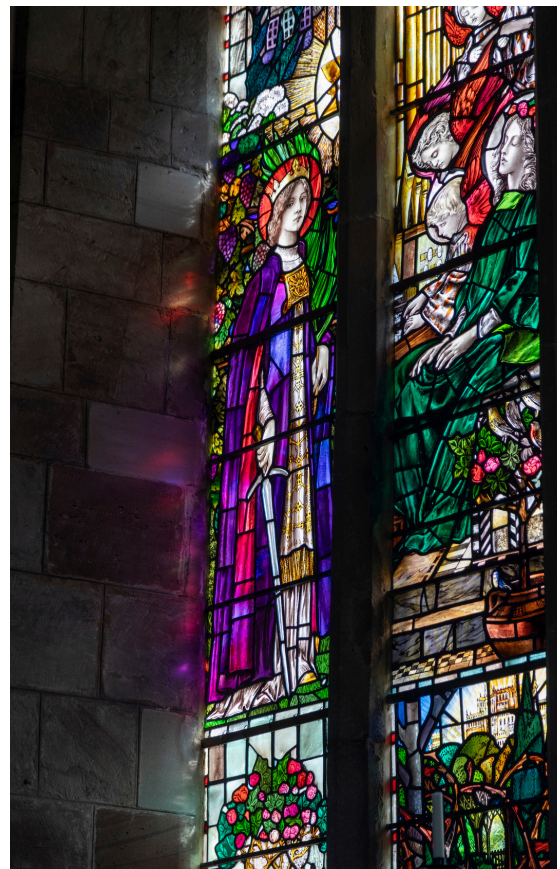




ST OSWALD'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 2026



MINISTRY THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I had the privilege of attending two training events last week – one in Bakewell on Rural Ministry and the other in Oxford for the Major Churches Network.

At the Rural Ministry event, I learned a great deal about the joys and challenges our farming communities face, such as diversification and isolation. There were some excellent ideas that were shared that are working well in other villages and farming communities.

St Oswald's is considered a Major Church (one of 323 recognised nationally) because of the following characteristics:

- Physically very big (over 1000m² footprint)
- Grade I listed
- Exceptional significance and/or issues necessitating a conservation management plan
- Has a role beyond that of a typical parish church and makes a considerable civic, cultural, and economic contribution to its communities.

In many ways, it is not just a large parish church, but functions like a small cathedral (just without the resources).

One key ministry lesson that emerges from attending both events is the importance of understanding and responding to the unique contexts in which our churches serve.

Ultimately, whether ministering in a rural setting or in a Major Church, I think the lesson is to listen to the community's needs, embrace collaboration, and seek innovative ways to serve faithfully.

It reminds me that effective ministry is not one-size-fits-all but is shaped by the joys, challenges, and opportunities unique to each of our churches and contexts.

I look forward to continuing to serve with you all as we begin rolling out our vision for the Ashbourne Group of Churches!

Blessings, Dwayne



Breakfast CHURCH

12TH JULY FROM 09:00 - 09:45

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



GET TO KNOW OUR NEW CURATE

We asked Rachel to complete the Proust Questionnaire. Here is a small selection of her responses.

1. What is your most marked characteristic? I don't do small talk, I like to go for the deep and meaningful, also I'm a chronic over-sharer and need to work on my boundaries.
2. What do you most value in your friends? The effort to stay in touch but also understanding when life gets busy. Nonjudgmentally allowing the relationship to pick up where it left off.
3. Who are your favourite writers? I don't really have favourite writers but I do have favourite genres, I love historical fiction, especially set in medieval times, I love fantasy/fairytales, I love murder mystery/detectives. I read extensively and voraciously, I've always got at least one book on the go.
4. Who is your hero of fiction? The underdog, the one who is overlooked but you want to overcome challenges. I've a soft spot for the naughty kid as well, the one you secretly hope will come good.
5. What is your greatest regret? That I listened to the teachers that told me I was stupid and that I spent too long caring about what people thought of me
6. What is your motto? I have a few sayings and they change from time to time, I have my current ones at the bottom of my email signature. But the motto I live life by is: Be kind, you just don't know what's going on in someone's life or what it has taken them to carry on existing!



Pew News



Car Boot and Table Top Sale

Saturday 4th July. St Oswald's church hall and car park. Car boot and table top sale. Please contact Anne Ford on 07807 413671 to book a space. £10/table. The sale will be open to the public from 08:00 - 13:00. Refreshments will be available.

Welcome to Rachel Knight

We're delighted that Rachel has joined St Oswald's as Curate. Following her ordination at Derby Cathedral, Rachel met members of the congregation at a welcome afternoon tea on 21st June, and later at Evensong.

Photography in St Oswald's

Ecclesiastical and architectural photographer, Andy Marshall, donated a day's photography to St Oswald's. You will see some of his photographs in this newsletter and on the church website. He will be photographing St Mary and St Barlok, Norbury later in the year.

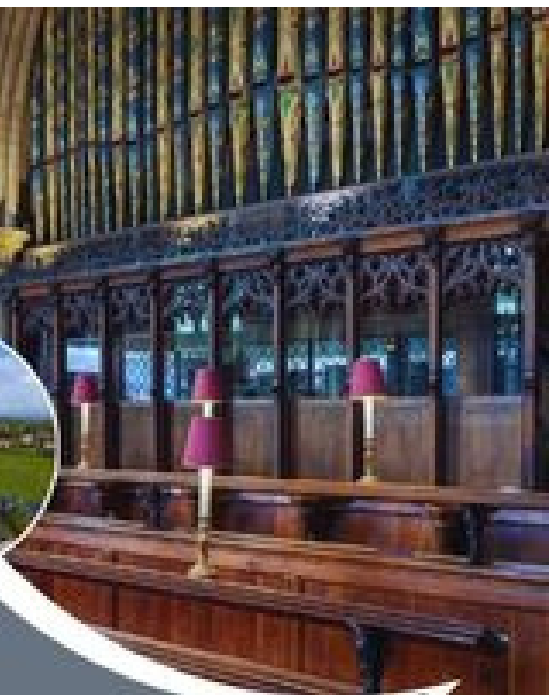
Save the Dates

- Church of North India visit, Sunday 12 July.
- Ashbourne Churches Together, Picnic in the Park, Sunday 12 July
- Festival of Hymns, Hymn Society, Thursday 23 July

St Oswald's Church

SUMMER RECITALS

Run in collaboration with Ashbourne Arts Festival, concerts continue in July with Michael Halls' 'Music in my Life' on 1st July.



