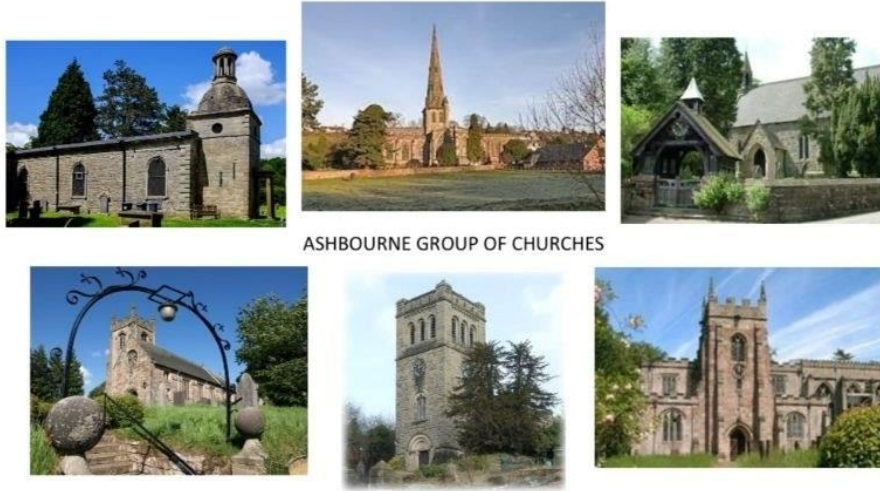


Ashbourne Church News 16/01/2026



Welcome to this week's newsletter

Included in this newsletter is all the news, music and readings for this week together with articles from some of our regular church groups.

If you have any comments about this newsletter or wish to submit any material to be included, please email: parishoffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk

If you have not already subscribed to receive an email reminder when a new update to the newsletter is available, you can subscribe using this link: [Subscribe to weekly newsletter](#)

Church and Parish Office Opening Times

St Oswald's Church is OPEN daily from 10am to 5pm

- Bell Ringing Practice: Wednesday evenings from 19.30 to 21.00
- Choir Practice: Friday evenings from 19.00 to 20.00

The Parish Office is open:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 to 12:00

Telephone: 01335 343052

If you need a priest urgently, please call 01335 664159.

[Pastoral Contact](#)

If you would like to contact a member of the clergy team to discuss any pastoral matter please telephone 01335 664159.

[Find Us on Instagram and Facebook](#)

To keep up with the latest church news, please follow us on our [Facebook Page](#).

We now have a new [Instagram](#) account too.

[Website Updates](#)

The Church website has recently had a refresh and update.

A list of forthcoming services appears on the [homepage](#), as well as in the [calendar](#), which also includes regular events - these also appear on the homepage.

We now have a [News](#) section on the website. Items from the newsletter will be available here as well as other updates about church events and activities.

You'll be able to read the latest [Ministry Thought for the Week](#), see all the [Online Services](#), and the weekly [Readings and Prayers](#) (which can also be found in the [Church Notices](#) section).

[Ministry Thought for the Week](#)

This weekend we begin the Week of Christian Unity with the caption of 'One Body, One Spirit'. It's a week in which Christians of all denominations, across the world, ecumenically celebrate the unity of our faith in the cross of Christ.

We here in Ashbourne will be following the theme when, this Sunday, we welcome the Reverend Nicola Briggs, Methodist Minister, to preach at St Oswald's, Reverend Dwayne has been invited to preach at Elim Church whilst one of their ministers will preach at the Methodist Service. This is a powerful and extraordinary reminder of how far our ecumenical relationships have come in a relatively short time. This unity is not merely a lofty ideal; it is essential for fulfilling Christ's mission in the world.

