



ST OSWALD'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

October 2026



MINISTRY THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

It seems to me that, as Christians, we can find ourselves walking along two quite different paths. And I wonder if those paths are taking us further and further apart.

On one path (probably the wider and more familiar one), Jesus did some amazing things so that we don't have to. Jesus served, suffered, and died. And because he did all that, our job is to be happy, forgiven and blessed, and then one day go to heaven where, presumably, we'll eat cake forever! (Okay, I'm exaggerating for effect... But you get the idea).

On this path, there's a huge gap between Jesus and us. We praise him. We worship him. We believe in him. We love him. He's way, way up there. We're way, way down here. And actually, we're quite comfortable with that arrangement.

But there is another path.

And on this path, Jesus didn't do all those wonderful and difficult things so that we could simply admire him. He did them so that we could join him.

He sought God's kingdom and justice — and so do we.

He challenged traditions when they got in the way of love — and so do we.

He cared for the sick, the poor, and the vulnerable — and so do we.

He welcomed outsiders and ate with people pushed to the margins — and so do we.

When he encountered suffering and injustice, he didn't turn away.

He moved towards the pain with compassion, hope and healing — and so do we.

And he didn't just do these things himself. He taught people, trusted them, and sent them out to do the same.

Perhaps, then, Jesus never intended to create a church full of happy consumers of his sermons. Perhaps he intended to create doers. People who don't simply admire Jesus but learn to live like Jesus. People who don't just come to church to be fed but leave ready to feed others.

In other words, perhaps Jesus wasn't starting a fan club. He was starting a movement.

And perhaps this Harvest, the question is then not simply, 'What has God given us?' But: 'What are we going to do with what we've been given?'

Blessings

Dwayne



THE TURNBULL ROOM

Walking down the main aisle in St Oswald's Church, immediately your eye is drawn to the magnificent Christopher Whall stained glass window on your right beyond the south aisle. This window, reputedly amongst one of Whall's finest tells you a story to which there is a very poignant history, that proved devastating for Ashbourne.

Let me take you back to February 1901, and to Sandybrook Hall. Peveril Turnbull (who was Church Warden at St Oswald's) lived there with his wife Phyllis and their two daughters, Monica and Dorothea. There was excitement in the air in the Turnbull household, a special occasion to be celebrated, it was their daughters' coming out ball, for which Peveril had purchased a brand new table oil lamp.

As celebrations unfolded Monica and Dorothea were suitably dressed for the evening in their crinoline dresses, their father took hold of his new lamp and walked with it even though he was advised not to do so. In a fleeting single moment the oil lamp fell to the floor and Dorothea's dress burst into flames, Monica rushed to her aid - desperate to help her sister. Her dress too caught fire.

Their injuries were fatal. Monica died 4th March 1901 and Dorothea died 27th April 1901. Both are buried just a little way from the West Door at St Oswald's Church. Peveril and Phyllis were naturally devastated by this accident and in their grief commissioned Christopher Whall to produce the stained glass window that you see in their memory.

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 - 13th, 27th October 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

Venue:



St Oswald's
Church Centre,
Ashbourne,
DE6 1AN

St Oswald's Church
Derbyshire CC
Fare Share



THE TURNBULL ROOM

As a relatively modern addition to the building of St Oswald's in 1905, this window exemplifies Whall's talent, very indicative of the Arts and Crafts influence, including the vibrant use of colour - purples, greens, and pinks. The girls represent St Barbara, (Monica on the left), St Dorothy (Dorothea on the right), to which Whall gave these figures their true facial likeness. An assistant working on this window of excellence was Edward Woore. Edward's great nephew still lives in Ashbourne and family attendance to St Oswald's continues today.

Peveril and Phyllis Turnbull also gave a beautifully crafted Communion set to St Oswald's in the memory of Monica and Dorothea. One piece of the set, the chalice is regularly used at our Holy Communion Services, you will see evidence of the chalice in the window, above Monica's head.

Even at a tender age, it was well recognised that Monica was already a poet of renown. Poignantly, a poem that she wrote on the morning of the accident almost expressed a premonition of her own death. On 9th August 1911 Peveril and Phyllis went on to open a home presented to the Waifs and Strays Society on Windmill Lane in Ashbourne. Such was their dedication to children.

More recently you will notice that the newly refurbished meeting room in the Church Hall has been given the title of the Turnbull Room, not only in memory of Monica and Dorothea who perished, but also in recognition of the generosity that Peveril and Phyllis Turnbull showed St Oswald's Church and the less fortunate children of the Parish. The next time you pass by the Turnbull window, do pause for a moment, glance up and admire its beauty.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

We are delighted to announce that St Oswald's Church is embarking on an exciting £400,000 programme of investment.

