

On Stream

The Magazine of
the Trent and Derwent Churches

www.trentderwentparishes.org



The mysterious door in Weston Church that
appears to have all the experts puzzled. See page
15 for more details

March 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 March

Aston The residents of Valerie Road, Ellison Avenue and Bell Avenue. Also the Mothers' Union and the Aston Football Club.

Barrow The residents of Church Lane and Hall Park.

Elvaston The residents of Grove Close and Grove Court, Thulston.

Shardlow The residents of Glenn Way and Clover Court. Also the Shardlow Day Nursery.

Swarkestone The residents of Woodshop Lane.

Twyford The residents of Stenson.

Weston The residents of King's Mill Lane.

The Community Our M.P. Ms Samantha Niblett

The Diocese Derby City Deanery. Workplace Chaplaincy.

From the Registers:

Elvaston

Funeral Feb 17 Frederick William (Fred) Willday 75yrs



Shardlow

Baptism Feb 8th Henry and Darcy Adam



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

200 Club Lottery

The winners for February in the draw this morning were:

1st – 76, 2nd – 48, 3rd – 189 (all from Aston again this time)

The next draw will take place in church on March 8

CARROT AND CELERIAC SOUP



1½oz Butter
12oz Chopped carrots
12oz Celeriac peeled and chopped
1 Onion
Pinch Cayenne pepper (ONLY!)
½ tsp. Ground coriander(optional)
½ pt Chicken or veg. stock
½ pt Milk
Salt an Pepper, freshly ground to taste
Natural yogurt & freshly chopped parsley to garnish



Melt the butter in a large saucepan. Add carrots, celeriac and onion. Cook and cover 10 mins.

(Gently) stir in the cayenne pepper & ground coriander. Cook gently, stirring for another minute.

Stir in the stock & seasoning. Bring to boil & simmer 40 mins. until all veg. are tender.

Cool slightly, then puree in blender.

Return to pan, add milk and reheat slowly. (Not if freezing)

Serve garnished with swirl of yogurt and sprinkling of parsley.

Matt writes

Dear Friends,

As I look out on the garden, I find myself wanting to make plans—what needs attention, what could be planted, how the space might look in the months ahead. The truth is, I have no idea what is already there beneath the soil.

Even so, my instinct is often to spot the issues and start planning, rather than simply waiting and noticing what is already growing.



**DRAW
NEAR**
LIFE-GIVING
HABITS FOR LENT



I'm reminded of some wisdom in *Hit the Ground Kneeling* by Stephen Cottrell, now Archbishop of York: although counter-cultural, we are to let the grass grow beneath our feet and resist the urge to hit the ground running. What might it look like this Lent to make a small space in our lives where God can grow something new—and to notice what is already beginning to grow?

Lent invites us into a different rhythm. It calls us to slow our pace and walk more closely with Jesus—through prayer, through Scripture, through simple, faithful steps that root our lives in him. This year the Church of England reminds us of six life-giving habits to help us do just that: worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service, and sharing the good news with others. These are not things to rush through, but ways of

abiding—of making space to notice God at work. You don't need to do everything—just begin with one small step.

So this Lent, may I encourage you to join in wherever you can: perhaps come to one extra service, set aside five minutes each day to pray, or engage with the 40 acts generosity challenge. As we do, we may begin to notice the “green shoots” of God's kingdom already emerging among us and within us. Take time to notice and name one sign of hope each week—perhaps in our churches, schools, local businesses, or neighbourhoods—and share that encouragement with someone else. In doing so, we share the good news of an active and loving God.

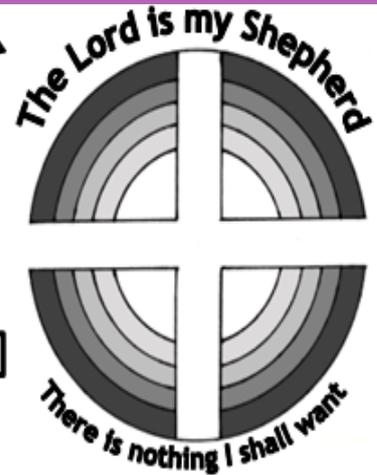
Because just like a new garden, there is life here that we have not yet seen. God is already at work, quietly bringing renewal, hope, and growth.

