

On Stream

The Magazine of
the Trent and Derwent Churches

www.trentderwentparishes.org



Rev Matt Green and Bishop Libby
after his Licensing and institution on
Jan 24 2026

February 2026

£1.38p

Rector

Rev Matt Green Tel: 07447 639820 Email: revmattgreen71@gmail.com
The Rectory
1 Rectory Gardens
Aston on Trent
DE72 2AZ

For Weddings and Baptisms in any of our churches please contact Rev'd. Matt Green whose one day a week off is Friday.

Licensed Readers

Mr. Bruce Ward 01283 702854

Prayer Diary

For your prayers in February

Aston The residents of Weston Road, Posey Lane and Hilton Gardens. Also CAMEO and the Aston Players.

Barrow The residents of Brookfield and Walnut Close.

Elvaston The residents of Oak Road, Thulston.

Shardlow The residents of Aston Lane and Aults Nook Way.

Swarkestone The residents of Bridge Barn and Bridge Farm.

Twyford The residents of Twyford.

Weston The residents of Weston Road and The Pastures.

The Community Local G.P.s, Community Health services, Social services.

The Diocese The Peak Deanery. The Board of Education and all Church Schools.

The Worldwide Church The Provinces of Canada, Central Africa, Central America and The Congo.

Benefice News

If you would like to receive a copy of the magazine by email rather than in a hard copy please contact me on the email address below and I will send you one. (There is no charge for this, but a donation to your local church would be appreciated)

Please inform me of any detail changes for contacts that are listed on pages 16 and 17

All material for the **March** edition of the magazine to be sent to Joe Nutman at jnutman@btinternet.com by **February 20** please.

200 Club Lottery

The winning numbers for January :

1st -44, 2nd -124 , 3rd – 18. All from Aston this time.

The next draw will be on Sunday 8th February at church.

PASTA AND TOMATO SAUCE

Serves two people

80 gms	Messicani pasta
150 gms	Tomato sauce
80 gms	Button mushrooms
½	Medium leek
½ cup	Frozen peas
1 stick	Celery
1 medium	Onion
80 gms	Mature cheddar cheese



We used Messicani pasta which is available from Marks and Spencer's as it is suitable for making an attractive blend, but other pastas could be used.

We also used the Loyd Grossman tomato and roasted garlic sauce which gives an attractive flavour, again other proprietary sauces could be used.

Chop the onion and cook gently until it is soft

Choose a tender stick of celery, dice it and cook with the sliced leek and mushrooms.

Put the pasta, sauce and vegetables into a large frying pan and cook adding a little water or milk to maintain a creamy consistency.

Add the frozen peas when the mixture is almost cooked.

Finally sprinkle cheddar cheese onto the top so that it looks attractive when the dish is served.

Garnish with a sprig of parsley

Matt writes



Dear Friends,

I am writing this surrounded by boxes. We moved into the rectory just four days ago, and while most things have technically arrived, very little yet feels settled.

Alongside the unpacking there has been plenty of DIY: measuring, fixing, repainting, discovering what needs attention now and what will have to wait.

It's slow, slightly chaotic work, and there's no shortcut to getting it done.

Times of transition often feel like this. Whether it's a move, a change of role, a loss, or the start of something new, transitions shake us. They interrupt our routines and gently — or sometimes sharply — force us to ask deeper questions: What really matters? What have I lost? What do I need to find again?

The Bible is full of these in-between moments. God seems unafraid of what we can call *liminal spaces*: the wilderness, exile, long journeys

between what was and what will be. Israel wanders before reaching the Promised Land. The disciples wait, unsure, between the cross and the resurrection, or even

