

Ashbourne Church News 06/02/2026



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 here](#).

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.

Giving and Receiving Together

Doesn't the countryside look rather bare at the moment? Hedgerows are leafless, fields seem empty, and much of the colour has drained away. And yet, of course, we know that life hasn't stopped. Beneath the soil, roots are beginning to grow, insects are sheltering, and birds are quietly surviving on what the land provides. Much of what keeps life going at this time of year is hidden. Nature is full of different ways of living alongside one another.

Have you noticed – human life is similar? Sometimes we can manage things on our own, sometimes we need other people, sometimes if we have other people or another person with us, things work better.

One of the enduring things about our Christian faith is it was never meant to be managed alone. Sometimes we give, sometimes we receive but we are together. What strikes me most about our community is how much of what sustains community life is unseen. Lifts given and received. meals dropped off, messages sent, worries listened to, people quietly checking in on one another. It goes on all the time under the surface. Like the hidden work in winter soil, these small acts rarely draw attention to themselves, but they matter much more than we often realise.

Thank you for caring!

Blessings

Maggie

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 of Churches 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 for the second Sunday before Lent](#)

The next recording will be a Morning Prayer service and will be recorded on Thursday 12th February at Holy Trinity, Clifton 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.

BREAKFAST CHURCH
St. Oswald's Church Centre
Sunday 8th February
9.00am.



Start your Sunday with
Breakfast Church!
Join us for a delicious
breakfast of cereal, toast,
coffee and your choice of
bacon or sausage butty.
Enjoy a warm and welcoming
atmosphere as we gather for
worship and fellowship.



Please come and give it a try.
To help with catering, please
book your place in advance
by contacting Andy Wright,
Email
admandjewright@gmail.com

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.

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

14:00 - 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

Music at St Oswald's

February

Sunday 1st Candlemas; The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.30 Parish Communion

- 80 When candles are lighted... Omit *
 360 Faithful vigil ended...
 44 Angels from the realms of glory ...
A maiden most gentle/Carter
Light of the world/Harrison
 516 Love divine all loves excelling...

6.30

- Like a candle flame/Kendrick**
 360 Faithful vigil ended...
 Psalm 122
 496 Lead us heavenly Father lead us...
And the glory /Handel
 80 When candles are lighted... Omit *

Sunday 8th Second Sunday before Lent

10.30 Parish Communion

- 555 Praise my soul...
 599 Thine for ever...
 251 All things bright and beautiful...
Brother James'Air/Jacob
278 Alleluia sing to Jesus...
 267 Thou whose almighty word...

6.30 Choral Evensong

- Sunsion in A; Sanders responses**
Gaelic Blessing/Rutter
 447 God of freedom, God of justice...
 Psalm 148
 489 Jesus Lord we look to Thee...
For the beauty of the earth/Rutter
 13 Before the ending of the day...

Sunday 15th Sunday next before Lent

10.30 Parish Communion

- 1 Awake my soul... part one and doxology
 248 'Tis good Lord to be here...
 380 At the name of Jesus...
Love divine/Willcocks
505 Lord Jesus Christ ...
 435 Glorious things of thee are spoken...

6.30 Evensong

- Cantate Domino/Pitoni**
 2 Christ whose glory fills the skies...
 Psalm 84
 474 Immortal invisible God only wise...
Flocks in pastures green/Bach
 14 Glory to Thee my God this night...

Ash Wednesday 18th

10.00 Parish Communion

- 385 Be thou my guardian and my guide ...
 95 Forty days and forty nights...
 97 Lord Jesus think on me...
View me Lord/Lloyd
 96 Jesu lover of my soul...

Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent

10.30 Parish Communion

- 95 Forty days and forty nights...
 Psalm 32 vs 1-6
 496 Lead us heavenly Father lead us...
Panis angelicus/Franck
324 Sweet sacrament divine ...
 578 Stand up stand up for Jesus...

6.30 Evensong

- Make me a clean heart O God/Ley**
 416 Father hear the prayer we offer
 Psalm 50 vs 1-7
 95 Forty days and forty nights...
Lord for thy tender mercies' sake/Tye
 376 And can it be that I should gain...

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

February Readings

February reading notes

February 1st Presentation

Malachi 3.1-5 The prophet, whose name means 'my messenger', warns his listeners that God will shortly come to judge the nation which has broken his Laws. They must repent.

