



On Stream

**The Magazine of
the Trent and Derwent Churches**

www.trentderwentparishes.org



Rev Matt Green and his wife Mary, soon to be
resident in Aston rectory



December 2025

£1.30p

Ministry Team

Rector/Vicar Vacancy

For Weddings and Baptisms in any of our churches Please contact Mrs Anne Heathcote on anneheathcote.ah@gmail.com or 01332 703915 who will assist you and further your enquiries.



Licensed Readers

Mr. Bruce Ward

01283 702854

Prayer Diary

For your prayers in December

Aston The residents of Alderslade Close and Hillcrest. The Memorial Hall and all the groups who use it.

Barrow The staff, children and governors of Sale and Davy's Primary School.

Elvaston The Elvaston Art Club and the Elvaston United Charities.

Shardlow The Village Hall and all the groups who use it.

Swarkestone The residents of Barrow Lane.

Twyford The residents of Arleston.

Weston Weston Methodist Church.

The Community All who are disabled or housebound in our communities.

The Diocese The Diocesan Secretary and the Board of Finance.

World Church The Provinces of Burundi, Brazil and South-East Asia.



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 **January 2026** edition of the magazine to be sent to Joe Nutman at jnutman@btinternet.com by **December 28** please.



200 Club Lottery

The winning numbers for November in the draw were:

1st – 82 (Aston), 2nd - 101 (Aston), 3rd – 149 (Twyford)



CHURCH MAGAZINE 2026

After 2 years without a price change, for 2026 we are having to pay a little more for the magazine. The price to us has gone up by 8p/copy to £1.38 but subscribers will only need to find 3p per copy extra as the advertisements that appear in it will pay the remaining 5p on top of the 20p it is already subsidized by. So the annual cost will go up by 36p to a total of £13.56 for the 12 issues (12 x £1.13) Please could you pay this amount in your parish to whoever collects your subscription. Thankyou

PLEASE NOTE

January's mag is almost certain to be out at the end of the first week of January. With holidays and Christmas shutdown it is just not possible to get it out any earlier. Thankyou

Rev Matt Green

'The Revd Matthew (Matt) Green will be instituted as Rector of the Benefice of Aston-on Trent, Elvaston, Weston-on-Trent and Shardlow, Barrow-upon-Trent with Twyford and Swarkestone, Diocese of Derby, on Saturday 24th January 2026 at 3 pm at All Saints, Aston on-Trent by the Bishop of Derby and inducted by the Archdeacon of Derby City and South Derbyshire, subject to all legal and safeguarding requirements being fulfilled.'

Make a note of the date in your diary and come along!



Matt writes

Hello everyone,

My name is Matt, and I'm really looking forward to joining the benefice in the new year. Before we get the chance to meet properly, I wanted to share a little about myself and my family, and something of what draws me to ministry here.



I've always loved rural ministry — the rootedness, the pace, the space to build deep relationships, and the chance to partner with people to share the life of the Kingdom right in the heart of our communities. When I first learned more about this benefice, what struck me most was your openness, your welcome, and your commitment to keeping the church alive and active within village life. That resonated deeply with me, and I feel genuinely excited to come and serve among you.

I'm particularly looking forward to meeting the congregations and getting to know the different rhythms and stories of each church. I'm also hoping to build strong links with the local schools, which I've always found to be such life-giving places for ministry, imagination, and shared joy.

A little about us as a family: Mary, my wife, works at Leicester Cathedral and is wonderfully creative. She loves crafts of all kinds, firmly believes it is never too early for Christmas, and is convinced that almost any situation can be improved with a good cup of tea. She's looking forward to meeting new people and discerning what God is inviting her into in this next season.

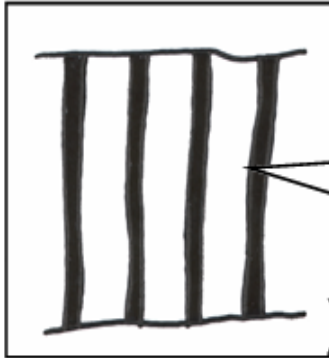
Our boys, Elijah and Zephaniah, are football-and-fishing mad, and have somehow also taken up baseball this year — so there's never a quiet moment in the house. As a family we enjoy walking, exploring, board games, films, and I personally love mountain climbing and pyrography when I get the chance.