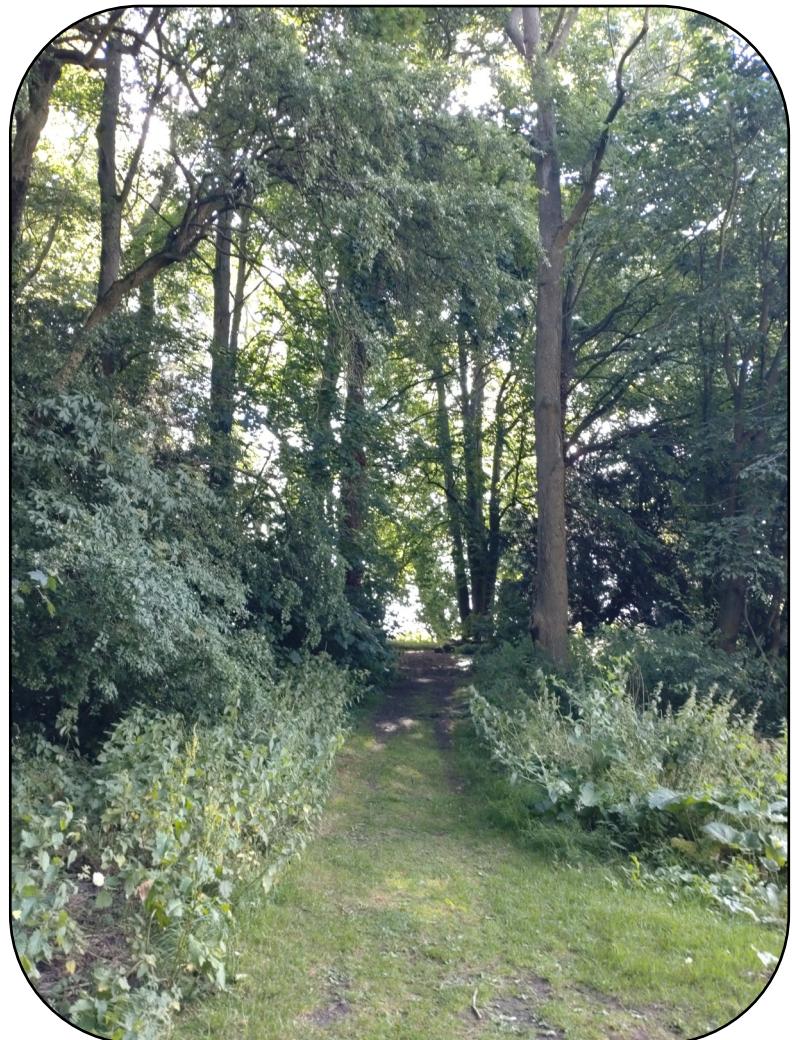
beyond on the Emmaus road. These are not comfortable seasons, but they are often where faith is reshaped and deepened.

Into this uncertainty, Jesus speaks words of quiet reassurance: "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). He does not offer a quick fix or a neatly finished plan.

Instead, he offers himself. In times of transition, faith may look less like clarity and more like attentiveness — choosing to keep walking with Jesus even when the path ahead feels unclear.

This has practical implications for how we live. Transition tempts us to rush — to get things finished, resolved, and back under control. Yet theologian Kosuke Koyama reminds us that *Jesus walks at three miles an hour*. It is the pace of love. Perhaps following Christ in these seasons means slowing our steps, paying attention, and trusting that God is at work not just in the destination, but in the journey itself — among the boxes, the dust, and the unfinished DIY.

Matt



CHILDREN'S PAGE

HAPPY are those who FOLLOW GOD'S LAWS

In the spaces below draw pictures or write about how you will do what God wants:

At home with my family

With friends

In what I say

At school

HOW ?

The Licensing and Institution of Rev Matt Green as Rector of Trent and Derwent Benefice

Saturday Jan 24

In a packed church in celebratory mood Rev Matt Green, the new rector of the Trent and Derwent Benefice was licensed and instituted by the bishop of Derby, Bishop Libby. The service, a traditional one with a certain amount of pomp and splendour began with the bishop processing into church, led by the churchwardens of the benefice churches

accompanied by many visiting clergy and the High Sheriff of Derbyshire, Sir Richard Fitzherbert. After being presented to the Bishop, the Oath of Allegiance was taken by the new rector. The License was presented to him and he was then installed by Archdeacon Matthew. Following the custom, Matt was presented with maps of his parishes showing the extent of the area in which he will minister, electoral roles indicating all those who are members of the



churches and also the keys to enable him to gain access to the churches. (With so many churches to look after, all of which are very old, he was given a small bunch of keys to All Saints' only—he would have needed a carrier bag for the rest, some of which are huge and heavy!)