Luke 2.22-4

After the birth of a child, the parents had to visit the Temple to present the baby to God and make an offering, dependent on their wealth (Levit.12:8). On this occasion, the devout old man, Simeon and the prophetess Anna, recognised the significance of the baby. Simeon praised God, but warned Mary of the sorrows that lay ahead.

February 8th 2 before Lent

Romans 8.18-25 Paul warns his readers that though they suffer for their faith now, they must wait patiently for what is to come.

Matthew 6.25-34 *Jesus taught his disciples*

In his great 'Sermon on the Mount' Jesus told his disciples that worry about the future was unnecessary. He pointed to the natural world and to the splendours of King Solomon, renowned for his wealth. Worry was only the response of Gentiles!

February 15th Next before Lent

Exodus 24.12-18 The account of how Moses receives the Law and the covenant is made with God is full of symbolism. The shedding of blood signifies a binding agreement, fire represents the presence of God, and the shared meal seals the promises.

Matthew 17.1-9

Matthew's account of the Transfiguration drew closely on Jewish traditions as recorded in Exodus 24 when Moses met God on Mount Sinai - God spoke to his people, the covenant was made, and the Law was given.

*February 18th Ash Wednesday

2 Corinthians 5. 20b - 6:10 Paul assures the Christians in Corinth that despite the suffering that he himself has also endured, they must also remain faithful.

Matthew 6:16-21 *Jesus said to his disciples*

Fasting was a religious practised by many devout Jews, but some made sure that others were made aware of their piety by putting ash on their heads. God would reward the truly faithful.

February 22nd Lent 1

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 In this older account of creation, the writer describes how, after creating the world, God created human beings, setting them in his garden to be its stewards. They were warned they must not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

Matthew 4.1-11

After his baptism Jesus retired to the wilderness, a place of solitude and potential danger. There, he struggled with the temptations set by 'the Satan', the prosecuting adversary of Job 2:1-8. Jesus answered with quotations from the Hebrew scriptures and Satan left, defeated.

8th February: 2 before Lent

Romans 8.18-25

Paul warns his readers that though they suffer for their faith now, they must wait patiently for what is to come.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 6.25-34

Jesus taught his disciples: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

Something to think about

In his great ‘Sermon on the Mount’ Jesus told his disciples that worry about the future was unnecessary. He pointed to the natural world and to the splendours of King Solomon, renowned for his wealth. Worry was only the response of Gentiles!

Collect

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

God our creator, by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through 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 Georgina Nicholson and David Startin.

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

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

February 3rd, 10th

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

Suggested donations of

£5per adult and £2 per child

For enquiries & to request transport

call Ossie's Kitchen on 07437 377345



St Oswald's Church, Derbyshire CC & FareShare



Ossie's Potters



A group of people who enjoy being in the fresh air
with other people,
'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
27th January & 24th February
From 1pm until 3pm.



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Notices

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 9th February @ 10:00 - St Oswald's Ramblers Group
- Tuesday 10th February @ 16:00 - St Oswald's Church Hall - Ossie's Kitchen
- Tuesday 24th February @ 13:00 - St Oswald's Church Hall - Ossie's Potters
- Saturday 28th February @ 09:30 - St Oswald's Walking Group

Get Involved

- Sunday 8th February @ 14:00 - St Oswald's Church - Retreat in Daily Life opens
- Monday 9th February @ 19:30 - St Oswald's Church Hall - PCC Meeting
- 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.

PCC Meeting

St Oswald's with St Mary's Church
Parochial Church Council

PCC MEETING

MONDAY
9th FEBRUARY 2026
19h30
ST OSWALD'S CHURCH HALL

ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS CAN REQUEST COPIES OF APPROVED MINUTES OF
PREVIOUS MEETINGS FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

parishoffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk (01335 343052)

Save the Date



JOIN ASHBOURNE
CHURCHES TOGETHER
FOR ...

LENT LUNCHES

Venue:
All Saints Hall
Time: 12:00 - 13:00

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY
THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY
THURSDAY 5 MARCH
THURSDAY 12 MARCH
THURSDAY 19 MARCH
THURSDAY 26 MARCH



2026

Ashbourne Group of Churches

Visioning Awayday

Saturday 7 March | 10am - 3pm
Hulland Ward Village Hall

Join us. Everyone is Welcome!

We're excited to invite you to a special day when all our churches come together to share ideas and explore how we can work even better as one body in Christ. Your voice matters, and we'd love for you to be part of shaping the future of our shared mission.

