

Ashbourne Church News 26/04/2026



Welcome to this Week's 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 and 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.

Ministry Thought for the Week

What is Abundant Life?

'I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

There are few other places where the ministry and mission of Jesus is stated so clearly. Not just to have life, not just survival, not just existence – but to have life in abundance, to have flourishing, thriving, joy. But what is abundant life?

Let me be clear that this is not an argument for the prosperity gospel, which claims that God promises you great wealth and an easy life just because you happen to believe in Jesus. (That kind of theology is either a terrible misunderstanding or a deliberate abuse of scripture).

So, how would you define an abundant life?

- Maybe a certain career?
- Accomplishments?
- A large house?
- Money?
- Family?
- Being happy?
- Being able to travel?

I don't think those contemporary criteria are what John's gospel suggests. And the meaning of an abundant life is a critical question for our time – a time when even the basics of life are denied to many.

Abundant life isn't simply a promise about some distant eternal future, but is a concrete invitation to discover life right now by extending it to those around us... as we commit ourselves to the wellbeing of all God's children and, indeed, the world God loves so much.

And that's led me to do a lot of praying and wondering about how we support those who are the weakest among us, those are the margins of our society. So, some questions for us all to ponder:

What opportunities is God presenting to us right now? What is breaking open in you? What are you learning? How is our understanding of God changing? As a church, what is important to us? What might we want to change? How are we part of God's redemptive activity in the world here in Ashbourne and the surrounding villages?

Dwayne



What's New

Annual Meetings - Elections

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meetings on Sunday 19th April. It is so good to be part of a church where nearly 50 people gather for those meetings. We were all pleased that Rev'd Dwayne was able to chair the meetings as part of his phased return to work.

At those meetings:

Paul Elliott and **Anne Ford** were re-elected as Churchwardens – to spontaneous applause!

Peter Walker is a member of Diocesan Synod and as such remains a member of Deanery Synod

Roger Harrison and **John Elwell** were re-elected to Deanery Synod

Jeanette Hart (Mapleton), Michael Smith, Ash Toombs and **Lindsay Walker** were elected to PCC

The first meeting of the new PCC is on Monday 11th May, and PCC Officers for the year ahead will be appointed then.

Thanks expressed in the Annual Report were amplified at the meetings, but a special 'Thank you' went to Sue Damesin who is retiring as Minutes Secretary, and to Celia Dickinson who has fulfilled the vital role of Parish Safeguarding Officer for many years.

NOTE: We are still looking for their replacements – Can you help?

Janet Wright

Sailability at Carers Count

We were delighted to, once again, invite back to our Carers Count meeting local author Simon Mahoney accompanied, on this occasion, by his sailing companion, Terry Sheils.

Simon and Terry gave a lively talk regarding their involvement with Sailability, an initiative that offers the experience of sailing to all, regardless of ability or altered ability. Their positive approach ensures that through careful consideration and assessment there are ways and means to overcome altered abilities for everyone to enjoy time sailing on the water.

Not only do Simon and Terry sail locally at Carsington Water, but they do take their skills - entering competitions - further afield in this country and even worldwide. They both continued to expand in their talk that it is a recognised aspect that 'getting on the water' has a huge therapeutic benefit for everyone who takes part and, in particular, those who suffer from stress or depression.

As the Simon and Terry 'double act' continued with anecdotal stories, this was interspersed by photographic evidence in the slideshow. All the attending Carers showed great interest in the venture and asked lots of questions to such an extent that Simon and Terry have offered the group members a taster session of the Sailability facility!

Before conclusion of the meeting, well earned refreshments that included a good slice of Simnel cake was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

If you care for a loved one and would like to meet others in a similar situation for a chat over a cup tea or coffee, you would be so welcome. Just pop along.

Usually the meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month in The Church Hall, 10 am until 12 noon. But, due to holidays, our NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 13th MAY at Fairways Garden Centre, 10 am until 12 noon in the restaurant.

See you there!

Anne Ford.



Belfry Spring Clean

Last week may have been Low Sunday, but that didn't stop 12 of St Oswald's bellringers from climbing high into St Oswald's Church tower to carry out a much needed spring clean.