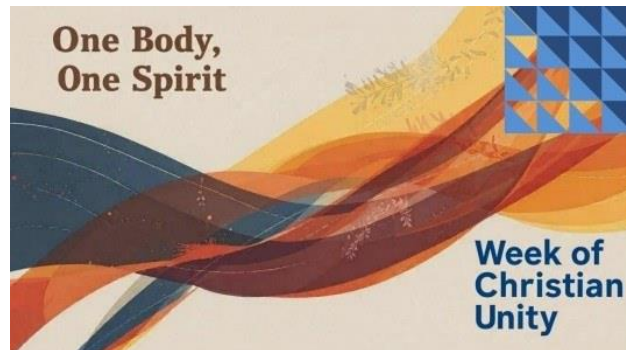
As St Pope John Paul II emphasized, the unity of Christ's disciples is a condition for effectively proclaiming and consolidating faith in Him – Jesus. When we stand united, we bear witness to the love of God revealed in Christ, and we fulfil the prayer of Jesus, who asked the Father that we all may be one, so that the world may believe. We recognise today that we share real, if imperfect, unity.

The following Sunday at 6.30pm, St Oswald's will host an evening Service in the style of Taizé to which folk from all denominations are welcome to come and participate in music, song and prayer, remembering that unity is essential and love is everything.

With blessings

Nigel

Read [*Ministry Thought for the Week*](#) on the website.



Services

Weekly Online Service

Each week a recorded service is prepared which can be streamed from the [Ashbourne Group website](#).

The service is normally recorded in one of the churches in the Ashbourne Group on the Thursday prior to the Sunday.

Recorded Services

This week's recorded service can be downloaded using the following link:

[Morning Prayer from St Peter's](#)

The next recording will be a Holy Communion service and will be recorded on Thursday 22nd January at St Oswald's, Ashbourne starting at 10:30am prompt.

Everyone is welcome to join the recording.

[Ashbourne Group of Churches - Services](#)

Find Services and Events in the Calendar

All of the Ashbourne Group of Churches services can be found on the website in the [Calendar](#). You can also see forthcoming events taking place in Church and in the Church Hall.

Sunday 18th January - Week of Christian Unity

10:30 - Holy Communion, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

18:30 - Evensong, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

Sunday 25th January

10:30 - Holy Communion, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

10:45 - Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Clifton

18:30 - United Service, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

Sunday 1st February - Candlemas

09:15 - Holy Communion, St Peter's, Snelston

10:30 - Holy Communion, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

11:00 - Holy Communion, St Mary and St Barlok, Norbury

18:30 - Evensong, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

Sunday 8th February - Second Sunday before Lent

09:00 - Breakfast Church, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

09:15 - Holy Communion, St Mary's, Mappleton

10:30 - Holy Communion, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

14:30 - Retreat in Daily Life

18:30 - Choral Evensong, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

Sunday 15th February - Sunday Next before Lent

10:30 - Holy Communion, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

18:30 - Evensong, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday

10:00 - Holy Communion with Ashing, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

Sunday 22nd February - First Sunday of Lent


10:30 - Holy Communion, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

10:45 - Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Clifton

18:30 - Evensong, St Oswald's, Ashbourne

A Week of Christian Unity

Join us for a Service in the Style of Taizé to celebrate



**One Body,
One Spirit**


**Week of
Christian
Unity**

Week of Christian Unity

January 25, 2026 at 6.30 PM
St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne

Come and participate

Joint Service Open for all Denominations





THE SEASON OF

Lent

**Holy Communion with Ashing
10:00 - Wednesday 18th February
St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne**

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY,
JOIN US IN A SEASON OF
REFLECTION.

Music at St Oswald's

Music at St Oswald's for January

Sunday 4th Epiphany

10.30 Parish Communion

84 Brightest and best...
85 Earth has many a noble city...
83 As with gladness men of old ...
From the rising of the sun/Ouseley
282 Be known to us in breaking bread
90 Songs of thankfulness and praise...

