



# On Stream

The Magazine of  
the Trent and Derwent Churches

[www.trentderwentparishes.org](http://www.trentderwentparishes.org)



Spring IS on the way, it just may not always feel like it!  
Pic courtesy of Kathy Field

March 2025

£1.30p



## Ministry Team

### Rector/Vicar Vacancy

For Weddings and Baptisms in any of our churches Please contact Mrs Mary Baker (Church warden) on [maryb.allsaints@gmail.com](mailto:maryb.allsaints@gmail.com) and 01332 602483 who will assist you and further your enquiries.

### Licensed Readers

Mr. Bruce Ward  
01283 702854

## Prayer Diary

### **For your prayers in February**

**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. Mrs. Heather Wheeler.

**The Diocese** Derby City Deanery. Workplace Chaplaincy.

**The Worldwide Church** The Anglican Provinces of England, Hong Kong and Bermuda.

## **Mike writes**

*Joel 2: 12-14 “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.”*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*Above is one of my favourite readings from the Old Testament for Lent. By the time you read this article from me we will be in Lent - which starts with Ash Wednesday on March 5th.*

*Joel helps us to understand in both picture and poetry language how we should approach Him and how we could approach such a special time as Lent. Lent is a gift, a gift which offers us the 'excuse' to reflect more upon our relationship with our Lord and spend more time daily with Him. We can do this in our own way - being quiet, going for a walk, praying, listening to music etc...*

*Joel begins, in this passage, by telling us that God wants everything we have to offer and wants us to approach Him exactly as we are (whether we are on a high or a low). Joel also warns us that giving God 'stuff' - be that successes, or 'wins', money or whatever...is not what God is asking for. The entirety of Scripture, beginning with walking in Eden with Adam, is all about a relationship between God and His created people.*

*Joel also reminds us that, no matter how long we have stayed away from God, He will not be angry. Joel reminds us of the characteristics of our God:*

*Gracious*

*Compassionate*

*Abounding in Love.*

*These qualities and characteristics describe who God is and how God will respond to all His people.*

*My call to everyone who cares to listen is this - 'Rend you hearts and nothing else...its all your God wants'*

*Blessings, Rev Dr Mike Firbank*

## 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 2025** edition of the magazine to be sent to Joe Nutman at [jnutman@btinternet.com](mailto:jnutman@btinternet.com) by **March 20** please.

### 200 Club Lottery

Here are the winning numbers for February

**1<sup>st</sup> - 43, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 73, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 81.** All from Aston this time.

### Parish Vacancy Update

The vacancy has now been advertised and a provisional date for interviews has been suggested for April. Please bear in mind that this is the best possible scenario - supply and demand for priests is such that it is quite possible that no one applies for the post and also that if there are applicants, they may not be deemed suitable for the post so it could still be a long wait.

However, let's stay positive and hope that, after the usual 3 months notice required, we may have a new incumbent by the end of the summer!

### Rev Paul Hygate

The service we all enjoyed with Paul last Sunday in Aston was, we hugely regret, his last in the benefice.

Paul has been involved in a discussion with the Archdeacon for some time now and the strain Paul felt under was so great that, for his own state of mind, he felt the only way out was to resign his ministry within the benefice.

He was at pains to point out that he had no problem with any of the parishes in the benefice and the last thing he wanted to do was resign. And, should anyone be wondering, there had been no complaint made against Paul for any reason whatsoever and there were absolutely no questions over Safeguarding.

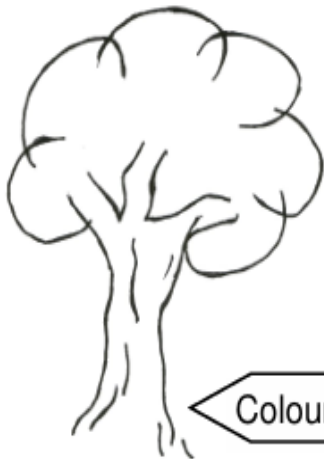
The whole episode is one that we feel sure could have been handled more sympathetically and not resulted in Paul's resignation. At a time when the church is struggling for ministers, and we ourselves in the benefice may struggle to find a replacement for Tony, Paul's loss is a huge one for the church as a whole and specifically for the benefice.