Taking advantage of a rare Sunday with no evening service, we spent over 2 hours sweeping, polishing, vacuuming and tidying both the clock room (which until the 1930s was the ringing room) and the belfry, which houses our ring of eight bells and the Sanctus bell. Getting into the tower is quite complicated - involving ascending a spiral staircase through the organ loft, crossing both the chancel and North Transept roofs, squeezing through three small doorways and ascending a wooden ladder. Doing this whilst carrying brushes, vacuum cleaners and buckets of water was hard enough, but navigating the route with a 30 piece scaffolding rig so that David - our Steeplekeeper - could repair and service the ceiling pulleys was quite a challenge! Once all the work was done, we rewarded ourselves with a well earned cup of tea and a splendid array of homemade cakes.

Thoroughly cleaned, the tower is now ready for the installation of our new bellropes which will be fitted in the next couple of weeks ready to be dedicated on Sunday 17 May. By a happy coincidence, this is also Bell Sunday, being the closest Sunday to St Dunstan's Day, which falls on 19 May. St. Dunstan is known as the Patron Saint of Bellringers due to his experimentation in the forging of bells in the tenth century.

A big thank you to all those who helped with the belfry clean, and also to all those in the congregation, the town and beyond who tell us how much they enjoy hearing the bells rung each week.

Andrew Burns











Free Dementia Training



Become a Dementia Friend

Join us for a free Dementia Friends Session delivered by one of our volunteer Dementia Friends Ambassadors. During this friendly and interactive session, you'll learn more about dementia, how it affects a person and what you can do to help people affected by dementia in your community.

Date	Wheelchair accessible? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Start time	Other information
Duration	
Venue	

How to book onto the session:

 dementiafriends.org.uk
 dementiafriends@alzheimers.org.uk
 [/DementiaFriends](https://www.facebook.com/DementiaFriends)
 [@DementiaFriends](https://twitter.com/DementiaFriends)



Furniture Donations for our new curate!

Our new curate, Rachel Knight, will move into the diocesan property in Clifton in late May. She and her husband (Alan) are moving from a canal boat, so they will have no furniture. They won't need crockery or kitchen items, just large furniture (as all the furniture in a canal boat is fitted and secured to the walls). Do you have any furniture sitting around that you might want to donate? This might be the time to consider refurbishing a room, getting that new sofa or new bed, and then donating the old one to Rachel and Alan! Please let Nicola in the office know if

you have anything you can donate. We'll work out how to pick that up/collect it once we have a comprehensive list closer to the date. Thank you for supporting Rachel as she joins us!

Bishop Francis from the Church of North India visiting on Sunday 12 July

The Ashbourne Churches Together (ACT) have an ecumenical partnership with the Diocese of Patna. Bishop Francis, their bishop, is joining us in July for two weeks. He'll be with us on Sunday 12 July and with Ashbourne Methodists on Sunday 19 July. The Church of North India (CNI) is a United Church formed when the Anglican, Methodist Baptist and Presbyterian Churches in North India joined together. CNI calls on a mixture of traditions from the joining Churches for its governance and its worship. More info to come soon as we look to actively relaunch St Oswald's involvement supporting the ACT – Patna partnership!

Hosting Diocesan Choral Festival

Plan to join us at Evensong on Sunday 14 June for the Diocesan Choral Festival with choirs from across the diocese, including the Derby Cathedral choirs, will be with us!

Christian Aid Week

It's coming up to **Christian Aid week 2026** and the cake stall at **Tissington Well Dressings**, both in the same week!

This is our shared moment to come together with friends from other Ashbourne churches to stand alongside people living in poverty around the world.

Would you be able to help again this year? Or for the first time if you've not been involved before? There are lots of ways to help.

Please can you let **Catherine Green** (catherine@birchlodge.uk) know if:

1. You are available for a few hours between **10th and 16th May** to **deliver Christian Aid envelopes** to houses in Ashbourne?
2. You would be willing for **your letterbox to be used as a drop-off point** for people to bring their filled envelopes to? (The last few years we have not knocked on doors to collect envelopes, but have instead offered a network of local letterboxes that people who want to give can drop their donation off at. We have found that we can raise the same amount of money this way, as long as we cover enough of the town. You'll be given a poster to display near your letterbox to reassure people they have the right house)
 1. You would be willing to also **knock on doors to collect envelopes**? We know that we get a lot more money from certain streets this way, but it does take longer and some people don't like it

1. You could **bake a tray-bake or cake** to sell at Tissington Well Dressings from 14th to 17th May?
1. You could **staff the cake stall** for a 2-hour slot between **14th to 17th May?** A great opportunity to see the Well Dressings too.

