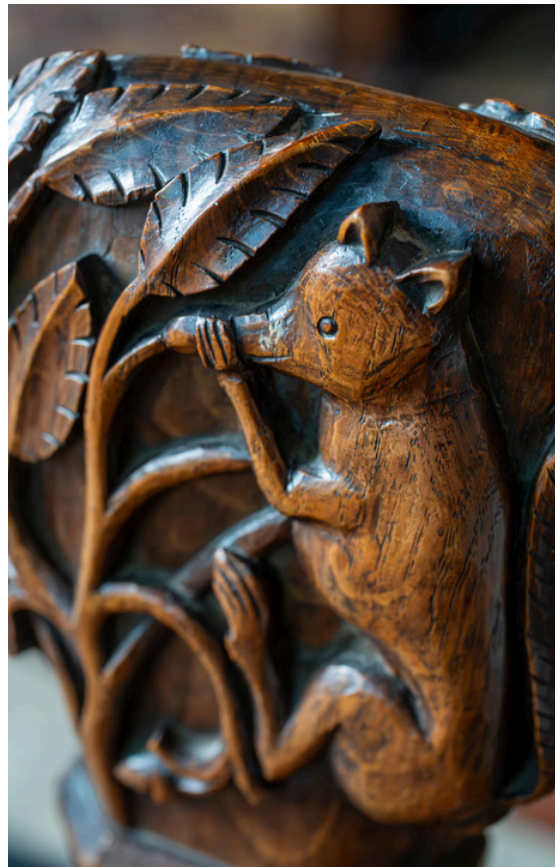




ST OSWALD'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

August 2026



MINISTRY THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Meeting new people and building relationships is one of the most deeply transformative parts of life. Every new encounter carries the possibility of friendship, understanding, and shared humanity.

It can also feel vulnerable: stepping into unfamiliar conversations, offering a bit of ourselves, and hoping it will be received with warmth.

Over the past days and weeks, I've been meeting new people and beginning relationships that I hope will last for years. I've been met with a warm and genuine welcome and I'm thankful for that. Relationships rarely appear fully formed; they grow through small acts of attention, kindness, and curiosity. When we listen well, show interest, and make space for others' stories, trust begins to take root.

Jesus modelled this relational way of living with remarkable clarity. He didn't build community through grand speeches or impressive structures but through presence. He met people on roadsides, in homes, at wells, and on beaches. He noticed those others overlooked and asked questions that invited honesty. He shared meals—simple, everyday moments that became sacred because they were offered with love.

His friendships were not limited to those who were similar to Him; He welcomed tax collectors, fishermen, women, children, the sick, the curious, and even the skeptical.

For Jesus, community was never a closed circle but an ever-widening one. Jesus created belonging before people had everything sorted. He showed that relationships are built not on perfection but on grace.

Community grows through ordinary acts of compassion—checking in, sharing burdens, celebrating joys, and making room for each person's story.

As I continue meeting people, I'm excited to see how relationships grow and to notice what God is already doing in this community.

Blessings in Christ, Rachel



MESSY CHURCH RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

**We will be back in September
after the school Summer holidays.**

There will be no Messy
Church in July or August.



ANNA CHAPLAINCY

As some of you already know, I have recently been on a training course to become an Anna Chaplain, a Chaplaincy for older people and this course is now completed.

The training has aimed to inspire, to open your heart and mind, to consider whether God is calling you to this ministry and pray that he will help you discern your next steps in serving older people.

With the support of the ministry team led by the Rev Dwayne Engh, I have accepted the challenge. I willingly accept this challenge of ministry using the skills and energy I have. To serve our local community in an 'outward facing' ministry. Offering a flexible approach to support men and women spiritually in their later years.

Anna Chaplaincy is all about nurturing spirituality in its broadest sense, non-judgmental, personal centred spiritual care for people of strong, little or no faith at all. I have now been formerly commissioned here at St Oswald's Church. Meanwhile, I shall be spending Thursday mornings between 10.00 – 12.00 noon (starting on 30th August) in the Lady Chapel where I start my ministry and you are welcome to join me.

Lindsay Walker – Anna Chaplain – St Oswald's Church
Ashbourne

POP IN *for* PRAYER



Join Lindsay on
Fridays from
11:00 am - 12:00
noon in St Oswald's



Join Lindsay on
Thursdays from
10:00 am - 12:00
noon at the
Cornerstone Café



Pew News



Rachel's Licence Reading

The Rev'd Rachel Knight will read her licence at St Oswald's at the beginning of morning service on Sunday. She will do the same at all the Ashbourne Group of Churches.