We will miss the team we've been serving with, but we're excited to plant new roots and settle into a new community. Thank you for your prayers for a good ending at Emmanuel and a smooth transition. We are really looking forward to meeting you all soon.

Matt, Mary, Eli and Zeph



JOHN **AND** JESUS



Draw John the Baptist behind the prison bars.

From the prison, John sent some friends to Jesus:

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS
TO COME ?
THE M _ S _ I _ H ?

Then Jesus said:

JOHN IS A SPECIAL MAN.
HE IS THE GREATEST
P _ O _ H _ T.
HE IS GOD'S
M _ S _ E _ G _ R.

They found Jesus making miracles.



Draw Jesus making a miracle.

Today is the
3rd SUNDAY
of ADVENT





Christmas at All Saints' 2025

December 23 8.00pm Carols around the Christmas Tree

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day 10.30 Holy Communion

January 4 10.30 United Benefice Service
with Holy Communion



A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from all at Aston All Saints'

CAMEO

Christmas is sneaking up on us really quickly now and by the time you read this, we may have already had our last meeting of this year on the 3rd December. The plan for that meeting is that we shall start getting into practice for the big day by consuming mince pies and other Christmassy treats but mainly all of us having a go at making some decorations, talking about our personal favourites and about all the things that we love about this special time of year. In truth, most of our favourite decorations turn out to be something homemade, often by loved ones at some time in the past, which ignite happy memories. They are often quite simple affairs, maybe even offerings produced in art lessons at school, more years ago than we care to remember.

Talking of which, our November meeting apparently reminded several people of being at school..... more specifically of school dinners with the relaxed happy chatter and the clatter of cutlery on dishes. Our soup evening really was an occasion to Come And Meet Each Other. It seemed like nobody wanted to go home, a very happy gathering indeed. In January we shall still be channelling our inner child in a games evening.... we can pass on Twister and almost certainly aim for something rather more sedentary. We look forward to seeing all our friends again for that. A huge thank you is due to all our members for their generous contributions to the Christmas food hampers which were raffled at the end of November to raise funds for the upkeep of our fantastic church. On a more personal note, Elaine and I would also like to thank you all for your support so far.

All that remains now is to wish everyone a very joyful and peaceful Christmas however you may be spending it. Keep safe and warm and hopefully we shall all meet up again in the new year.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Aston and Weston Mothers' Union

It is with sadness that we share together hearing the news of the passing of Ann Adams, such a loyal friend and member of our Mothers' Union. We thank God for her contribution to the life of our church and community. Ann was a true Christian, full of grace, and we know that she is now at peace.

At the recent committee meeting we almost completed the programme for next year, with a very varied group of speakers, and we hope to have copies ready for all at the beginning of the New Year.

Last month we heard the good news that at last a new Rector has been appointed to the seven churches of our Trent and Derwent Benefice. His name is Rev. Matthew Green and he is to be installed by the Bishop of Derby on January 24th. We know it will take time for him to get to know Derbyshire and the churches along the Trent Valley and we look forward to welcoming him to a Mothers' Union meeting in Aston as soon as he is able. (We will make sure he has his own copy of the 2026 programme!)

MU subs are now due and Hazel is providing us all with an envelope for them.

She points out that they have only increased by 50pence and asks us to send them to her before the end of the year, if possible.

For the final meeting of 2025 we are going to welcome members of the Aston Ukulele Band who are going to play for our Christmas get together. They will play music which will include Christmas songs and old favourites to which, they promise, we can all tap our feet. Thank you to Duncan for bringing his team along and we hope they will all join in and share tea and some festive food afterwards. The date is Thursday December 18th, and visitors are most welcome to join us at the Heritage Centre at 2.30pm.