You could also **sponsor Janet Wright**, who will walk **'70K in May'** (Sponsor Form in Church).



Church Services, Readings and Music

Weekly Online Service

Weekly Online Service

Each week a recorded service is prepared which can be streamed from the church [YouTube channel](#).

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:

[Holy Communion for Easter 4 from St.Oswald's](#)

The next recording will be a Holy Communion service and will be recorded on Thursday 28th April at St Oswald's, Ashbourne starting at 10:30am prompt. Everyone is welcome to join the recording.

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.

April Services

ASHBOURNE GROUP OF CHURCHES

Everyone is WELCOME at any of the Services in our Churches

Day	APRIL	Time	Church	Service
Sunday	26th	10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
Easter 4		10.45	Holy Trinity, Clifton	Holy Communion
		16.00	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Messy Church
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Evensong

May Services

ASHBOURNE GROUP OF CHURCHES

Everyone is WELCOME at any of the Services in our Churches

Day		Time	Church	Service
	MAY			
Sunday	3rd	9.15	St John's Buxton Hill	Holy Communion
Easter 5		9.15	St Peter's, Snelston	Holy Communion
		10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
		11.00	St Mary & St Barlock, Norbury	Holy Communion
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Evensong
Sunday	10th	9.00	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Breakfast Church
Easter 6		9.15	St Mary's, Mappleton	Holy Communion
		10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Evensong
Thursday	14th	19.00	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
Ascension				
Sunday	17th	9.15	St John's, Buxton Hill	Congregation Prayers
Easter 7		10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Choral Evensong
Sunday	24th	10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
Pentecost		0.67	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Messy Church
		18.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Evensong
Sunday	31st	10.30	St Oswald's, Ashbourne	Holy Communion
Trinity		16.00	Holy Trinity, Clifton	Family Patronal

ON LINE SERVICES

Daily Morning & Evening Prayer and Sunday Morning Service available on :

ashbournechurch.org.uk

WEDDING and BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

Please call Parish Office on 01335 343052

PASTORAL CONTACT

To speak to a member of the Clergy call 01335 664159



JOIN US FOR
**BREAKFAST
CHURCH**
AT ST OSWALD'S, ASHBOURNE

EVERY SECOND SUNDAY FROM 09:00 - 09:45

Bacon butties, cereal, toast and
a short all age service

A warm welcome is awaiting you.

ashbournechurch.org.uk



Launch of Messy Church at St Oswald's

We are really excited about the launch of our new Messy Church service for the whole family on Sunday 26 April at 4.00pm in the Church Hall.

Messy Church is fundamentally about people just coming in all their messiness with all their messy lives! A fun and vibrant new community with crafts, games, stories, and a free meal for all ages. No experience of crafts (or church) necessary, just bring your curiosity!

Readings - 26th April: Easter 4

Genesis 7

In this ancient story of the flood, Noah, a good man in God's eyes, builds an ark in which to save himself, his family and a carefully chosen number of animals from the approaching deluge.

Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty

nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.' And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

Acts 2.42-4

The numerous pilgrims who were converted by Peter on the day of Pentecost, held all their possessions in common and shared gladly with others.

Many were baptised and added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common;

John 10.1-10

Sheep and shepherds were valuable and important members of an agricultural community. In the Hebrew scriptures, King David had been a shepherd boy, God was described as the good shepherd of his people, unlike their religious leaders (Ezekiel 34:7-10). In those days, it was customary for shepherds to lead their flocks who followed after them.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Collect

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice and follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered in one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Evensong

Ezra 3.1-13

When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt-offerings on it, as prescribed in the law of Moses the man of God. They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighbouring peoples, and they offered burnt-offerings upon it to the LORD, morning and evening. And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt-offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day, and after that the regular burnt-offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the sacred festivals of the LORD, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill-offering to the LORD. From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt-offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid. So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from King Cyrus of Persia.