6.30 Epiphany Carol Service

From the rising of the sun/Ouseley
The stars watch high
The Three Kings/Cornelius
Whence is that goodly fragrance/arr Baker
Shepherds' Farewell/Berlioz
New Year Carol/Britten

Sunday 11th First Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 Parish Communion

87 Hail to the Lords's anointed ... (omit vs 2+4)
443 God is our strength and refuge ...
278 Alleluya sing to Jesus...
Ave Verum Corpus/Elgar
284 Bread of heaven on thee we feed...
585 The Church's one foundation...

6.30 Choral Evensong

Noble in B minor; Smith responses
Ave Verum Corpus/Elgar
401 Come let us join our cheerful songs...
Psalm 46
85 Earth has many a noble city...
Come down O Love divine/Harris
166 Crown him with many crowns...

Sunday 18th Second Sunday of Epiphany

10.30 Parish Communion

89 O worship the Lord ...
383 Be still for the presence of the Lord...
411 Dear Lord and Father of mankind...
Make me a light/Wilby
470 I the Lord of sea and sky ...
93 When Jesus came to Jordan...

6.30 Evensong

Kindle a light/Fleming
84 Brightest and best
Psalm 96
476 In a world where people walk in darkness...
Ave Verum Corpus/Byrd
191 O Thou who camest from above...

Sunday 25th Conversion of St Paul

10.30 Parish Communion

202 Holy holy holy...
233 Jesus calls us...
375 Amazing grace...
Lord give me faith/Robson
285 Bread of the world in mercy broken...
612 We have a gospel to proclaim...

6.30 United Service for Ashbourne Churches Together at St Oswald's

Choral Scholarships

Music is an important part of the life of St Oswald's church in Ashbourne, especially through the musical ministry of the choir. We are proposing a **new set of choral scholarships**.

Ideally, **4 students** ('scholars') will have mentored places in the choir, alongside more experienced singers. This will optimally be one per voice part (soprano/alto/ tenor/bass); the expectation is that you will be Y10 and upwards (i.e. age 15-18).

Scholars will be expected to regularly attend choir practice, and at least one of the two services on Sunday. You will **gain experience** of a vast range of repertoire, improved choral singing skills, teamwork with adults, regular gold standard music in services and excellent sight-reading skills. This gives you experience to enable you potentially to apply for a choral scholarship at university, and to add to UCAS forms when applying for university/college. In return, we will offer scholars 30 minutes of **tuition**, at the end of choir practice. This will cover sight reading, aural skills, and general music perception. A basis for this will be the RSCM *Voice for Life Singing Awards* – St Oswald's has had a good track record of young singers gaining Bronze, Silver and Gold awards (NB the Awards are about to be submitted for OFQUAL accreditation giving them value on a UCAS form).

You will receive an honorarium of **£100** for the year plus **£1 for each practice and service** attended. St Oswald's church choir has an excellent reputation for good music sung in our church as well as for weddings elsewhere, services in cathedrals (including York Minster, Salisbury and Hereford) and concerts too. Please find out more by contacting Michael Halls (Director of Music) on 07976708449 or mvaehalls@gmail.com. Application forms will be sent to you after the initial contact. I shall look forward to hearing from you soon.

Readings

January Readings

January readings notes

January 4th Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6 The prophet reassures the Jews, recently returned from Exile, that God's light will shine on them and on the other nations who will come to them. Kings will bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2.1-12

King Herod the Great (father of Herod Antipas who ruled in Jesus's life time) was visited by wise men, astrologers probably from the east. In those days, the village of Bethlehem was revered as the birthplace of the great king David who was regarded as the ancestor of the Messiah, the Anointed of God, whom God would send to rescue his people. In later Christian legends, the three kings were believed to be the descendants of the three sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth, who brought gifts as foretold by Isaiah. (Isaiah 60:6).

January 11th Baptism of Christ

Acts 10.34-43 Peter visited the home of the Roman centurion Cornelius and spoke to the household about the life and ministry of Jesus, and how he had been raised by God after his death.