The service over, everyone was offered refreshments of tea and coffee, biscuits and a huge range of cakes baked by the members of the parishes.

The period of vacancy, begun in August 2024 when Tony Luke retired is now officially at an end and Rev Matt Green begins his ministry among us on Feb 1. Without doubt there is great excitement and hope at the start of a new period in the life of the churches in our communities and we all wish Matt success as he begins his task.



Top: Bishop Libby and Matt with all the visiting clergy, past and present High Sheriff of Derbyshire, Archdeacon Matthew and Area Dean Rev Steve Short.

Bottom: Bishop Libby and Matt with all the churchwardens of the 7 churches plus our reader Bruce Ward



Aston and Weston Mothers' Union

We've all been looking forward to welcoming our new Rector, and by the time you read this, his Induction Service should have taken place. We hope he and his family have settled in their new house in Aston. Matt's first service, on February 1st, at Weston, will be a joyful occasion for us all.

The January MU meeting was the Annual General Meeting with the report of the years' activities by Kay, and the financial report prepared by Hazel and audited by Mike Edge, of which we all had a copy. Though three of our members have sadly passed away during the year we have tried to send a similar amount of money this year to the MU charities we support. This business part of the meeting was then followed by a Quiz time, arranged by Janet and enjoyed by all. The new programme for 2026 was given out to everyone at the AGM with thanks to Mary for printing it.

The next meeting will have a speaker from the Leprosy Mission. We don't hear so much about leprosy these days but it is still a very dangerous disease and the Leprosy mission continues to do remarkable work. The meeting is on Thursday February 26th in the Heritage Centre at 2.30pm and all are welcome.

This Christmas our branch sent £50 to Foston Hall prison towards gifts for the men to give to their families. Following discussions with the staff at the prison a request has been made for the MU in the Diocese to provide some 'release packs' to be given to the men who may struggle with their new lives, to include items like a comb, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo and soap, a dark beanie hat, all of which can be put in a drawstring bag. AFIA (Away From It All) the MU local charity which we support will be making up these bags and ask if we can help them with some of the items. If you are able to provide anything please bring it to the February or March meeting.

Date for your Diary: Lady Day March 25th. Mercia Deanery Service in the Cathedral at 2pm. Since this is our Deanery it would be good if Aston and Weston Branch could be represented but we do need transport as the bus times do not fit in. Any ideas?

CAMEO

In some respects it was not the best start to the year when we decided to cancel our January meeting owing to the adverse weather conditions. It wasn't so much because it was so very cold but rather that the bit of snow that we did get didn't go away this time as it usually does. Many of the paths and pavements in the village were treacherous enough to navigate in broad daylight, let alone trying to stay upright in the dark. So, apologies for that. We'll try not to let it happen again!

It goes without saying that we're very much looking forward to our next meeting on February 4th, weather permitting! We are programmed to be having a quiz although judging by our last couple of meetings almost anything could happen. To use modern parlance... Whatever!! It will just be good to

Come And Meet Each Other
once again.

The Wednesday Morning Hub in February will be as follows:

4th February 9.30 Holy Communion and from 10.30 am: Open Book - Bible Exploration

11 February from 10.00am: Open Cafe — Social

18 February 9.30 Holy Communion and from 10.30 am: Open Book - Bible Exploration

25 February from 10.00am: Open Cafe — Social

Aston Community Choir meets on Monday evenings at 7.00 pm in the Heritage Centre.

The Bellringers meet on Monday evenings at 8.00 pm. Novices from 7.30pm

Aston on Trent Women's Institute

January ended on a high note with a fish and chip supper and quiz, keeping both appetites and grey cells well exercised! Our thanks to Laura and the team at The Malt for the excellent food.

Our members have chosen Treetops Hospice as our 2026 charity, and plans are already underway for a busy year of fundraising. Events will include Soup & Pud Lunch, Coffee and Chat, the much-loved Garden Party, and a **Fashion Show** at the Recreation Centre, a relaxed evening for inspiration, shopping, and even a chance to model for those who are keen.