In the second year after their arrival at the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their people, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upwards, to have the oversight of the work on the house of the LORD. And Jeshua with his sons and his kin, and Kadmiel and his sons, Binnui and Hodaviah along with the sons of Henadad, the Levites, their sons and kin, together took charge of the workers in the house of God.

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the LORD with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,

‘For he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever towards Israel.’

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

Ephesians 2.11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—

remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the LORD; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

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, the Reverend Joe and Mrs. Gillie Lister..

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

The recently bereaved, especially the relatives and friends of Cynthia Shipley, Cedric Stevenson, Helen Smith and John Tomkinson.

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

Our local churches.

Our Ministry Team: Dwayne, Maggie, Nigel & Lynda

Music at St Oswald's

SUNDAY	26th	4th Sunday of Easter	White	
10.30	424	Fill thou my life		6.30
	599	Thine for ever		I give to you/Nardone
	478	In heavenly love abiding		515 Lord thy word abideth
	Brother James Air/arr Jacob			Psalm 23 Mag and ND F
	484	The King of love		517 Loving shepherd of thy sheep
	453	Great is thy faithfulness		The Lord is my shepherd/Schubert
				426 Firmly I believe and truly

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 28th April @ 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen
- 1st May - 8th May - St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail

- Wednesday 6th May @ 10:00 - Carers Count
- Tuesday 12th May @ 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen
- Tuesday 19th May @ 13:00 - Ossie's Potters
- Tuesday 26th May @ 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen

Get Involved

- Saturday 1st August - Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé

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

Rachel Knight, our new curate

All are invited to come and welcome the new curate, Rachel Knight, Sunday 21st June at 15.00 for a Welcome Tea at St Oswald's. (We will also need help with cakes, please)! She will be ordained at Derby Cathedral that morning at their 10.45am service. Please keep her in your prayers.



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

Community Café in Ashbourne
OSSIE'S KITCHEN



Why eat alone ?
Come and join us for a three course meal
in the company of others
Family friendly
Open to all between 4pm and 6pm
On Tuesdays
March 31st, and 14th, 28th April
St Oswald's Church Centre, School Lane, DE6 1AN

Suggested donations of
£5 per adult and £2 per child
For enquiries and to request transport
call Ossie's Kitchen on 01335 664159



St Oswald's Church
Derbyshire CC
Fare Share

V&A at Wedgwood

Thursday 25th June.

Coach outing to V&A at Wedgwood and then onto Trentham gardens for lunch. Stroll round the gardens, explore the lake and wire Fairies, take a trip down the lake on the boat or just sit and watch the world go by. Don't forget you can also look around the shopping village and explore the garden centre.

Coach will leave Ashbourne at 9.30 and return approx. 4.00.

Cost - £25 to include the coach and admission to Trentham gardens.

Please email gillianelliott@live.co.uk for a place.



**Thursday 25th June
Coach Outing to
V&A at Wedgewood**



**Continuing to
Trentham Gardens**



**The coach will leave Ashbourne at 9.30am
and return at approximately 4.00pm**

**Cost - £25 to include the coach and
admission to Trentham gardens**

**Please email gillianelliott@live.co.uk for a
place.**

Car Boot and Table Top Sale

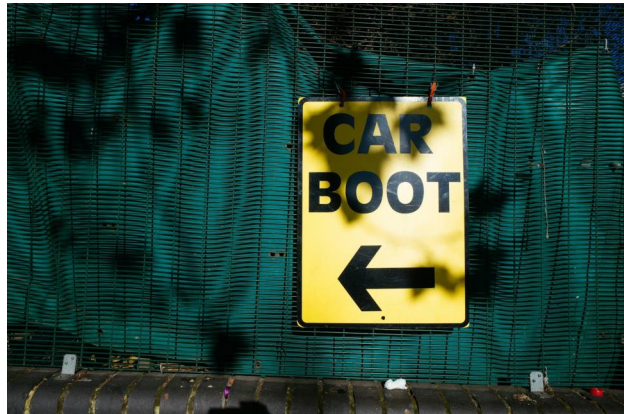
Saturday 4th July.

St Oswald's church hall and car park.

Car boot and table top sale.

More information to follow.

Please check the newsletter for further details.