Matthew 3.13-17

The account of the baptism of Jesus is full of Old Testament symbolism. The clothing of John was like that of Elijah, the prophet (2 Kgs: 1:7-8), the phrase 'The heavens were opened' is used in Ezekiel 1:1, God's Spirit, his Breath, in Hebrew his Ruach, was active in creation. God's Voice declared the sonship of Jesus.

January 18th Epiphany 2

Corinthians 1.1-9 Paul opens his letter to the Christians in Corinth with his usual greeting to those whom he had converted. He commends them for their faithfulness and assures them that God's blessing will continue to strengthen them.

John 1.29-42

John the Evangelist's record of Jesus's baptism by John the Baptist, differs from that in the Synoptic Gospels. John himself spoke and testified to what he had seen and two of his disciples went to follow Jesus. Andrew told Simon and took him to Jesus, who prophetically gave him the new name 'Cephas', the Greek word for a rock.

January 25th Epiphany 3

Conversion of St. Paul

Acts 9.1-22 On his way to Damascus, the Jew, Saul, an enemy of the Christians (who were known as 'followers of The Way'), has a vision which leaves him blind. Ananias, a follower of Jesus in Damascus, visits Paul and restores his sight. Paul then begins to preach about Jesus.

Matthew 19.27-30

In the last week of his life, Jesus was asked by Peter what reward Jesus's followers would receive for their loyalty. Jesus quoted the promise made to Jews facing persecution 300 years earlier in the book of Daniel, that the 'Son of Man' - a title Jesus used of himself, would come and his disciples would be rewarded, but not perhaps as they expected!

18th January: Epiphany 2

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

Paul opens his letter to the Christians in Corinth with his usual greeting to those whom he had converted. He commends them for their faithfulness and assures them that God's blessing will continue to strengthen them.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both

their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1.29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 0 This is he of whom I said, “After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.” I myself did not know him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.’ And John testified, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit.” And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter..

Something to think about

John the Evangelist’s record of Jesus’s baptism by John the Baptiser, differs from that in the Synoptic Gospels. John himself spoke and testified to what he had seen and two of his disciples went to follow Jesus. Andrew told Simon and took him to Jesus, who prophetically gave him the new name ‘Cephas’, the Greek word for a rock.

Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end:

bring us with the whole creation to the glory hidden through past ages

and now made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

God of glory,

you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:

fill us with your Holy Spirit

that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please remember in your prayers this week

Those who are unable to be with us in church, including Diana & Edmund Urquhart, Linda Torr, Arthur and Barbara Williams.

Those who are ill, especially Graham Price, Pam Phillips and Reina Hammond.

The recently bereaved, especially the relatives and friends of Martin Likeman, John Oakes, Janice Winfield and Julian Galvin.

Areas of conflict: the Ukraine, the Middle East and too many others.

Our local churches.

Our Ministry Team: Dwayne, Maggie, Nigel & Lynda.

See [Readings and Prayers](#) on the website.

Activities at St Oswald's



There are many men and women in our community who are caring for a loved one and it is very seldom realised just how little recognition they get for fulfilling such an important but lonely role. If you, or someone you know, is caring for a loved one, for whatever reason, and would like the chance just to have somewhere you can have an hour or so respite with coffee and chat with people who understand the challenges you face daily, then come along to 'Carers Count'.

'Carers Count' meet on the first Wednesday of every month between 10am and 12 noon at St Oswald's Church Hall in School Lane, Ashbourne where you are assured of a warm welcome, a friendly face and a listening ear.

We work with Derbyshire Carers Association who give advice regarding practical support to which one might be entitled. They also support our meetings with the occasional special event.

For more information and to let us know that you would like to come along, then call Maggie or Nigel on 01335 664159



Ossie's Potters



A group of people who enjoy being in the fresh air with other people, have been **pottering** around the Church and Church Hall.

They meet on alternate Tuesdays to tidy flower beds, plant up new areas and make the surroundings of the Church look more colourful, loved and cared for.