Raffle prize donations are always appreciated and play an important part in our fundraising. We are also still looking for a Tea Convenor, and any help in the kitchen at the end of meetings is always welcome.

Donations for the local Food Bank can be placed in the box at the back of the hall, please check items are in date.

We meet at the Memorial Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM.

3rd February 10:30 - 12:00: Coffee & Chat The Heritage Centre.

7th March 12:00 - 14:00: Soup & Pud Lunch The War Memorial Hall. £8 adult £4 child.

18th March 19:00: Fashion Show in the Recreation Centre Tickets £5 including a drink.

24th March 2026: Midsomer Murders at Derby Theatre.

12th May 2026: AGM

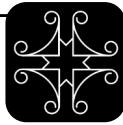
23rd November 2026: Thurnsford Christmas Spectacular.

Our members Craft and Dabble meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month in the Heritage Centre.

Remembering our friend Carole

As a lasting memorial to Carole Bagnall who passed away about 12 months ago, her son Mark, who makes his livelihood manufacturing top quality furniture, has designed and made a set of 4 chairs and a table to live in the tower to be used by small children. They are beautifully made and extremely robust too!





It is twelve years since we last had the pleasure of hosting a Plough Sunday Service for the Brailsford and District Ploughing and Hedgecutting Society. Following the large ploughing match at The Grange in October last year, the service was, as ever, packed with farming families giving thanks for their land, animals, skills, tools, and the weather.

The symbols of farming were displayed on the altar, and the usual harvest hymns sung. (*Please see Twyford page for more information on Plough Sunday*)



Elvaston

Churchyard

After the snow, the snowdrops are just beginning to appear, brightening up the churchyard.



Facebook page

Our Facebook page now has 300 followers. It's a great way of keeping up to date with church events and services.

Shardlow

It was lovely to welcome everyone to the Benefice Service on December 28th and to continue the Christmas Worship with Alison. Many thanks to her for taking our Services recently and we look forward to seeing her in the future. It was nice to catch up with our friends from other parishes for a drink and a chat.

On Sunday February 8th at 10-30am Rev. Paul Sandford will take our Service of Holy Communion and will Baptise Henry and Darcy.

On Sunday 22nd February at 10-30am there will be a Service of Morning Prayer with Bruce.

At the time of writing we look forward to meeting up with everyone at the coffee morning on Saturday 31st January from 10-00am to 11-30am. A warm welcome will be given to anyone who wants to come along. The February coffee morning will be on Saturday 28th.

The memory tree which was put up for Christmas will now stay in church. The church is open from 9-00am to 4-30pm and everyone is welcome to come in. There are cards available near the tree for messages in memory of loved ones.

Shardlow PCC are still in need of a Treasurer. If anyone knows of someone willing to take the post would they please contact Mrs Evadne Robbins PCC Secretary.

We remember all who need our prayers at this time.

We welcome Matt to the Benefice and look forward to working with him in keeping the church alive in our Parishes.



Swarkestone

Next service – 2nd Before Lent, February 8th – 10.30 am

Minister:- Rev Matt Green

Readers:- Denise & Mike Crocker

Church Cleaning:- Carleen & Nick Osborne

Welcomers/Sidespersons:- Laura Howarth & Ted Lawrence

Please remember in your prayers – Barbara Foster, Jill Malpass, the Warnock family, Ted Lawrence, Ann Morton, Pauline Sims, Bob Taylor, Stephen Cork and Roger Lucas.



To Rev Matt, Mary, Eli & Zeph

By the time you read this, we will have welcomed Matt and his family to our Benefice. We at St James' are very excited for him to lead our February service and we are looking forward immensely to introducing ourselves. It will be wonderful to have a resident minister once more and be able to move forward as a church family.

Upcoming Events

Our PCC have been discussing what fundraising events we could organise for 2026 and lots of ideas have been put forward. We hope to have a couple of exciting musical events to celebrate the refurbishment of our organ, plus the return of our very popular Tea and Cakes by the River. Look out for dates and information as plans come together. Our AGM will be held after the service on 8th March – come along to find out how we are doing and our plans for the future.

