suitably distanced and masked of course] and he will do three things:

- give a brief reminder about the importance of the Cross of Ash and of Lent,
- pray a slightly adapted version of the 'ashing' prayer, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ"
- WHILE - he makes the sign of the Cross on their doorpost in ash and holy oil.

Then they will pray the Lord's Prayer together and he will ask God's blessing on them before he moves on to the next home.

For people who would rather not stand at the open door or are out, he will perform the rite and will drop in a card to remind them that it has been done.

At the end of the rite, the following words are spoken...

**Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.**

Amen.

Parish Returns-Deadline Extended

STATS FOR MISSION

Here is a message from the National Office

'we wrestled with how to collect data this year. We recognise the huge upheaval that churches have been through, and the amazing creativity and resilience that churches have displayed in continuing to offer worship and pastoral support to their congregations and parishioners during this difficult time. We therefore wanted to quantify and celebrate those efforts but have tried to remove questions that make less sense this year, so the form is shorter than usual'

Thank you to those parishes who have started to enter this data on the system. Please get it to Submission stage as soon as you can, so I can verify it. Do contact me if you need new logins or have any difficulty. Help is available at the following links, including the Word version of the 2020 form – maybe it's more practical to email that around your parish to gather up the various bits of information you need. Please enter the information online if possible – though in extreme need I can do this if you send me the completed form in Word.

<https://derby.anglican.org/en/our-mission/statistics-for-mission.html>

<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/UserGuides/2020StatisticsForMission.doc>

If you do need any help please email me on: debbie.patrick@derby.anglican.org

Resources for Rural Parishes

Learning from Creative Thinking and Planning for Rural Mission and Growth

Here you will find helpful reports and resources that aim to provide advice, guidance and recommendations for dioceses, parishes, PCCs and clergy on rural mission and growth.

Learning from Creative Thinking and Planning for Rural Mission and Growth draws together some of the contributions to a [Renewal & Reform](#) seminar on Rural Mission and Growth that took place in February 2018. It identifies some of the strategic approaches that are starting to show benefits and that could be used in other rural places. The report shares some specific examples of good practice, and some case studies of useful ideas and approaches.



Practical Path checklist - Net Zero Carbon

There is now a self-guided checklist for churches who want an easy way to review their buildings against the Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon. There are two versions; one for printing and one for completing on screen. You can find them on the [net zero carbon church landing page](#) and on the [Practical Path page](#).



This will be a useful resource, as a first step for churches that want to get started and aren't sure how. The completed forms could also be useful attachments to faculty applications, especially if the church is applying for environmentally motivated projects. The Practical Path now has numbered dotpoints, to make it easier for cross-referencing with other documents.

Welcoming Visitors: a workshop to help your church benefit from visitors

Wednesday, 10 February 2021, 11.30am - 12.30pm, £5.80

An invitation to join an introductory one hour training session brought to you by The National Churches Trust's tourism team. Discover the many ways in which your place of worship can benefit from tourism from increasing visitors and raising funds to recruiting volunteers and staging events.

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.



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer Together

Dear Partner

We are open for business and ready to continuing working with you to protect our communities from the risk of fire.

The last couple of months have been a particularly challenging time for Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service with our fire crews responding to several serious and fatal fires. These fires highlight why we must continue to deliver our face-to-face services to the communities of Derbyshire, working to prevent similar tragic incidents in the future.

As a Service we recognise the continued challenges the pandemic has imposed on all of our working practices, however I want to reassure you we are 'open' and encourage you to continue to make all necessary referrals into our Service. To protect our communities it is essential you continue reporting any concerns you have around vulnerable adults and children, our Prevention team can then prioritise these cases and work with individuals to keep them safe from fire.

I want to reassure you that we are very much open and back-to-business and the Service is keen to hear from you if you know, support or care for someone that you believe may at risk of fire due to:

- **Careless Smoking**
- **Overloaded sockets/poor electrics**
- **Hoarding**
- **Dangerous heat sources**
- **Dangerous cooking methods**
- **Limited mobility**

I urge you to encourage your staff to think about the people you work with – ask the questions:

- Do they have working smoke alarms?
 - If activated would the individual be able to react and get out of their property and to safety?
- If the answer to either of these questions is 'No', then we need to hear from you.**

It's easy to make a referral. Please get consent and call one of the numbers below:-

South Area Admin – Derby City, Erewash, South Derbyshire - 01332 777850

East Area Admin – Amber Valley, North East Derbyshire, Bolsover, Chesterfield - 01246 223500

Buxton Area Admin – High Peak and Derbyshire Dales - 01298 608720

As the pandemic continues there are still many challenges we will no doubt face, but I wanted to take this opportunity to assure you that Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service is still committed to working with you to protect our communities as we work to 'Make Derbyshire Safer Together'.

Area Manager Clive Stanbrook
Prevention and Inclusion

Deadline for April Deanery Newsletter

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

Deadline - 26th March 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 2021
24th February

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
Revd Steve Short - Clergy Representative - Melbourne, Ticknall, Smisby and Stanton-by-Bridge
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