They always finish with a cup of tea.

Would you like to be a Potter too?

**Why not come and see where
they're pottering?**

You would be very welcome.

They will be meeting on

27th January

From 1pm until 3.00pm



Notices

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 20th January @ 16:00 - St Oswald's Church Hall - Ossie's Kitchen
- Wednesday 21st January @ 19:30 - St Oswald's Church - Bell Ringing Practice
- Friday 23rd January @ 19:00 - St Oswald's Church - Choir Practice
- Tuesday 27th January @ 13:00 - St Oswald's Church Hall - Ossie's Potters
- Sunday 8th February @ 14:00 - St Oswald's Church - Retreat in Daily Life opens
- Saturday 7th March @ 10:00 - Hulland Ward Millennium Hall - Visioning Awayday
- Sunday 22nd March @ 14:00 - St Oswald's Church - Retreat in Daily Life closes
- Saturday 1st August - Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé

See [Forthcoming Events](#) on the website.

Retreat in Daily Life

What's it all about?

Yes, exactly. That's just the sort of thing we talk about.

No, I mean, what's a Retreat in Daily Life?

It's a chance to talk about important things with a spiritual guide. This retreat offers a framework for focused prayer and discernment over approximately 40 days, while continuing our routines and home life.

Many of us don't have the luxury of spending time away at a secluded and peaceful retreat house. Instead, we contract time to retreat, not away from our normal life but in it – taking time to attend, to align, to wait, and then to act.

How does it work?

We gather a group from various communities who commit to the retreat starting at the beginning of Lent. Then, over six weeks, we meet all together twice to open and close the retreat. The flow is as follows:

Sunday 8 February at 2pm at St Oswald's Church

The opening session of the retreat, where retreatants and retreat guides meet. We share, dream a little, pray, and keep silence.

- We go back to our everyday households, neighbourhoods, and communities - committed to a simple daily practice of prayer, reading, and contemplation.
- Individually, we meet with a retreat guide for about 40 minutes each week to reflect on what is happening in our prayer.
- We continue our daily practices and reflections, and our weekly meeting with a guide.

Sunday 22 March at 2pm at St Oswald's Church

- We gather at the end of six weeks to listen to each other, to listen to God together, to encourage, to share - and draw our 'retreat' to a close.

And a retreat guide?

You are accompanied during this retreat by an experienced spiritual accompanier who will listen to you and listen with you as you reflect on what you are discerning and hearing each day, in your prayer and in your faith community. They support your discernment and accompany you through the weeks - praying, reflecting, underlining, and exploring with you.

Is there a cost?

We ask for a small donation of £10 to cover the cost of materials. If you cannot afford that, no problem at all, we'd still love to have you join us! We'll collect that at the opening service.


Okay, I'm interested... what do I need to do next?

Yup. Fair question.

Contact the Rev'd Dwayne Engh if you want to get more details and see if it is right for you.

Or just book in with Nicola Fisher, our Parish Administrator, by email:
parishoffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk.


When you do book in, please provide your name, email, mobile number, and your Christian tradition. Places are limited, so book in today!



Retreat
in
Daily Life

Join us for this Lenten retreat offering a structured approach to prayer, discernment, and conversations with a spiritual guide over the 40 days of Lent facilitated by St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne.

Create a retreat within your everyday life—not away from it—dedicating time to listen, align, wait, and then act.



For more information & to register, email: ParishOffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk

Visioning Awayday



East Midlands Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé

If you're aged 18 to 35, from the East Midlands, save the date for the Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé. To find out more and to get involved, please contact Dwayne by email: vicar@ashbournechurch.org.uk.

save the date!