However, we are determined that, with everyone's continuing support, for which we are so grateful and do not take for granted, we shall not only survive but thrive – we just have to get through the difficult bits, which we can do, together.

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## MOSES AND THE BURNING TREE

God spoke to Moses through a burning bush.



**Moses, Moses!  
I am choosing  
you to lead my  
people out of  
the slavery of  
Egypt.**



Colour in the tree and draw the fire coming out of it.

## JESUS' STORY OF A FIG TREE



**Let's not cut the tree  
down! I'll look after it  
for one year and see if  
it bears any fruit.**



Colour in the tree and draw the  
figs growing on it.

**TODAY IS THE  
3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY  
of  
LENT**



**GOD  
GIVES US TIME TO  
CHANGE AND BECOME  
BETTER PEOPLE.**



The Wednesday Morning Hub in March will be as follows:

**5th March from 10.30: Open Book– Bible Exploration**

12th March from 10.00am: Open Cafe — Social

**19th March 9.30 Holy Communion and from 10.30 am: Open Book - Bible Exploration**

26nd 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.

### CAMEO

Our meeting this month nearly went with a bang with our pass the parcel type balloon game . We also had a quiz and catchup time during having a cuppa and biscuit .

The nights are getting lighter and everyone can see some beautiful flowers slowly coming out .A sigh of Spring on it's way .

Next meeting is Wednesday 5th March 7.30pm in the Heritage Centre Aston-on-Trent. The speaker is a lady called Catrin Rutland and her Subject is: "My amazing Anatomy."

Please come along .If anyone wishes to take over Cameo in September, let me know

Marion Glover (Cameo Leader)01332 792405.

### The Pastoral Group

The Pastoral Group within the church has a role, (relying on the whole congregation as well,) to keep an eye on and ears open to any situation that might arise in which a phone call, visit or card might be appropriate. Should even one solitary church member not be noticed in a continuing absence, then we would have possibly failed them. Not everybody, when they are indisposed, or whatever, wants to be '*made a fuss of*' and we are conscious of this. On the other hand, we **KNOW** how much a phone call, a visit, or a card has been welcomed and given the person an uplift on various occasions. Pastoral Group members are listed on the noticeboard at the back of church

## Aston on Trent Women's Institute

Our January Coffee & Chat didn't do as well as it has on previous occasions, maybe the weather, but it's not just about raising funds it's about providing an event where people can come and chat and make friends.

With this cold weather we are looking forward to the Soup and Pud Lunch at 12pm on Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> there is also a raffle with prizes generously donated by WI members and local businesses. Our next Coffee & Chat will be on 1<sup>st</sup> April, hopefully we will see you then.

We are still in the process of organising events including Evita at the Duchess Theatre Long Eaton on 6<sup>th</sup> March. There's only 20 tickets available so please get your name in the book ladies.

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

### Dates for your diary: -

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February:** Darts & Dominoes at The White Hart members social.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 12:00- 14:00:** Soup & Pud Lunch fundraiser in The War Memorial Hall

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Evita at The Duchess Theatre Long Eaton.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10:30-12:00:** Coffee & Chat in The Heritage Centre.

**September 2025:** WI Holiday TBC

**29<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Riverdance trip.

*Our members Craft and Dabble meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays in the month in the Heritage Centre.*

## **Mothers' Union**

At last we seem to be coming through a long, cold winter but now we can look at the snowdrops and the daffodils on the verges and in the gardens and think of the coming of Spring.

We will be pleased to welcome our first speaker of the year. Bishop Peter Fox who, with his wife is going to tell us of their work for the church in Papua New Guinea. With his twinkling eyes and white beard, he should give us a fascinating insight into church life in a very different society from our own.