New Roles

The Rev'd Anne Barker has received Permission to Officiate (PTO) from the bishop and will be included in the clergy rota. On 26 July, Lindsay Walker starts her ministry as Anna Chaplain.

Mother's Union Cream Tea

Bishop Francis learned more about the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide when he joined our MU at the afternoon cream tea at the home of Sally and Michael Halls. It was a lovely gathering on a rather hot day. Thank you Nancy, for organising this.

Save the Dates

- Patronal Festival - 2nd August, 10:30 and 18:30.
Refreshments following each service.

Ben Barry
**SUMMER
RECITALS**

PIANO & ORGAN

5TH AUGUST 2026

2PM

**ST OSWALD'S CHURCH,
ASHBOURNE DE6 1AN
FREE ADMISSION -
CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME**

MICHAEL HALLS - MUSIC IN MY LIFE

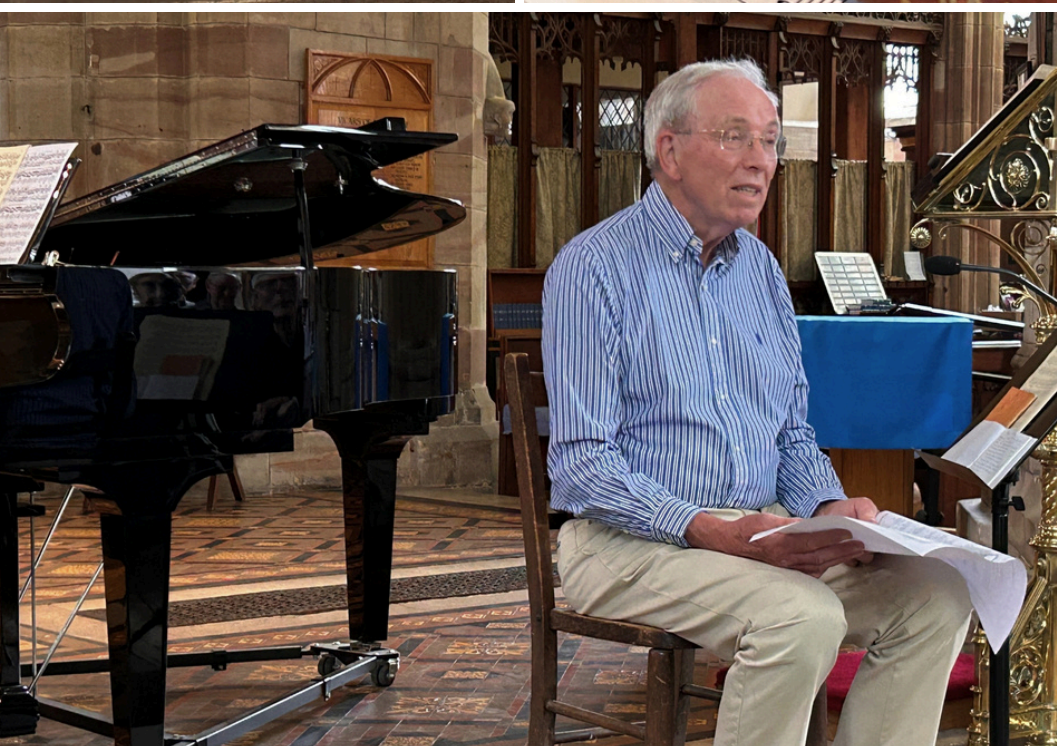
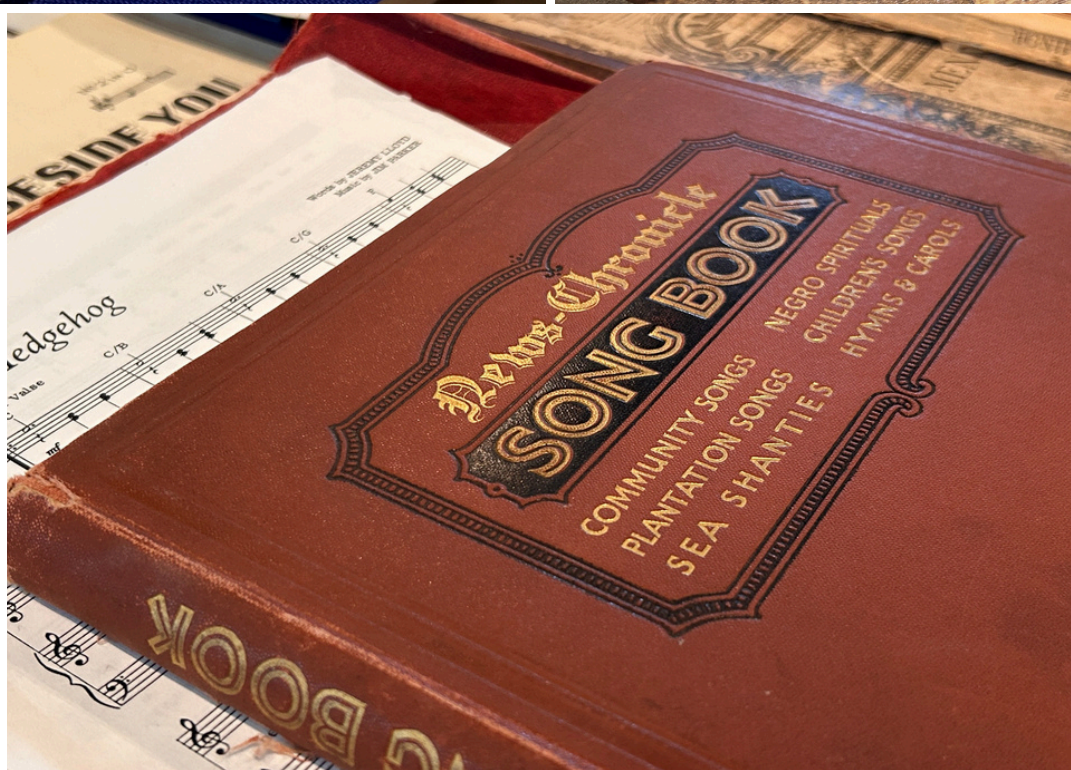
As part of the season of Summer Recitals, Michael Halls, Director of Music at St Oswald's, shared the profound musical journey that has shaped his life. To a full audience, including some of his former pupils, Michael traced his story from childhood through his teaching career to his role at St Oswald's, illustrating how music has been a constant, unifying thread - connecting not only his own experiences but also those of his parents, children, and grandchildren.