This investment is made possible from a Heritage Lottery grant of £246,000 with the balance from our own resources.

The programme brings together five major projects, each designed to safeguard the fabric of our building while making St Oswald's more sustainable for the future.

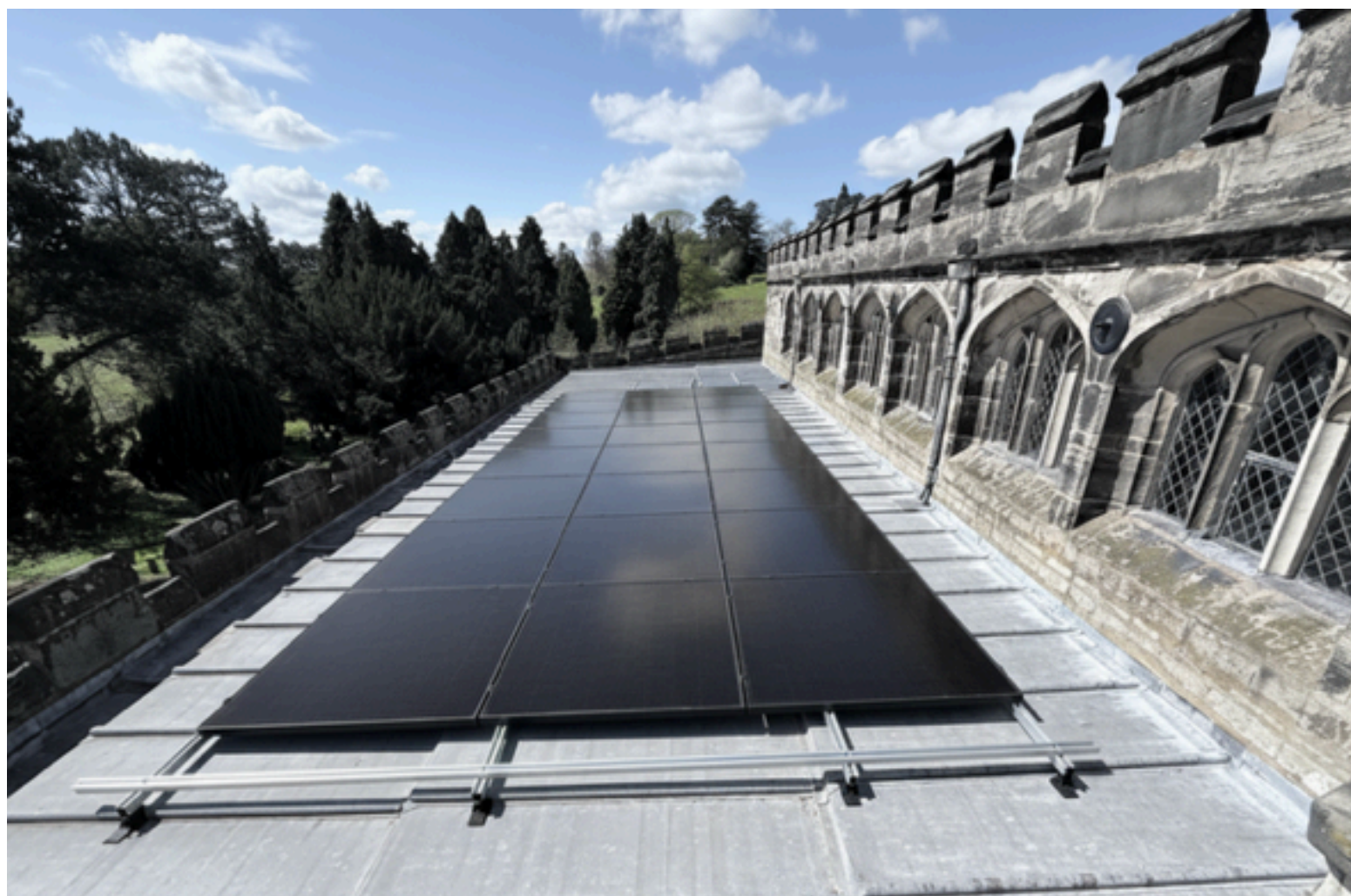
1. Replacing the lead roof on the South Aisle The 100-year old lead will be replaced, ensuring the church remains watertight and protected for years to come.
2. Replacing the lead roof on the South Transept Renewing the South Transept roof will address essential conservation needs and help to preserve the character and heritage of our church.
3. Installing a 100-panel solar array on the South Aisle A major step towards a greener St Oswald's will be the installation of 100 solar panels. This will generate renewable energy, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and lowering the church's carbon emissions.
4. Creating a new internal porch A new internal porch will improve the entrance to the church, providing an even warmer welcome, whilst improving the building's energy efficiency.
5. Replacing all the internal lighting with energy efficient LED lamps and fittings. Swapping to LED bulbs will reduce our lighting energy demands by 70%.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Together, these projects represent a significant investment in St Oswald's past, present and future. They will conserve and protect a much-loved historic building, ensuring it can continue to serve our congregation and wider community for generations to come.