The March meeting is also a special one for us to look forward to in Lent. The speaker is Sarah Robinson, a member of the Cathedral Branch MU. Sarah's grandparents were missionaries and she will be talking about her grandfather. She calls her talk "My Family and Miracles". Sarah now lives in Derby with her husband who is Dean of Derby Cathedral and we look forward to listening to her story at the next meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Visitors will be very welcome at the Heritage Centre at 2.30pm.

Ash Wednesday is on March 5<sup>th</sup> and there will be an evening service in church. Sunday services will continue as usual throughout Lent and the Vacancy so please see the notices elsewhere in On Stream.





The Friends of St Wilfrid's invite everyone to a special

# REPTON SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT

*With the Repton Chamber Choir, plus the close harmony group, The Reptiles, and solo performers*

Please come and join us in St Wilfrid's Church,  
Barrow upon Trent

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

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including prosecco and  
chocolate**

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**We look forward to  
seeing you!**



# *Flvaston*

## Prayers

We remember all who are sick or troubled at this time, especially we pray for Terry Marshall.

## Services

Sunday March 23rd 10.30am Morning service

## Churchyard

Thanks to all who maintain our churchyard throughout the year, whether individuals or groups, your efforts are really appreciated. It is looking particularly beautiful at the moment, covered in snowdrops and cyclamen.



# *Shardlow*

## PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers, Molly Keogh, Mavis Foster, Sarah Simpson, Christine and John Wharton and Julia Gillard.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of David Roberts, whose Funeral Service and burial took place at St. James' on February 3rd. David lived in Shardlow all of his life and was married in Shardlow Church. He loved life and was a friend to many as was shown in the large number of people who attended the funeral service.

## COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to all who supported and helped at the January coffee morning. The sum of £61 was raised for church funds.

The next coffee morning is on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> from 10-00am to 11-30am and everyone is very welcome to come along.



# *Swarkestone*

Next service – [Lent 1](#), March 9th – 10.30 am

Readers:- *Dorothy Hubball & June Thompson*

Church Cleaning:- [Mike & Denise Crocker](#)

Welcomers/Sidespersons:- *Mike & Denise Crocker*



Please remember in your prayers – *Barbara Foster, Jill Malpass, June Thompson, the Warnock family, Ted Lawrence & Ann Morton.*

## **St James' PCC AGM**

Our AGM will be held after our regular service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March. All are welcome to join us to hear reports on what we have been doing at St James' over the last year. We will also be giving an update on any progress made in the recruitment of a new minister. If you are interested in joining the PCC or perhaps to occasionally help us until we can welcome a new Rector, this is an ideal opportunity to find out how you can become involved. We look forward to seeing you and chatting over coffee and biscuits!

We are grateful for the continued support and dedication of our church community. As we navigate through this transitional period, your participation and prayers are invaluable. Together, we can ensure that St James' remains a vibrant and welcoming place for worship and fellowship.

## **[What's Going On in the Churchyard?](#)**

*The grass in the churchyard is mown regularly by our contractor Paul throughout the year, but the brambles and ivy on the walls also need attention every year or so to prevent them taking over. Volunteer helpers are always welcome and we have recently been grateful to the family of Wendy Jennings-Crocker for attacking a particularly thick bramble patch near the small side gate. They spent several hours hacking away and we can really see a great improvement. Thanks also go to Joe Langton for trimming the overgrown vegetation along the field boundary wall. Work is still needed to clear more of the ivy and brambles, so with the help of Paul, Joe and willing volunteers we hope to see even more improvement over the coming months.*





## Swarkestone Snowdrops



### Church Organ

*In the next few weeks work will be starting on a project to partly refurbish our Organ. Some of the inner workings need to be taken away for repair, to ensure it is usable for many years to come. We are able to borrow an electronic organ for the time it will be out of action so that we can continue to enjoy singing as part of our service. It should take about eight weeks to complete and we look forward to welcoming you to come and hear how it sounds once it's all finished.*