MESSY CHURCH

Join us in St Oswald's Church Hall for Messy Church on Sunday 26th July from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.



St Oswald's Church

Messy Church is an all-age worshipping community that focuses on creativity, hospitality, and celebration. It offers a relaxed, hands-on way for families to explore Bible stories through crafts, games, and food, aiming to make faith accessible to everyone. All are welcome!



St Oswald's Church



**Time: 4 - 6 p.m.
Place: St Oswald's Church Hall**

MESSY CHURCH 26TH JULY

Lots of fun activities, crafts, stories, songs, and refreshments.

Please join us - bring the whole family!

(All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult).



SUMMER RECITALS REPORT

We were given a real insight into the many ways in which we can hear and interpret music when played on the magnificent organ we have at St Oswald's when Roger gave us such a beautifully framed sequence of compositions. Bach, Howells, Vaughan Williams and Parry provided the insight into organ composition through from 1685 to 1958.

The weather was foul but even so both Henry and Josh were given great support for their recitals. Amazing music from them gave us real insight into the multi-faceted aspects of music for us all. There is no substitute for live music and in St Oswald's, this is demonstrated to the full.

We clearly saw the breadth of talent in our community. First, our vicar demonstrated so beautifully the depth and range of music for the marimba. You could have heard a pin drop in church: the subtle sounds of the marimba resonated so wonderfully in the vast spaces of our church. Then, we were treated to thoroughly talented students and staff from QEGS. We had such an expansive variety of music delivered with joy, style and confidence.

A really good mix of people enjoyed Music and Silence which took place in the crossing at church. It was reflective, thoughtful and inclusive in every way. St Oswald's has to be the coolest place in Ashbourne in this heat so everyone there was pleased they had discovered that!

Dan Evans amazed us yet again with his versatility. Beautifully crafted Scarlatti, Bach and Schubert were followed by a Finzi song cycle sung with great sensitivity.



RAMBLERS GROUP REPORT

After initially threatening to rain and decisions to make about over trousers or not, 7 ramblers and Jet set off on a dry Monday morning walk. Starting at Cromford Wharf, we crossed the River Derwent before taking a stepped path up a steep and long hill, eventually, after a couple of tough stiles, emerging at Coumbs Wood.

With great views across the valley towards Dethick, we descended towards Lea, turning to pass Lea Gardens, where we had glimpses of the rhododendrons. After passing a deer farm, we descended on a long and wide path to Holloway, where we stopped for a short break.

Refreshed, we continued through Lea Woods emerging at Aqueduct cottage. From there it was a flat walk along the canal back to the wharf.

Thanks to Michael for a lovely 5 1/2 mile walk and for ensuring that the rain stopped just in time for us to start.



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
30th June, 14th and 28th July from 1pm until 3pm.



BISHOP FRANCIS VISIT

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!



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 - July 7th and 21st 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



£10 per car/table

Refreshments: bacon and sausage cobs

Sellers: To book a place: call Anne on 07807 413671

Inside Setup: Friday 18:00 - 20:00

Setup: Saturday 07:00 - 08:00

ST OSWALD'S
ASHBOURNE

CAR BOOT SALE

In St Oswald's Church Hall
and Car Park

4TH JULY 2026
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
FROM 08:00 - 13:00



TRENTHAM TRIP

On a hot Thursday morning 23 of us boarded a Boydens bus for Trentham Gardens. The bus had amazing aircon, some even thinking about just hiding out in the bus for the day.

The gardens were stunningly beautiful, especially the David Austin rose bed and the array of beautiful wild flowers. The wire fairies never cease to be wonderful and are scattered round the gardens, in the lake and fountains. There was a lovely breeze blowing up the lake which managed the temperature for us.



TRENTHAM TRIP CONTINUED

After lunch - some managed to overrun and be late for the bus! (It's amazing how long a toasted tea cake takes to arrive!).

We then did the short bus trip to V&A Wedgwood. The museum explains the history of Wedgwood with many fascinating exhibits showing the changing fashions in pottery. Who knew that Wedgwood made some porcelain inserts for the side of Silver Cross prams.

A cup of tea in a fine china cup finished a lovely day.

Gill Elliott



Dates for your Diary

1st July, 10:00 - Carers Count

1st July, 14:00 - Michael Halls (Summer Recital)

4th July, 08:00 - Car Boot/Table Top Sale

5th July, 18:30 - Arts Festival Choral Evensong

6th July, 19:00 - Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason talk and book signing

7th July, 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen

7th July, 19:00 - Mariatu Kanneh-Mason (Summer Recital - Cello)

8th July, 14:00 - The Grange Ensemble (Summer Recital)

13th July, 10:00 - St Oswald's Rambling Group

14th July, 14:30 - Mother's Union

Bell Ringing Practice

Wednesday, 19:30 - 21:00

Choir Practice

Friday, 19:00 - 20:00

Ramblers Group

Next walk: 13th July

Walking Group

Next walk: 25th July

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