SARDINE AND CHEESE SANDWICH SPREAD

- 1 tin Sardines
- 1tsp Worcester sauce
- 2 Medium size tomatoes
- 3 Slices of cheddar cheese
- 3 Slices of bread

Toast the bread
Cream the drained sardines
Add the Worcester sauce and mix
Spread thinly on three slices of bread
Place the sliced tomato on top
Toast under a moderately hot grill
Put a slice of cheese on top of each piece
Return to grill until the cheese is melted
Serve immediately



The Wednesday Morning Hub in December will be as follows:

3rd December 9.30 Holy Communion and from 10.30 am: Open Book - Bible Exploration

10th December from 10.00am: Open Cafe — Social

17th December 9.30 Holy Communion and from 10.30 am: Open Book - Bible Exploration

24 December 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

We are ready for the party season! We're looking forward to rounding off 2025 with a festive social evening for our last meeting, with plenty of food and perhaps a game or two!

At our November meeting, our members generously donated advent calendars and Christmas treats to our food bank box. Many thanks to Susan who has been taking the items to the food bank on our behalf for the past couple of years.

We still need a Tea Convenor—someone to help organise volunteers for tea duty using our rota. This role can be shared, so if you and a friend are interested, please ask a committee member for more details.

Don't forget to use our easyfundraising link! You can shop with all major retailers, and they'll make a donation to us, at no extra cost to you.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aston-on-trent/>

Dates for your diary: -

Please note: The Book will not be passed around the tables. Instead, sign-up sheets will be available on the table at the back of the hall. See below for details of other upcoming events.

8th December 11:30: Christmas Stroll around Elvaston Castle.

16th December 19:00: Christmas table arrangement making at The Recreation Centre

30th January 2026: WI quiz/social evening.

7th March 2026: Soup & Pud lunch.

18th March 2026 TBC: Fashion show.

24th March 2026: Midsomer Murders at Derby Theatre.

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.



A guy sees a sign in front of a house: "Talking Dog for Sale." He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a black mutt just sitting there. "You talk?" he asks.

"Yep," the mutt replies. "So, what's your story?"

The mutt looks up and says, "Well, I discovered my gift of talking pretty young and I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies eight years running.

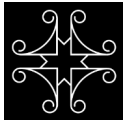
The jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I wanted to settle down. So I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals. Had a wife, a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

The owner says, "Ten dollars." The guy says, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him, so cheap?" The owner replies, "He's just a big liar. He didn't do any of that stuff."



Barrow



St Wilfrid's Church, Barrow upon Trent

Email: stwilfridsbarrow@gmail.com



A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from all at Barrow

Don't forget to join us for the annual Carol Service led by the children
at Barrow School on December 21 at 5.00pm



Flvaston

Services

Sunday 21st December
3pm **Carol Service**
led by Bruce with
guests Derby Safe
guarding Choir,
followed by
refreshments



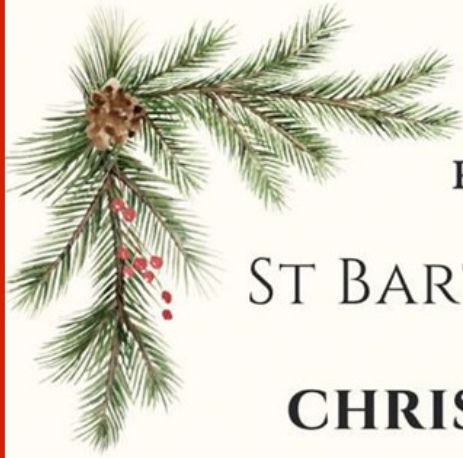
Christmas tree festival

Our annual Christmas tree festival will be held on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December, from 11am to 3pm.

Facebook page

Our Facebook page now has 290 followers. It's a great way of keeping up to date with church events and services.

**A very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year from all
at St Bartholomew's**



PLEASE JOIN US AT
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



During your visit to Elvaston Castle, take a moment to step into our enchanting Christmas Tree Festival. Explore our beautifully decorated 13th-century church, filled with stunning Christmas trees and fascinating historical artefacts. It's the perfect way to add a touch of festive magic to your day!

Tea/coffee and homemade cakes available

Books and jigsaws for sale

Decorated trees by local organisations

Memorial tree to remember your loved ones

Everyone welcome! Including dogs

SATURDAY 6

December AND 11am - 3pm

SUNDAY 7

We can't wait to see you!

**ELVASTON,
DERBY,
DE72 3EP**



PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers Mavis Foster,
Sarah Simpson, David Spray, Julia Gillard, Graham Wilkins

SERVICES

Sunday 14th December 2-00pm CAROL SERVICE

Christmas Day 10-30am Holy Communion by ext.