As we journey through Lent together, may we move at the pace of Jesus—making space for him, noticing his work, and trusting that even in the hidden places he is bringing new life. You might like to pray each day: “Lord, teach me to walk at your pace and to recognise the new life you are growing.”

Matt

Pray these words taken from today's psalm.

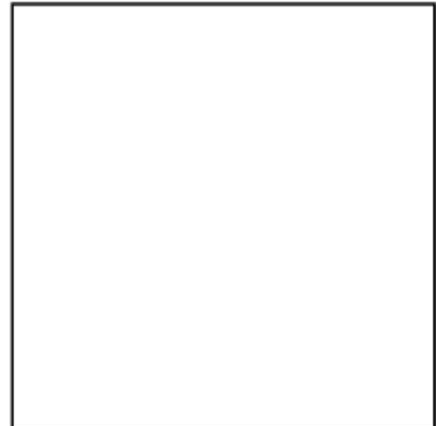
Today is the 4th SUNDAY of LENT



Jesus meets ... THE MAN BORN BLIND

Jesus made the blind man see things for the first time ever.

Draw 2 things he would have seen when his eyes opened after he washed in the pool.



The man said:

**"LORD ... I BELIEVE YOU ARE
THE SON OF GOD"**



Matt is busying himself getting to know all the parishes, the folks who run the churches there and how they run things—a lot to learn in a short time !

There will be some changes to service times and frequency too as the benefice settles down again. **PLEASE** make sure you check either the website or the back the magazine to ensure you are able to get to the service you intended and don't turn up to an empty church! (see left!)

The Wednesday Morning Hub in March will be as follows:

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

11 March from 10.00am: Open Cafe — Social

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

25 March 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 and Weston Mothers' Union

The Licensing Service of our new Rector was a joyous occasion and we hope you have all seen pictures in the last On Stream. So many visiting clergy and officials, the Bishop and Area Dean, the High Sheriff and all the churchwardens together with a packed church gave Matt a great welcome. We are hoping that he will be able to come to some of our MU meetings soon. It was good to see so many members at the first meeting of the New Year. The AGM went well and was followed by a brand new excellent quiz put together by Janet. The Playcard game which followed was soon sold out, and we will have another in a few months' time.

Last month I wrote about the local Mothers' Union project for "release packs" for men from Foston Hall prison to help them in their new lives. The organiser hopes to complete the packs by Easter. If you have any of the suggested items you would like to donate e.g. men's toiletries, shampoo, soap, toothpaste etc. or could knit a beanie hat (in a dark colour), please bring them to the next meeting. Please remember the date of the Mercia Deanery (us!) Lady Day service in the Cathedral on Wednesday March 25th at 2.30pm. We are trying to organise transport for anyone who wants to attend.

Our next meeting is on Thursday March 26th listening to Wendy Fitch, a Mothers' Union speaker, telling us all about when she lived in the Isle of Man. As it will be in Lent, Wendy will include this in her prayer time. We hope to have an enrolment at this meeting which Wendy will also lead. Several years ago Wendy was a very valued Diocesan MU President for Derbyshire and many of us have already met her so we know we are going to have a special meeting. It's at 2.30 in the Heritage Centre and all are welcome.

CAMEO

February's meeting was a very jolly affair with everyone who attended raiding their memory banks to get some answers for Jill's quiz. Our congratulations and sincere admiration to the team who rose through the ranks to become clear winners.

Our next meeting on March 4th will be a talk by Ed Maudling on the subject of growing up in Downing Street. I'm sure there's quite a few of us who would love to spend a day (with a free hand) in No10! March is a busy month though. There will be the usual Mothering Sunday church service on the morning of the 15th when we think about and thoroughly appreciate everything that our mothers did for us and, in some cases, still do.

In addition, on the 25th, a group of our members are going to the Duchess Theatre in Long Eaton to watch Tony Luke perform in "A Drowsy Chaperone". We're all looking forward to seeing and hearing Tony again.

And then before we know it, it will be time to
Come And Meet Each Other again!

Aston on Trent Women's Institute

Ay up me duck!! If this rain keeps up, we'll all have webbed feet. It's good to see the daffodils coming into bloom as you enter the village, we've planted hundreds over the years on Derby Road and now Shardlow Road, a reminder that spring is on its way.