Altar Frontal

At our January service, we gave thanks for the safe return of our glorious golden altar frontal. It had been away for restoration as the fringing had been deteriorating and also attacked by mice. The Cathedral Embroidery Workshop have done an outstanding job and we are delighted with the result. They just happened to have some fringing with the right colours in their cupboard! The gold in the fringing looked splendid as it shone out in the church lights.



If you want to keep up with our news more regularly, please look for and like our Facebook page – you'll find photos and snippets about happenings at St James' and Swarkestone are added most weeks. <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesChurchSwarkestone>

Twyford

Flowers: Mrs Jenny Jackson and Mr Peter Woodward



As the Brailsford Ploughing Match was held within the parishes of Twyford and Barrow-on-Trent in October, 2025, a Plough Sunday Service was held in St. Wilfrid's Church on Sunday, 11th January, 2026. As I attended the service it made me consider the history of the service and I have included a short piece from Wikipedia explaining its relevance.

“Plough Sunday is an English celebration held on the day before Plough Monday, the traditional start of the agricultural year. There is little evidence that Plough Sunday was specifically celebrated historically, although in agricultural communities the church service would probably have referenced ploughing in recognition of the season. However, following the Second World War there was an attempt to revive what was thought to be an old Plough Sunday tradition.

Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land. It is traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany, the Sunday between 7 January and 13 January. Although the nature of farming has changed over the centuries, Plough Sunday is seen as a way of generally celebrating farming and the work of farmers.

As well as a ploughshare, in rural areas, it is common for local farmers to attend the service with their tractors - both new and old. Sometimes, services may be accompanied by other traditions such as Morris dancing. Historically, villagers would walk through their village collecting alms, before gathering at the church for the Blessing of the Plough.”



An elderly man had owned his large farm in Louisiana for many years.

Right at the back of the farm, there was a large pond that was ideal for swimming. The old farmer had fixed it up real nice with picnic tables, horseshoe courts and some apple and peach trees.

One evening the farmer decides to go down to the pond, to look it over, as he hadn't been down there for a while.

Before setting off, he grabs a five-gallon bucket as he decides he'll bring back some fruit.

As he nears the pond, he can hear voices shouting and laughing with glee. Clearly, someone is having a good time.

As the farmer gets closer, he can see a bunch of young women who are clearly skinny-dipping in his pond.

He makes the women aware of his presence and immediately they all swim over to the far end.

One of the women then shouts, “*We’re not coming out until you leave mister!*”

The farmer replies, “*Ladies, I didn’t come down here to watch you swim naked or make you get out of the pond. You carry on.*”

The wily old-timer then holds up his bucket and says, “*I just came down here to feed the alligators!*”

Moral of the story: Never underestimate an old man.



St Mary the Virgin.

Weston on Trent



ARCTIC EXPEDITION TO CHURCH.

A courageous band of friends of St Mary's church braved the cold arctic conditions on 3/1/26. Despite the ice and snow they arrived at church in order to take down the Christmas decorations. After which the 10 volunteers gave the church a good clean; so it started 2026 looking it's best. Afterwards they all had a well deserved hot drink to warm up. Thanks to all who turned out and helped; despite the terrible weather!

FIRE SAFETY CHECK.

The recent fire safety check found that the church's fire extinguishers were rather old, out of date and inadequate. The fire safety experts, O. Heap have fitted new and additional extinguishers to ensure the safety of the church. These will have future checks done on them on a regular basis.



HISTORIC ENGLAND VISIT.

In December we had a visit from a lovely lady called Jessica, who is the Inspector of Historic Buildings for the Nottingham and Derbyshire area. She was very interested in the Sale Monuments, the possible mediaeval painted door and the graffiti in the porch. She is helping us with advice on how to investigate these items, and proposals on how they can be protected and preserved for the future.



MUDGY POTHOLE.