Sunday 28th December 10-30am United Benefice Service.



CAROL SERVICES

This will be held on **Sunday 14th December at 2pm** and will be led by Alison. Everyone very welcome especially families and children. Make this a lovely start to your Christmas. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

The **school** will be holding their Carol Service in church on the afternoon of **Friday 19th December**.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th November from 10-00am to 11-30am. There will be the usual drinks and cakes, raffle and tombola as well as Christmas goods. Everyone is very welcome. As there is not a coffee morning in December the next one will be on Saturday 31st January 2026 from 10-00am to 11-30am.

REMEMBRANCE



Many thanks to Alison for taking our Remembrance Service on Tuesday November 11th at the War Memorial. It was well attended and we were joined by Veterans from The Marina. Mrs Nancy Hawksworth laid a wreath on behalf of Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council. Refreshments were served after the Service.

**SHARDLOW PCC WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY AND
BLESSED CHRISTMAS.**



Services in December

Wednesday 3rd December - 7pm – Carol Service

Sunday 14th December - 10.30 HC with Rev Paul Sandford

Christmas Day - 10.30 HC with Rev Paul Sandford

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

We were very grateful to receive a donation of knitted poppies and a small team of volunteers managed to work quickly to create the wonderful displays in our photos. Many thanks to those who contributed – the poppies have now been safely stored away to be used again in the future. The displays gave us all something on which to focus our thoughts as we remembered the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. Thank you to Lesley Nelson who led our service once again.



Decorating for Christmas

We'll be digging out the baubles, lights and candles ready for our Christmas services on Saturday 29th November from 10am. Come along and help us decorate the church! No need to bring anything, but any seasonal greenery or flowers are always useful. We'll provide a few seasonal treats to keep the creative energies flowing!

Carol Service – Wednesday 3rd December 7pm

We are all looking forward to welcoming Melbourne Town Band to our Carol Service once again – they really make the evening a wonderful start to Christmas. Make sure you stay afterwards for mulled wine, mince pies and lots of other goodies! Parking can be limited, so please car share if possible.



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>



Flowers: No flowers in Advent.

Christmas: Mrs J Jackson and Mr P Woodward

Date for your Diary:

We are delighted to welcome back the Newmount Brass Band to our Carol Service on 14th December, at 3.00pm. Please come and join us to what will be a memorable and happy occasion. Bruce Ward will lead our service and our carols will be accompanied by the Brass Band. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies following the service. It promises to be an enjoyable, festive afternoon.



The congregation of St Andrew's wishes you all a
Joyous and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.



CAROL SERVICE

with the

NEWMOUNT BRASS BAND

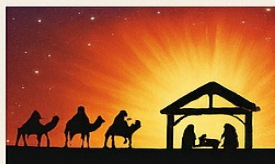
Join us for a joyful afternoon of carols
and festive cheer!

* **Sunday 14th December 2025**

3:00 pm

**St Andrew's Church
Twyford**

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served





St Mary the Virgin.

Weston on Trent



REMEMBRANCE EVENTS.

What a truly beautiful display of poppies this year on the village green. Thanks to the ladies of the WI and help from volunteers from church and the Parish Council. This display was as good as ever; if not better! In fact it was so good it was actually on the BBC TV!

The Remembrance service at church was well attended and there were many comments about how well the church was decorated for this event. Donations in the collection and on the new electronic device amounted to £55.00; this was given to the Royal British Legion. £20.06 received for refreshments went to church funds. Thanks to all that gave.



WESTON ON TRENT WI LATEST NEWS>

We had bit of "ooh la la" at the meeting on 10/11/25, when a lovely lady told us about her life as an exotic dancer, on the Moulin Rouge in Paris. She had wanted to dance since childhood and, along with her sister, had a successful career in Paris, on cruise ships and travelling the world in dance shows. Since retiring from dancing she has become a potter and has appeared on TV doing this. To keep to the theme of the evening we enjoyed French style cakes; madeleines, French fancies, etc.



TRUE STORIES TOLD LIVE. 25/10/25.