To rsvp, please email:
ParishOffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk



[East Midlands Young Adults Pilgrimage to Taizé](#)

The Diocese of Derby, along with the Dioceses of Leicester and Lincoln, has come together to offer a Pilgrimage to Taizé for young adults aged 18-35, which will take place from August 1-9 this year.

[Taizé](#) is an ecumenical Christian community in Southern France which produces the beautiful contemplative worship music familiar to many. Its mission is to reach young people throughout the world.

If you are interested in spending a week camping with a global and monastic community, we will be making this pilgrimage together, travelling and camping as a group from across the East Midlands. The trip will cost approximately £350, and priority is given to young adults aged 18-35.

For more information, contact the Rev'd Dwayne Engh by email: vicar@ashbournechurch.org.uk. To book, [click here](#).

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



Stamps

Stamps for USPG

Many thanks to all who saved postage stamps again this year to support the work of USPG. I have a large envelope to send off to the stamp dealers. Special thanks to those who carefully cut the stamps off the envelopes. If they are torn off, the stamps tend to get damaged, but don't worry, I can still deal with them.

Best wishes,
Deirdre Wilmore.

USABLE



UNUSABLE



Aquabox

This week we once again emptied the Aquabox which is situated in the Edward Bear area in Church, taking several used towels and duvet covers. Peter will be delivering these items to

Aquabox in Wirksworth. A very big thank you to those people who have been sorting out their cupboards and whose unwanted items will make their way to the benefit of others inside humanitarian relief boxes.

We historically have collected used towels and patterned duvet covers. However, Aquabox are saying NO MORE TOWELS FOR THE MOMENT but please continue with fabrics/duvet covers which are lovingly made into discreet sanitary wear for women living in countries where they cannot access such items. The boxes are filled with many other items including groundsheets, pots and pans, utensils and tools. The boxes themselves are robust enough to transport these items anywhere in the world as well as be used as beds for newborn babies, reservoirs for clean drinking water and much more.

For more information please contact the [Church Office](#).

[St Oswald's Book Club](#)

St Oswald's Book Club has been running for many years and gathers on the first Monday of every month at Ashbourne Library. We meet from 10.00 a.m. until 11.00 a.m. in the main library, overlooking Shrovetide Walk and encourage everyone to bring a mug and a tea bag, taking 'time-out' as we discuss our latest 'read'. We have 14 members as of January 2026.

The group is always looking for new authors to read, new titles to explore, old classics to re-visit. We liaise with our library representative Ruth to search for books that may be of interest to us, challenge us further, aware that getting numbers of copies may not always be possible. The group often shares copies, may download to a Kindle, resort to an audio book but we make it work for us.

The group is flexible, encourages discourse and offers fellowship.

For information about St Oswald's Book Club, please contact the [Church Office](#).

The group met on Monday 2nd February in Ashbourne Library to discuss January's read – Murder Before Evensong by Rev Richard Coles.

We all agreed that it was written well and we could identify with the familiarity of Church terms, identify certain personalities, have a giggle, but certainly nothing to do with 'murder'!! However, we all found that it dragged on and got confusing towards the end with so many names and characters. Of course, the beauty of a book club is that we read a variety of books and in doing so get to know what what's out there, what we like.

Our February read is 'Homecoming' by Kate Morton. A journalist discovers a shocking connection between her family and a notorious unsolved murder case from the past, leading her on a journey to uncover the truth and confront the secrets that have shaped her life. Should be fun!

Walking with St Oswalds

Jet and a small group of 3 walkers met at Carlton Lees car park, on the edge of the Chatsworth estate. We started by heading off along the river Derwent towards Beeley village. Passing through the village we ascended through woodland - although much of the wood has been felled and it was quite mudded and rutted - until we reached Beeley Moor. Turning left, we followed the path along the ridge passing Swiss Lake, which has received much work recently and is once again full of water. A quick coffee break at the hunting tower, with views over the house and gardens before continuing on the path and dropping down to cross the haha.

Heading towards the house we passed close to a beautiful herd of deer before eating lunch in the courtyard. After lunch we crossed the river and headed to Edensor before climbing to New Piece Wood and followed a lane down to Carlton Lees. A beautiful 10 mile walk, the streams by the paths we all running and babbling along, the sun shone and the rain held off until we were in the car travelling home.

If you would like to join our next walk the February walk is on February 28th.







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 9th February 2026, starts from the car park at Chatsworth House
- Monday 9th March 2026

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

- Saturday 28th February 2026
- Saturday 28th March 2026

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.



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.