Our first Coffee & Chat was well attended, raising over £150 for our 2026 Charity Treetops Hospice. Thank you for your support and donations.

March is a busy month for fundraising events with our Soup & Pud Lunch at the War Memorial Hall and a Fashion Show at the Recreation Centre. The tickets are only £5 for the Fashion Show and are available from the committee and The Village Shop. Raffle prize donations are always appreciated and play an important part in our fundraising.

We are still collecting for a local Food Bank. In date items can be placed in the box at the back of the hall.

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

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.

21st April 10:30 - 12:00: Coffee & Chat The Heritage Centre.

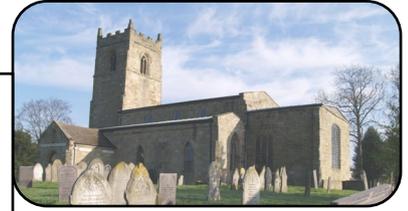
23rd April: County Quiz

12th May 2026: AGM

4th -6th September: WI holiday TBC

23rd November 2026: Thursford Christmas Spectacular.

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



The Friends of St Wilfrid events

— BARROW UPON TRENT HERITAGE EVENTS —

SPRING DIARY

St Wilfrid's Church, Church Lane, Barrow upon Trent. DE/3 /HB

APRIL - JULY EVENTS

Events start at 7.30pm. Tickets: £15 - includes a glass of prosecco & luxury chocolate. To book, please email stwilfridsbarrow@gmail.com

Peggy Knight – with Lesley Smith Friday 15 May

In 1944 a young woman, who had been previously a shorthand typist at the electricity board in North London, was parachuted into Nazi occupied France. She was a member of SOE and had only received two weeks training and one practice parachute jump. Her story of immense courage and dignity in the face of the most dangerous of situations is both breathtaking and remarkable.

Eirik Bloodaxe – with Gareth Williams Friday 17 July

The legendary Viking King, Eirik Bloodaxe: Heir to the Throne of Norway, murderer and warrior king who established reigns of power in both Norway and England. Based on his research into available sources, Gareth Williams, formerly Curator of Early Medieval Coinage at the British Museum and an expert on the Viking Age, has managed to extract a realistic image of the man and his times.

TALKS

Talks start at 7pm. Tickets: £4 each - including tea and coffee. No need to book.

Wednesday 1 April

A Crowning Glory

Eddie Smallwood will tell us of the history, traditions and mistakes that have occurred during the Coronations of English monarchs.

Wednesday 6 May

Arming a Mediaeval Knight

Jed Jaggard brings the past to life with an evening exploring the world of mediaeval arms and armour, and featuring an impressive collection of replica arms and armour.

Wednesday 3 June

A History of the St John's Ambulance Brigade

Carl Makins, from the St John's Ambulance Brigade, will give us the history of the Brigade, and its links to the mediaeval Knights Hospitaller who once owned our village.

Wednesday 1 July

3 Derbyshire Puds!

Mark Dawson will present the history of Derbyshire in 3 puddings; looking at how the recipes for them have changed over time and how they relate to aspects of the history of the county.

CONCERT

Friday 17 April - 7.30pm Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir

Founded in 1956 as the Derby Police Choir. Today Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir is a vibrant, fun and successful male voice choir. The group sings a wide range of songs from traditional male voice choir pieces to folk, musical, opera and pop (including some of their own arrangements) in 4-part harmony.

£15 per person - includes a glass of prosecco & luxury chocolate. To book, please email: stwilfridsbarrow@gmail.com

FILM NIGHTS

JUNE

4	Conclave
11	Mrs Brown
18	Casino Royale
25	The Hundred Foot Journey

JULY

2	The Woman in Black
9	Keeping Mum
16	Philomena
23	Remains of the Day
30	Spectre

2026 will see the continuation of the extensive programmes of events that have been planned over the last few years. We hope you will find them interesting, and will be able to come and join in the many activities.

A series of Heritage Talks has again been arranged for the first Wednesday of each month between April and October. The talks range from traditions and mistakes that have occurred during the coronations of our English monarchs, to 'the Victorian way of death' which will examine issues around the disposal of the dead, folklore and customs, mourning etiquette, graveyards, cemeteries, cremation and other funeral practices. There are many other talks

arranged for the summer. Please keep your eyes open for the advertisements.