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>

### *From the Registers:*

#### **Aston**

Funeral: 7th February Geoff Simpson 88 years



Funeral: 8th February Carole Bagnall 82,



Funeral: 10th February Valerie Hilton 99 years

#### **Elvaston**

Funeral: 14th February Jonathan Limbert 49 years



#### **Shardlow**

Funeral: 3rd February David Roberts 58 years



#### **Trent Valley Crematorium**

Funeral: 17th February Vera Chadwick aged 96



# Twyford

Flowers: No flowers in Lent

Bicycle Made for Two

1954 and a small seat was fixed to my father's bicycle. Where did we take our picnic?

After rolling down Littleover Hollow, peddling up and along Blagreaves Lane, and turning into Stenson Road, a steep pull over the railway bridge and out into green fields and flowering hedgerows.

First stop Stenson Bubble to dismount and listen to the sound of the water bypassing the lock gate with a bubble. Onwards to The Green, a triangle at the A5132 and over into what is now called Ferry Lane. Here the excitement built up as we looked out for the great river.

There it is! And two swans! Look, look ducks! Swallows swooping over the shimmering, swirling water completed the picture. A few more yards to the ferry landing, the boat was still there then. I have no recollection of seeing it move but my father painted a picture of it being pulled across the flow on a chain from post to post bearing its two and four legged passengers.

The story has never palled. Then I remember the homeward journey on the bicycle made for two!

Still a regular visitor to Twyford, to St. Andrew's, and still I watch the river and its wild life.

Julia Lander



## St Mary the Virgin.

Weston on Trent



### WESTON ON TRENT WI LATEST NEWS.

WI held a busy pop up cafe in February.

February raised £300 profit towards our chosen charity, Forget me nots children's Hospital, which is based on the West Yorkshire .

New members are always welcome. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall.

At our February meeting we were faced with the challenge of a quiz!

### DATES FOR DIARIES

Sunday March 30th. Mothering Sunday service, St Mary's Church, Weston

Sunday April 20th Easter Sunday Service, St Mary's Church , Weston





A group of 24 reception children and several members of staff from Weston school visited St Mary's this month. They were greeted by the bells being rung by Pam and Colin. They were shown various important parts of the church and were able to experience the ringing of the bells being helped by Pam and Colin and observed by members of school staff. An interesting experience for them — will any want to try bell ringing when they are a bit older?. Anyone is welcome to attend practice night at Aston Church on a Monday evening from 7.30pm



The pond at Aston on Trent Local Nature Reserve





*The TEACHER  
The RESILIENT SPIRIT  
The PROUD GRANDMOTHER*

**M**y 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 MARCH

	Readings	Aston	Barrow	Elvaston	Shardlow	Swarkestone	Twyford	Weston
Sunday next before Lent 2 March	Exod. 34. 29 - end Luke 9. 28-36	10.30 UBS HC Revd Mike Firbank						
Ash Wednesday 5 March		6.30 Evening prayer						
9 February Lent 1	Deut. 26. 1-11 Luke 4. 1-13	10.30 FW Bruce	10.30 MP Barrow Team			10.30 HC Very Rev Jerry		
Wed 12 March		6.30 Compline						
16 March Lent 2	Gen. 15. 1-12, 17-18 Luke 13. 31- end	10.30 FW Aston Team	10.30 MP Bruce		10.30 HC Neil Broadbent		3.00pm ES TBC	
Wed 19 March		9.30 HC Neil Broadbent 6.30 Compline						
23 March Lent 3	Isaiah 55. 1-9 Luke 13. 1-9			10.30 UBS HC Paul Sandford				
Wed 26 March		6.30 Compline						
30 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Exod. 2. 1-10 Luke 2. 33-35	10.30 FW Aston Team						10.30 Mothering Sunday. Rev Richard Andrews

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