Anyone who has recently been to church will have noticed the potholes and muddy uneven ground outside the gates, where the cars are parked. Many thanks to Mr Ghafoor, who upon hearing about the muddy problem, sprang into action and within a few days had bags of grit delivered, spread over the ground and the potholes filled in. This has made a nice firm surface to walk on and park the cars. A great job. Many thanks Mr Ghafoor.

NEW CHURCH NOTICEBOARD.

A spectacular new noticeboard will soon be put up outside church. The board will have special clipped frames on where the times of services, latest news of events, etc will be displayed, to keep everyone informed and up to date.

St. Mary The Virgin Weston on Trent

Rector: Rev. Matthew Green - 07447 639820

Churchwarden: stmaryschurchwardenwot25@gmail.com

A4

A3

A4



www.trentderwentchurches.org.uk
The Trent and Derwent Parish Churches
Diocese of Derby - Deanery of Mercia



MEETINGS.

PCC 8/1/26.

Amongst the things discussed we were pleased to hear that the United Benefice Service, to be held at St Mary's on 1/2/26, will be Matt's (our new Vicar) first service in the area. So, hopefully there will be a good turn out from all the churches in our benefice to welcome him.

We also came up with a plan of action on how to manage a regular monthly payment to the Common Fund (Parish Share.)

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

14/2/26 COFFEE MORNING AND COMMUNITY CONSULT MEETING AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

Please come and tell us what you want from your church in the future, whilst enjoying a coffee and cake. Also help raise much needed funds by having a go on the tombola.

WESTON ON TRENT WI LATEST NEWS.

We all had a lovely evening sampling all sorts of different cheeses, washed down with a glass of wine whilst we listened to a very entertaining talk from Hannah. Most of the cheeses were produced on her family farm, which is near Burton on Trent. We especially enjoyed hearing about the 30 cows that escaped from the farm and ended up in Burton town centre, at the library!





My name is Victoria Rodgers, though most people call me Vicky. I grew up as an only child, which fostered a close bond with my parents and encouraged me to develop strong friendships.

I attended Leavington College for Girls, which set the stage for my future. After university, I became a teacher, spending many years at St. Joseph's Convent, where my daughter also studied. My childhood included special moments like trips to Paris with my father and memorable school plays such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I found joy in St John Ambulance Cadets, and later, my teaching career focused on science, with a bit of English due to my love for drama.

I married Roger, and we had two wonderful children. After his passing from Leukaemia, I found a second chance of happiness with Stan, who I met through lawn bowls. We enjoyed 15 happy years together before he passed. After some health challenges, I moved to Richmond Villages, where the care and community has been a great comfort. My family is my greatest pride, especially moments like my granddaughter Darcy's flute performance here at the village.

At 80, I believe in looking forward and embracing life's changes. Richmond Villages has given me a reason to keep going, with its welcoming environment and caring staff. My advice to others is to find joy in every moment and never give up on life's opportunities.

Every resident has a story, this is Vicky's. Move to Richmond Villages Aston-on-Trent and celebrate yours.

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SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

	Readings	Aston	Barrow	Elvaston	Shardlow	Swarkestone	Twyford	Weston
1 Feb Epiphany 4	1 Kings 17.8-16							UBS HC MG
Wed 4 Feb		9.30 HC - MG 6.45 ES						
8 Feb 2nd before Lent	Rom 8. 18-25 Matt. 6. 25-end	10.30 FW Aston team	10.30 MP Bar- row team		10.30 HC Rev Paul Sandford	10.30 HC - MG	10.30 MP Bruce	
Wed 11 Feb		6.45 Compline - MG						
15 Feb Next before Lent	2 Peter 1. 16- 21, Matt. 17.1-9	10.30 HC - MG	10.30 HC Bruce					
Wed 18 Feb ASH WED		9.30 HC - MG 6.45 Compline						
22 Feb Lent 1	Romans 5. 12- 19, Matt. 4. 1-11	10.30 FW - MG			10.30 MP Bruce		15.00 HC - MG	
Wed 25 Feb		6.45 Compline - MG						

HC = Holy Communion, FC=Family Communion, MP=Morning Prayer, ES=Evensong, FW=Family Worship, Ext. HC = Holy Communion by Extension, UBS = United Benefice Service