Our usual, very popular, performances from Lesley Smith and Gareth Williams will see us having evenings with Peggy Knight (a Special Operations Executive member and WW2 heroine), Eirik Bloodaxe (the legendary Viking king) and George Eliot (a literary life of many surprises). If you have not yet attended one of these evenings, they are spellbinding, and made even more popular by the prosecco and chocolate included in the ticket. Bookings at stwilfridsbarrow@gmail.com.

Derbyshire Community Male Voice Choir

We have been lucky enough to arrange a concert with the Derbyshire Male Voice Choir on Friday 17th April at 7.30pm in St Wilfrid's. Tickets (£15) will be available by booking online at stwilfridsbarrow@gmail.com, and will include a glass of wine and a luxury chocolate.

— BARROW UPON TRENT HERITAGE EVENTS PRESENT —

PEGGY KNIGHT

With Lesley Smith

FRIDAY 15 MAY 2026 | 7.30PM | TICKETS £15

Ticket includes a glass of prosecco and a luxury chocolate

In 1944 a young woman, who had been previously a shorthand typist at the electricity board in North London, was parachuted into Nazi occupied France. She was a member of SOE and had only received two weeks training and one practice parachute jump.

Her story of immense courage and dignity in the face of the most dangerous of situations is both breathtaking and remarkable as she was recorded moving straight through the middle of enemy lines on her bicycle.

Peggy's story is little known but now is the time to find her. An ordinary woman who you would pass in the street without a second glance, but she was extraordinary, as you will discover.



To book tickets, please email: stwilfridsbarrow@gmail.com



WWW.STWILFRIDSBARROW.ORG

 St Wilfrid's Barrow

07887 656948 | stwilfridsbarrow@gmail.com

St Wilfrid's Church, Church Lane, Barrow upon Trent DE73 7HB



Please use the free parish car park, twyford road DE73 7HA - only 300m from the church

Flvaston



Churchyard

The churchyard is looking very pretty now that the snowdrops are fully out. The students from Horizon college are continuing to work on Thursday mornings, tidying up the edges of the paths and around the perimeter of the church. Our thanks to the students and their teachers for their support.

Annual Parishioners' Meeting and APCM

These meetings will take place at church on Wednesday April 22nd, commencing at 6.30pm.

Joint Castle/Church Open days

We are excited to confirm that our joint open days with the castle will take place on various Saturdays throughout the summer, commencing on April 18th, times to be announced next month. Visitors will be able to book a tour of the castle and then come over to the church to look at the features of interest. We are also intending to organise guided tours of the tower, led by our new volunteer Ross. Visitors will then be able to choose to climb the tower as part of a small group, led by Ross, or to go up on their own, as they do now.



Facebook page

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

Shardlow



SERVICES

Sunday 8th March 10-30am Baptism with Matt

Sunday 22nd March 10-30am Morning Prayer

We are pleased to welcome Chester Swann and his family on March 8th when Matt will Baptise Chester.

COFFEE MORNING

It was lovely to get together with everyone at the coffee morning in January and to see the little ones again as they played with their games. The sum of £86 was raised for church funds. The next coffee morning is on Saturday March 28th from 10-00am to 11-30am. Everyone is very welcome.

Many thanks to Rev. Paul Sandford for taking the Service of Holy Communion on February 8th and for Baptising Henry and Darcy. Henry and Darcy's family joined us for coffee after the service. It was good to meet them all and we thank them for all their help.

We remember all who need our prayers at this time.

Calling all knitters and crocheters. Can you help us create a lasting Remembrance Poppy display for Shardlow St James? We will need lots of poppies either knitted or crocheted, there will be some wool and patterns available for collection from church between 9.30-4pm and you will be able to drop off your creations anytime, or you can drop into our coffee mornings on the last Saturday of every month 10-11.30, to collect your poppy patterns or bring your poppies.



Poppy knitting patterns

Patterns kindly provided by the Arnold & District Branch



Knitting pattern 2

Easy ribbed poppy pattern

Colour A - Red
Colour B - Black

Step 1: Body of poppy

- Using colour A cast on 60 stitches
- Rows 1-10 K2, P2 across whole row (for a slightly smaller poppy do 8 rows of rib).
- Row 11 knit 2 stitches together across the row (30 stitches).
- Row 12 slip 1 stitch, knit 2 stitches together then pass the slip stitch over...repeat across the whole row (10 stitches).
- Break off yarn with a long tail and thread back through remaining stitches and pull tight. Join edges with mattress stitch.