Church Groups

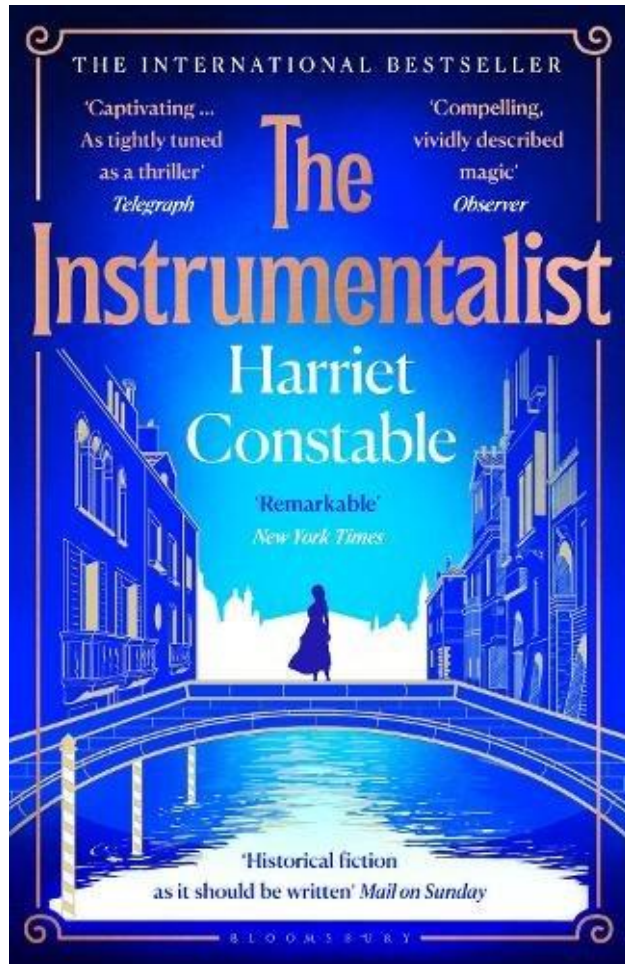
St Oswald's Bookclub

St Oswald's Book Club met on Monday 13th April in our usual venue of Ashbourne Library. We are made very comfortable, it's very convenient and a great way to start the week. We met to discuss our last book 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell.

'Lucrezia de' Medici in 1550's Florence as she marries Duke Alfonso of Ferrara and must navigate court politics while trying to produce an heir. The Marriage Portrait is historical fiction based on a real person'. Maggie O'Farrell has said that it was based on a poem by Robert Browning, 'My Last Duchess', which in turn is about the tragic end of 16-year-old Lucrezia de' Medici, a member of the influential Medici family. This was a riveting read.

Our next read is Harriet Constable's first novel, 'The Instrumentalist'. Venice, 1704. Anna Maria may have no name, no fortune, no family. But she has ambition and has talent. Her best hope lies in her teacher, Antonio Vivaldi. Soon she is his star pupil. But, as Maria's gift grows, her shining light begins to eclipse that of her mentor. The prodigy becomes the rival.

Our next meeting is on Monday 11th May 10.00am – 11.00am. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.



Walking and Rambling with St Oswalds

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

The Ramblers group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month, starts walking at 10.00am and covers approximately 5 miles.

The Walking group meets on the last Saturday of the month, starts walking at 9.30am and covers approximately 10 miles.

Ramblers Group Dates (All rambles start at 10 a.m.)

- Monday 11th May 2026

Walking Group Dates (All walks start at 9:30 a.m.)

- Saturday 25th April 2026

Rogation Sunday is May 10th. With this in mind Saturday 25th April will be the nearest walking group. The walk will start at Norbury church and visit all churches in the Ashbourne Group of Churches visiting Norbury, Snelston, Clifton, Mappleton, St Johns and finishing at St Oswalds.

There is the option to drive to Norbury and leave some cars in St Oswald's car park or use the Swift bus from Ashbourne (8.40) to Ellastone (Dove street 8.52) and walk to Norbury church.

Gill

Email : paulgillelliott@outlook.com

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.



We're going on

St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail

1st - 8th May 2026

**PILGRIM PLACES,
HOLY LIVES**

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.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Ashbourne Group of Churches

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](#) 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](#).



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.

Footnotes

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 here](#).

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

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