This event was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Mark, our compare extraordinaire, introduced the performers and also told some stories himself. We had some amusing tales from Ireland, told by Jimmy, and some poems from myself. A lovely lady from Aston told us about her husband, who had Parkinsons Disease at a very early age and how it affected her family. Then, in the second half, we heard from her husband; how he had an horrific 13 hour operation to attach an electronic device onto his brain, which controls the disease and has transformed life for him and his family. There was also a raffle, and wine and refreshments on sale. The event raised around £580.00 for church. Thanks to everyone taking part and all that donated and attended this successful event.

Left: First person to use the digital giving device

PCC MEETING. 30/10/25.

Amongst things discussed were the state of the bell ropes. One of the ropes had broken and all were in need of replacement. The new ropes have to be specially made and should be ready in about 5 months. A kind donation of £100.00 has been made towards this cost and the rest of the money will come out of the fund already held for the bells.

Some members of the PCC recently went to the church at Barrow for help and advice from them as to what grants, etc, could be applied for; as they had experience of this when they had major improvements at their church.

Finally, the new card machine contactless device was mentioned. It is on a 3 months trial, at the end of which we can purchase it, if we think it has been useful. It made it's first appearance at True Stories Told Live and has already proved to be useful.



SPOOKY NIGHT IN CHURCH. 1/11/25.

The 107th Derby Scouts and Trent Explorers enjoyed a spooky evening in church. 17 members, aged 10 to 14, hiked to the church and had a sleepover. A few of the older ones didn't stay the night as they had Saturday jobs. The rest made church look very cosy with their sleeping bags arranged between the choir stalls and next morning enjoyed hearty breakfast butties!

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY. 7/12/25.

Christmas Carol concert with live music, choir, readings, mulled wine and mince pies. Starts 5.30pm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

From the Registers:

Shardlow

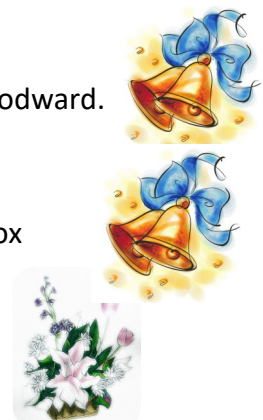
Saturday November 8th Wedding of Benjamin Jack Archer and Jessika May Woodward.

Elvaston

Saturday November 22nd Wedding of Jennifer Ann Sankey and Ryan Nathan Cox

Weston

Sunday Nov 30 Interment of ashes of Patricia Anne Devereux





*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.

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SERVICES IN DECEMBER

	<i>Readings</i>	Aston	Barrow	Elvaaston	Shardlow	Swarkestone	Twyford	Weston
Wed 3 Dec		9.30HC Rev Neil Broadbent 6.45 ES				7.00pm Carol Concert with Melbourne Band - Bruce		6.00pm Christingle Service. Rev Steve Short
7 Dec	Isaiah 11. 1-10, Matt. 3. 1-12	10.30 UBS HC Rev Geoffrey Marshall						5.30pm Christmas Concert: Rev Steve Short
Wed 10 Dec		6.45 Compline						
14 Dec.	Isaiah 35. 1-10, Matt. 11. 2-11	10.30 FW Aston team	10.30 MP Barrow team		2.00pm Carol Concert Alison Henshaw	10.30 HC Rev Paul Sandford	3.00pm Carol Concert . Brass band. Bruce	
Wed 17 Dec		9.30 HC Rev Neil Broadbent 6.45 Compline						
21 Dec	Isaiah 7. 10-16, Matt. 1. 18-end	10.30 FW Aston team	5.00pm Carol service led by children	3.00pm Carol Concert - Bruce				
Wed 24 Dec Christmas Eve	Hebrews 1. 1-3a John 1. 1-14	4.00pm Crib Service 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight -Bruce						
Thurs 25 Dec Christmas Day	Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2. 1-20	10.30 HC Bruce by ext from 9.00am			10.30 HC Alison Henshaw By ext from 9.00am	10.30 HC Rev Paul Sandford	9.00am HC Rev Susie Curtis	
28 Dec Christmas 1	Isaiah 63. 7-9 Matt. 2. 13-end				10.30 MP UBS Alison Henshaw			
31 Dec		6.45pm Compline						

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