Step 2: Centre of poppy

- Using colour B cast on 16 stitches. Cast off.
- Coil into a tight spiral and sew base to the centre Or use black button with 4 holes and sew to centre of poppy.
- Add pin to rear of poppy.



Knitting pattern 1

Easy garter / knit stitch pattern

Colour A - Red (one ball will make a lot of poppies)
Colour B - Black - (either scrap of wool or black button)

Step 1: Body of poppy

- Using colour A cast on 120 stitches
- Rows 1-4 knit
- Row 5 knit 3 stitches together across the row (40 stitches)
- Rows 6-9 knit
- Row 10 knit 2 stitches together across the row (20 stitches)
- Rows 11-14 knit
- Row 15 knit 2 stitches together across the row (10 stitches)
- Cut yarn leaving a tail of about 20cm
- Thread tail through yarn needle and slip all the remaining live stitches onto the yarn tail and pull tight
- Pull around into a circle and then mattress stitch (or use whatever stitching you normally use) to seam for an invisible seam. Sew in ends.

Step 2: Centre of poppy

- Using colour B cast on 16 stitches. Cast off.
- Coil into a tight spiral and sew base to the centre. Or use black button with 4 holes and sew to centre of poppy
- Add pin to rear of poppy

Tips

- For the best yarn finish, knit with a Cotton Double Knit (DK yarn) as shown in the pictures.
- The size of needle you use will determine how big the poppy will be, but we recommend 3.5mm or 3.75mm (UK9). If you have different yarn available just use that and the appropriate needle size.
- If you have any problems with any of the techniques in the poppy patterns and you have access to the internet - you will find lots of tutorial videos on YouTube.



Swarkestone



Next service – [Lent 3, March 8th – 10.30 am – Morning Prayer](#)

Minister:- Bruce Ward

Readers:- Dorothy Hubball & Neil Cork

Church Cleaning:- Mike & Denise Crocker

Welcomers/Sidespersons: - Mike & Denise Crocker

Please remember in your prayers – Barbara & Keith Foster, Jill Malpass, Ted Lawrence, Ann Morton, Stephen & Michael Cork and Roger Lucas.

Swarkestone PCC Annual Meeting

Our annual PCC meeting will be held after our service on 8th March and all parishioners are invited to stay and hear about what has been happening over the last 12 months. The Electoral Roll will be refreshed plus elections for PCC members and officers will also take place. We have been very fortunate to have a tireless group of dedicated parishioners to serve on the PCC for the last few years and they have all worked hard to keep things going during the recent vacancy. It is normal for members to serve for a period of 3 years, but all of the current six members have served for at least that, with some serving for over 15 years without a break. We have lost some members in recent years and we now really need new faces to volunteer to provide fresh insight and renewed enthusiasm.

If you would like to get more involved in life at St James' please do consider joining us – together with the clergy, we are responsible for the overall wellbeing, spiritual as well as practical, of our church, the church members, and the church buildings. Our quarterly meetings can cover a lot of business, but we always find time for a chat and a laugh and come away feeling that we make a difference to the future of St James' Swarkestone. If you want more information – please speak to Matt or any member of the PCC (Pauline, Laura, Ted, Mike, Denise or Neil).

Upcoming Services & Events

April looks like being a very busy month – and we will be hosting a very special musical event. Plans for Easter services in the Benefice are not yet confirmed, so watch this space! But before that, come along to help us decorate the church for Easter, bring some flowers or greenery – we'll provide the coffee & hot cross buns!