At the same time, the programme reflects our responsibility to look ahead. By combining essential conservation work with renewable energy and improvements to the building's efficiency, we are taking practical action to reduce our environmental impact, while supporting our commitment to caring for God's creation.

This is more than an investment in bricks, stone and roofs. It is an investment in the future of St Oswald's and its mission for generations to come.



Pop in for Prayer

* Anna
* Chaplaincy
for older people



St Oswald's Church
Ashbourne

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



Join Lindsay on Fridays from
11:00 am - 12:00 noon
in the Turnbull Room

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Oswald's Church will be holding our Christmas Tree Festival commencing on Saturday 5th December 2026 and continuing through Advent and Christmas until Saturday 2nd January 2027. The church will organise the provision of the Christmas trees and stands and a donation of £35 by your organisation will secure a tree and stand. The theme for this year is Pantomimes.

Trees will be available for decoration from Tuesday 1st December 2026 and should be decorated by Friday 4th December 2026. The trees will be dedicated during the 10:30 am morning service on Sunday 6th December. For further information and to book a tree please contact Paul and Gill Elliott by emailing paulgillelliott@outlook.com.



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
6th and 20th October from 1pm until 3pm.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

A very big thank you to everyone who came and supported the coffee morning. A very big thank you too for all the contributions of cake, tombola prizes and energy that make the morning happen.

There was a lovely atmosphere in the Church as we set out the morning, following on from St Oswald's Primary School's Harvest Festival Service. How wonderful to have our beautiful Church celebrate so many activities.

We are waiting for a final figure to send to Macmillan but it will be around £400.00.





RAMBLERS REPORT

Four of us, plus Zeb the Collie, met at Ilam Hall on a cloudy morning. Starting out, standing on the 18th Century crest of St Bertram's packhorse bridge we were delighted to witness the blue flash of a kingfisher as it whizzed along the River Manifold.



Following up the River, we paused by a gate as farmer (plus quad bike and border collie) moved his sheep from the riverside pasture.

Continuing up a steep and winding lane affording misty views over the valley, we walked past the solid looking symmetrical facade of Georgian Castern Hall.



RAMBLERS REPORT CONTINUED

We were almost in the cloud as we continued steadily uphill on a field path. Views limited! We followed Ilam Moor Lane downhill and continued on a descending footpath, passing the remains of St Bertram's Well.

Zeb enjoyed a refreshing drink from the small pool of water seeping out at the base of the ruinous wall, but we humans waited till we returned to Ilam tea rooms!

Thanks to Jackie Burns for planning the route and to Paul Fitchett for guiding us along it. Note: we walked 4.2 miles and went up and down around 600 feet.

Dates for your Diary

6 October, 13:00 - Ossie's Potters

7 October, 10:00 - Carers Count

11 October, 09:00 - Breakfast Church

13 October, 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen

20 October, 13:00 - Ossie's Potters

20 October, 14:30 - Mothers' Union

25 October, 16:00 - Messy Church

27 October, 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen

Bell Ringing Practice

Wednesday, 19:30 - 21:00

Choir Practice

Friday, 19:00 - 20:00

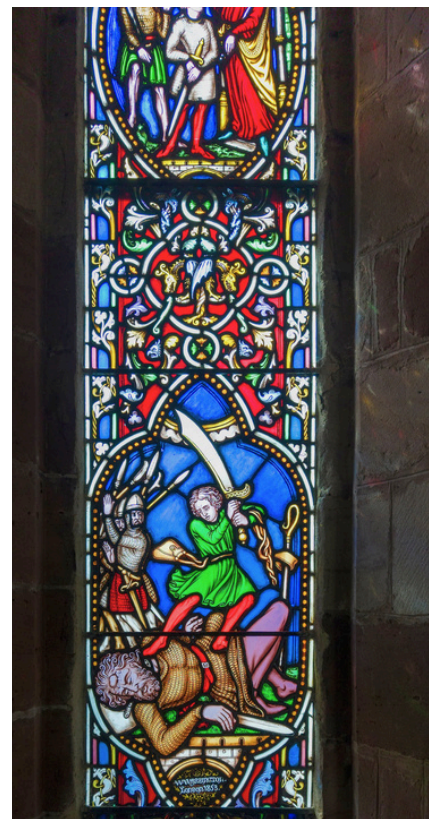
Ramblers Group

Next walk: 12 October

Walking Group

Next walk: 31 October

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