Diocese of Derby
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

**Join the East Midlands
Young Adults Pilgrimage to**



August 1 - 9, 2026

For those aged 18-35, from across the East Midlands and beyond, with limited seats on the coach for those over 35! To find out more contact: vicar@ashbournechurch.org.uk



Sanctuary Flowers

I am in the process of compiling the List for Sanctuary Flowers for 2026. During the last few years, several of our donors have sadly died and whereas once it was difficult to accommodate everyone, now there are several gaps and I am appealing for people to come forward - there may be a date that has particular significance, for example, marking the passing of a loved one. Everyone is welcome to arrange their own flowers but if you would prefer not to, then the weekly flower arrangers will be pleased to do so.

We continue to be grateful to all those who donate towards the flowers in Church, like so many things the cost has soared and we rely heavily on the flowers given by M & S for there to be flowers in the body of the Church.

I am in Church most Sundays so please have a word with me or I can be contacted on 07939 118969 or by email: celiayates@btinternet.com

Walking with St Oswalds

St Oswald's has a choice of two walking groups.

The Ramblers group meet on the 2nd Monday of the month, start walking at 10.00am and covering approximately 5 miles.

The Walking group meet on the last Saturday of the month, start walking at 9.30am and covering approximately 10 miles.

Ramblers Group Dates (All rambles start at 10am)

- Monday 9th February 2026
- Monday 9th March 2026

Walking Group Dates (All walks start at 9:30am)

- Saturday 31st January 2026
- Saturday 28th February 2026

Gill

Email : paulgillelliott@outlook.com

[A Snowy Day in Chelmorton](#)

On Saturday 10th January 11 members of the walking group met in Chelmorton for the group's annual walk and meal. The 11 braved a challenging 6 ½ mile walk on trails, road, and fields, all of which were snow or ice covered. The views, however, were stunning.

We climbed - slipping and sliding up the lane from Chelmorton - and crossed fields before reaching Flagg. We then headed for Pomeroy across snow covered fields with deep snow tucked in behind the walls, making the walking beautiful but slow. We returned to Chelmorton on a wide, snowy and icy track where we were met by 6 others and all 17 members enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Church Inn. The meals were amazing and warm following the cold walk. A lovely, if slightly mad and slippery day.

Thanks to Judy for the route, which changed several times on the build up to the walk, as we tried to accommodate the weather.

Gill Elliott





St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail

The walking group have decided on their challenge for 2026. We are going to walk the St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail from 1st to 8th May 2026. This is a 41 mile pilgrimage linking the 9 churches of Upper Ryedale and Helmsley with Rievaulx Abbey.

Aelred of Hexham was a Cistercian monk and from 1147 – 1167 he was Abbot of Rievaulx. He wrote on Christian friendship and was gifted with wisdom to lead.



Giving and Donations

Donate to St Oswald's

If you would like to set up a regular payment to St Oswald's Church then you can do so through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).. You can find out more information on the PGS website at:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/>

where you can also set up a regular payment.

Alternatively you can telephone the Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1260 to set up a payment.

The PGS code for St Oswald's Church is 120612186



Give a Little

St Oswald's church is open every day of the week. If you would like to make a donation to the work of St Oswald's Church you can do so from the Give a Little website using the following link:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/fe31ad06-1a7e-48cf-a239-871c41a4f052>



Easyfundraising

St Oswald's Church is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Since joining we have raised over £400, and that is with only 27 supporters.

Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page by [>> CLICKING HERE](#)



Safeguarding

Keeping People Safe

We are committed to ensuring that our church is a safe place for everyone and take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. We adhere to safeguarding rules laid down by the Church of England and the diocese of Derby.

Report a Safeguarding Concern: Protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of us all, whether they are in the communities in which we live or part of our Christian family. If you have a concern about a child, young person or adult who may be at risk of harm please speak to the parish safeguarding coordinator.

The contact details are:

Celia Dickinson, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Mobile: 07754 883935

If you have concerns about a member of the clergy or an employee of the church please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding. To confidentially report a safeguarding concern please complete the [Safeguarding Concern Form](#) or call 01332 388678. You can also report any concerns to the Police or Social Care. The important thing is that your concerns are shared with someone in a position to help.