A particularly moving piece was his improvisation on The House of the Rising Sun, which was a highlight for many in the audience. Michael's closing reflections on music's transformative power to enrich lives and make the world a better place resonated deeply, leaving a lasting impression.

Thank you to so many people who came along on Wednesday. I referred last week to a glimpse into the influence of music in my life. When it comes down to it, 30 minutes of talking is not quite enough to sum up a lifetime immersed in music!

Michael Halls





DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ANNOUNCED

We are delighted to announce that Catherine Pettingale has been appointed to the role of Director of Music and will be joining us at St Oswald's in September.

Catherine brings a wealth of experience as a musician, choral director, and music educator with over fifteen years of experience leading choirs, playing the organ, and managing large-scale concert events.

She read Music at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where she held the Senior Organ Scholarship from 2008 to 2011, directing and accompanying the chapel choir and maintaining the college's music library.

After graduating she spent three years in South Africa as part of an RSCM programme, conducting the boys' Chapel Choir at St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, and playing at cathedrals in Kimberley and Grahamstown.

Catherine comes to us from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Ashbourne, where she is Deputy Head of Performing Arts. She conducts the main school choir and chamber choir, directs the music for the annual school musical, and organises the school's concert programme.

For almost twenty years Catherine has worked as Concerts Manager for the Lichfield Festival, coordinating all performances in Lichfield Cathedral during the ten-day event and liaising with artists, clergy, and technical crews.

We hope that you will make Catherine very welcome as she continues to extend the strong musical heritage associated with St Oswald's Church.

Ossie's Potters

A group of people who enjoy being in the fresh air with other people, and 'potter' around the Church and Church Hall on alternate Tuesdays.

They tidy flower beds, plant up new areas and make the surrounding 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 are pottering?
You would be very welcome.

They will be meeting on
11th and 25th August from 1pm until 3pm.



MOTHERS' UNION - 150 YEARS

150 years ago Mary Sumner, a Vicar's wife, had a vision of women supporting and encouraging each other in their faith and families. The ripples have gone out over those years to 4 million members in 84 countries. Ashbourne Mothers' Union was founded in 1905 in Mary Summer's lifetime.

Today, Mothers' Union stands alongside families and communities around the world. This is delivered through programmes raising awareness of domestic abuse and modern slavery, working to support prisoners and their families and providing respite to vulnerable families. Globally, Mothers' Union funds literacy, parenting and gender based violence programmes and savings and credit groups.



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 - 4th and 18th August at
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





OSSIE'S POTTERS

What a fantastic and industrious day the Potters had one Tuesday afternoon in July in the glorious sunshine!