Saturday 4th April – 10.00am - Decorating Church for Easter

Sunday 5th April - Easter Day Service - yet to be announced

Sunday 12th April – 10.30am – Regular Service

Wednesday 15th April – 7.30pm - PCC meeting

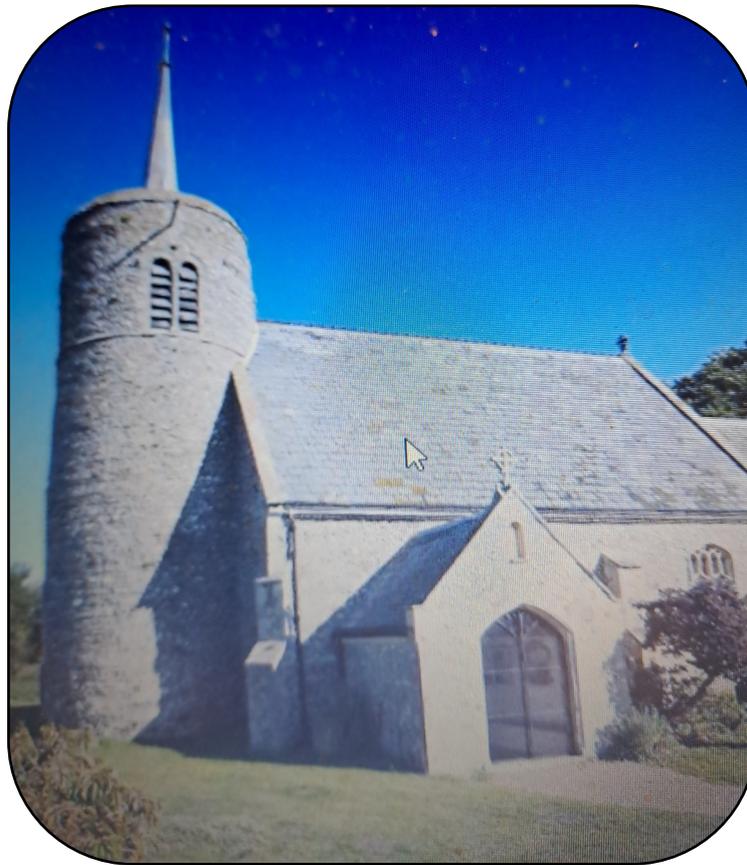
Plus....

Last year we received a very generous grant from the Derby & District Organists Society towards the refurbishment of our organ and we have been working with them to arrange some celebratory recitals. The first of these will be on Saturday 11th April at 3.00pm and will feature Alex Binns, Director of Music at Derby Cathedral, plus some very special people from Derby Cathedral Choir. Tickets are not needed, but donations will be invited and refreshments will be available afterwards. We hope you will join us to enjoy what should be an exciting occasion! Watch this space for more information!

Saturday 11th April – 3.00 pm

Organ Recital with Alex Binns and Choristers from Derby Cathedral

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>



Round-Towered Churches of Norfolk

Norfolk is famed for its great number of medieval churches. Many of these parish churches have a distinctive feature hardly seen outside this region: a round tower.

There are about 180 round-towered churches in England and 124 of these can be found in Norfolk. Round towers date largely to the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods but were often added to over the centuries. The early towers have features characteristic of the region such as elaborate bell openings around the upper parts of the tower, round windows with only rubble dressings and deep double splays. The source of this inspiration and the reason for the fashion for round towers being largely confined to East Anglia has been the source of much debate. It is now thought that the two great Norman churches Bury St Edmunds Abbey and Norwich Cathedral were the source. They had storeyed circular chapels radiating around their sanctuaries which parishes sought to emulate.

Several of the church towers have distinctly Anglo-Saxon features such as triangular headed openings as at Haddiscoe, Forncett, Roughton and Herringfleet, and long-and-short quoins. The survival of these Anglo-Saxon forms can be explained by the lack of experience of building with stone. The Normans introduced this technology into East Anglia replacing timber construction in the Anglo Saxon tradition. They were virtually no buildings in stone in East Anglia after the departure of the Romans and the arrival of the Normans. Local builders were learning and referring to surviving pre-Conquest buildings outside the region for decorative vocabulary and to the vast buildings of the Norman conquerors copying their most distinctive features. Norman features include freestone dressings and Romanesque decoration such as chevrons. The doorways at Hales, Haddiscoe and nearby Heckingham have abundant decoration of this sort.



St Mary the Virgin.

Weston on Trent



MEETINGS.

During the last month there have been numerous meetings, video calls and visits from experts to discuss the restoration and conservation of St Mary's. One of the main things that have come from these meetings is that the church is now on the "At Risk" register. Strangely this is a good thing and should help when applying for grants, etc to help pay for all the work that is needed. It is apparent that it is all going to be very expensive and take time. The priorities are to get the building structurally sound and improve drainage and heating to cure the current major problem of damp, which is affecting everything.

NEW NOTICEBOARD.

The new noticeboard has now been put up by Alan and Ed. It looks lovely in it's new position near the gate and will be kept up to date with the latest news and information about the church. Thanks to Alan and Ed for doing a great job and giving up their precious time.



UBS SERVICE.

What a lovely welcome from a large congregation this was for Matt's first service in our benefice. It was well attended by people from Weston and the surrounding villages. Also by Matt's family and friends who had traveled a bit farther to join in this lovely occasion. After the service we all socialized whilst enjoying the refreshments and delicious cakes. Thanks to all who contributed and made this a great event.

SNOWDROPS.

If you fancy a walk come and see the lovely snowdrops in the church yard. Whilst enjoying them spare a thought for Margaret and Ken Boyce, who planted so many of the bulbs and cared for St Mary's church for so many years. God bless them!



"THE DOOR" UPDATE.

Yet another expert has been to see the famous door. There is nothing conclusive yet about the drawings on it and history; but the one thing the experts all agree on is that it is very old! However there was a bit of excitement; this expert needed the door open for a side view of the wood. We let Matt do the honors and the door opened easily, after I don't know how many years, without even a creak! Amazing! It was lovely to stand back and see the view out of the open door. Also the door is much appreciated by the ladybirds; hundreds of which were hibernating around the edge. We may never know it's true story but just have to love it for what it is - an interesting and historic unique part of our fantastic church!



CAFE ON 14/2/26.

Our Valentines day cafe and consultation was very well attended. Everyone was interested in the suggested proposals for the future of St Mary's and 30 questionnaires were completed and handed in. We managed to raise £283.00 with the sale of refreshments, various goods and tombola. It was great to see Matt, his family and dog. Everyone enjoyed meeting them and having a chat. Thanks to all for making this cafe a success in every way.

WESTON ON TRENT WI LATEST NEWS.

On 8/2/26 the WI had a pop up cafe at the village hall, selling bacon butties, cakes etc. The coffee morning raised £320.00 for the charity. Hannah's Hope. There was a display of bygone Weston and details of a new Historical Society which is hopefully being set up. The first meeting is Tuesday 3/3/26 7pm upstairs at the village hall.

At the WI meeting on 9/2/26 we were shown how to do various Pilates movements which help keep the pelvic floor muscles in good condition. Most of the exercises can be done sitting or lying down and should be done 3 times daily to keep everything in good working order.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

Thursday 5/3/26. Knit & Natter at the Village Hall. 2pm to 4pm. £2.50 includes refreshments.



*The TEACHER
The RESILIENT SPIRIT
The PROUD GRANDMOTHER*

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.

Try the lifestyle out for size and enjoy 2 nights FREE*
Call 01332 794300 or visit richmond-villages.com/special-offers

**R I C H M O N D
V I L L A G E S**

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PRACTICAL LEGAL ADVICE**

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SERVICES IN MARCH

Date	Readings	Aston	Barrow	Elvaston	Shardlow	Swarkestone	Twyford	Weston
1 Mar Lent 2	Romans 4. 1-5, 13-17, John 3. 1-17		UBS HC Matt					
Wed 4 Mar		9.30 HC - Matt 6.45 ES						
8 Mar Lent 3	Romans 5. 1-11, John 4. 5-42	10.30 FW Aston team	10.30 MP Barrow team		10.30 Baptism Service - Matt	10.30 MP - Bruce		
Wed 11 Mar		6.45 Compline - Matt						
15 Mar Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)	Colos: 3:12-17, Luke 2:33-38	10.30 HC - Paul	10.30 MP Barrow Team				10.30 MP Bruce	10:30 HC - Matt
Wed 18 Mar		9.30 HC - Matt 6.45 Compline						
22 Mar Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)	Romans 8. 6-11, John 11. 1-45	10.30 FW - Aston team		10:30 - HC Matt	10.30 MP Bruce		15:00 HC - Matt	
Wed 25 Mar		6.45 Compline - Matt						
29 Mar Palm Sunday	Matt. 21. 1-11, Phil 2. 5-11,	10:30 HC - Matt						

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