Altogether there were 13 people who came along, including Rt Revd Francis Hansda, Bishop of Patna from the Church of North India, who is visiting us and also our new Curate, Rachel.

‘Wow!’ What a difference has been made! When you walk around you will notice that the entrance and the far end of the Car Park has really been tidied up and the big bag of sand removed, the path from the Hall to the Church swept, dead heading of

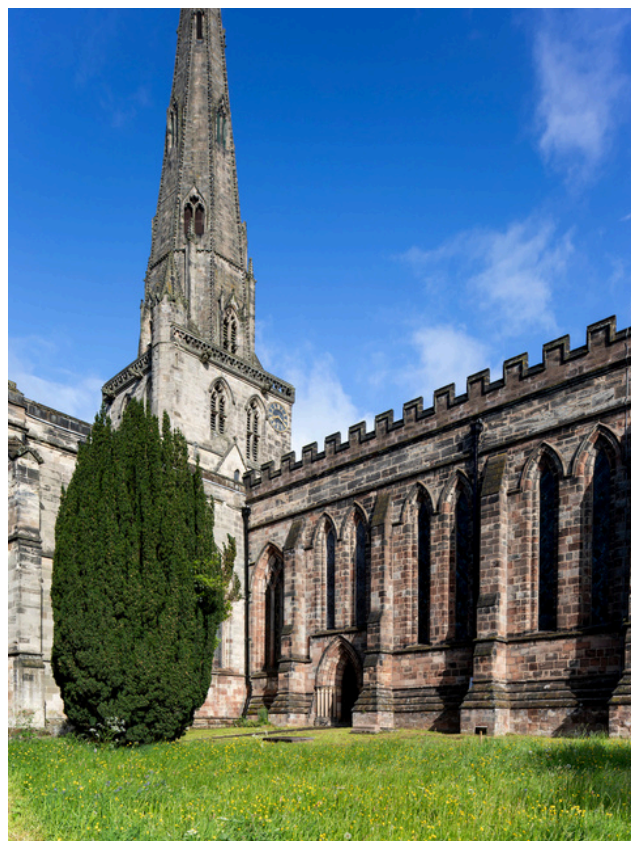
OSSIE'S POTTERS CONTINUED

flowers and also the Notice Board on Mayfield Road made more accessible. And to top it all everyone joined in refreshments afterwards where, through lively interaction, it gave Bishop Francis the opportunity to get to know members of the group and also speak of his own upbringing and his career journey.

If you would like to come along and have a little potter - to do as much or as little as you wish - you would be most welcome! We meet fortnightly between 1pm and 3pm.

See you there!

Anne



Dates for your Diary

1st August, 13:00 - Summer Fun Day

2nd August, 10:30 and 18:30 - Patronal Festival

4th August, 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen

5th August, 14:00 - Ben Barrs, Organ and Piano Recital

9th August, 10:45 - Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner Day



Bell Ringing Practice

Wednesday, 19:30 - 21:00

Choir Practice

Friday, 19:00 - 20:00

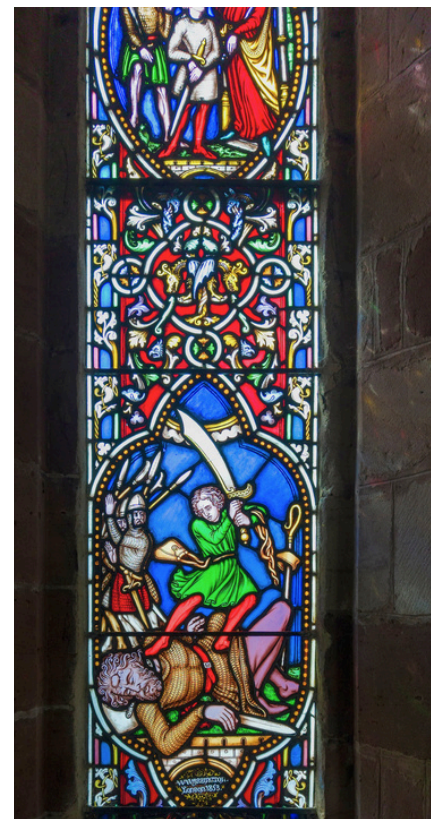
Ramblers Group

Next walk: 10th August

Walking Group

Next walk: 29th August

Sunday Services
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion, 6:30 p.m. Evensong



St Oswald's is open daily from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

St Oswald's Church, School Lane, Ashbourne, DE6 1AN

Phone: 01335 343052

The Parish Office is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday between 10:00 and 12:00. If you need a priest urgently, please call 01335 664159.



ST OSWALD'S
A S H B O U R N E