



ST OSWALD'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September 2026



MINISTRY THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

For the last few weeks our Newsletter has featured the Invitation to prepare for Confirmation. If you are not Confirmed, you may well be wondering why Confirmation is necessary at all, for nowhere is it mentioned in the Bible and the Early Church didn't practise it in the way that we do.

Baptism, by contrast, is spoken of frequently in the New Testament.

In the Early Church one was baptised by a Bishop and would receive the Holy Spirit by his laying on of hands. Over the years, Bishops were taking responsibility for much larger areas and rarely could they be present at a Baptism to lay their hands on the person concerned.

After the Reformation, the Church of England in effect turned Confirmation into a rite for teenagers to enable them to ratify the faith their parents and godparents had professed on their behalf at Baptism and led them to receiving their first Eucharist, or Holy Communion.

The Common Worship Initiation Services that we use today returns us to something like the practice of the Early Church by providing a Service which includes Baptism, Confirmation and a Eucharist, presided over by a Bishop.

Those who come to faith in adulthood are baptised and confirmed at the same time and immediately become full members of the Church and receive the bread and wine.

As I said earlier, nowhere in the Bible does it say that one should be confirmed before receiving the bread and wine, which is why we, in our Services, invite all who wish to receive to come to God's table and receive.

However, the essence of Confirmation is not just the bread and wine, it is the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands by a Bishop. It sets the seal on all that God has done for each individual up to that point and, as they are confirmed with the Holy Spirit, the Bishop prays for one's understanding about how our faith contributes to our everyday lives, for Strength as we need God's help day-by-day and for Spirituality as we grow more and more to be like Jesus as we seek God's will and try to serve him.

If you are not yet Confirmed then, with the support of our prayers, please do take another step in your faith journey and take up our invitation to prepare for Confirmation this October at St Oswald's.

We look forward to journeying with you.

With blessings,

Nigel

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 - 1st, 15th, 29th September 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



CONFIRMATION COURSE

We are delighted to invite you to join our upcoming Confirmation Course to be confirmed in late October when Bishop Jackie comes to St Oswald's Church for a Deanery Confirmation Service!

Confirmation is a wonderful opportunity to explore your faith, ask deep questions about God, and publicly affirm your baptismal promises as part of our church family. During the course, we will gather to learn, pray, and discuss the foundations of the Christian faith in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Please phone the office or direct any questions to any of the clergy by late August. We look forward to taking this next step in your spiritual journey with you!



FRANCISCAN PILGRIMS



These are photos taken of the meeting with the Franciscan pilgrims in August. The objects on the floor are mementoes of previous pilgrimages.

The pilgrim movement was revived in 1927 after the First World War to bring European youth together in peace following the example of the Taizé movement.



Significantly, the first pilgrimage took place in Alsace and there will be another one there next year to commemorate its centenary.

CNI PATNA – BISHOP FRANCIS’S VISIT

A big thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the visit of Bishop Francis in July. Our special thanks go to Liz and John (who planned most of the trip) and to Cathie and Crispin (who hosted Bishop Francis and handled the day-to-day running of the visit).

A variety of activities were arranged as part of the programme, including services at St Oswald’s, Ashbourne Methodist Church, Norbury Church of England Primary School, the Welly Club, Ossie’s Potters, Mothers Union, the Food Bank, and more. While he enjoyed all the activities, he greatly appreciated meeting and talking with a wide variety of people, exchanging ideas and experiences. This is an essential part of our Partnership.

Hopefully, Bishop Francis’ visit will mark the start of revitalising the ACT/Patna Partnership.

Talking with the Bishop has given us some ideas for the future, but these need further development and are more long-term. For the immediate future, we plan to send 3 illustrated newsletters to the Diocese each year – Christmas, Easter and Harvest. To do this, we will need volunteers from each church to collect photographs with some explanatory text. Initially, we would be happy to collate all the material into a newsletter. Eventually, we hope there might be someone to take over as editor. Please let us know!

Crispin is planning to visit the Diocese of Patna in November. If anyone is interested in joining him, please get in touch with him, Liz, or John.

Thank you once again for making the visit a success.

Dwayne

ASHBOURNE GOSPEL

We are excited to launch the Ashbourne Gospel as a creative visitor project throughout the Summer. We're creating the Ashbourne Gospel, a church and community project in Ashbourne.

Here's how you can get involved: Call into St Oswald's Church. We have set up a table and chair under the Crossing, complete with pen and paper. Press the on button of the light box. You will then see the guidelines underneath the paper. Choose the next verse from the printed sheet and write that in your best handwriting. Once complete, cross through the verse on the printed sheet and add your name to the list of contributors, if you would like to be listed in the back of the bound book.



EDUCATION SUNDAY

Join us for Education Sunday at Breakfast Church (9.00am) and/or at Holy Communion (10.30am) at St Oswald's as we celebrate the gift of learning, give thanks for our teachers, schools, and young people, and pray for the year ahead.

Bring your backpack to church for our special 'Blessings of the Backpacks'—a joyful moment of prayer and blessing for everyone heading back to school. Whether you're a pupil, student, teacher, or simply want to support our local schools, come along and be part of this special celebration!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Macmillan Coffee Morning in St Oswald's Church on Friday 25th September from 10.30 - 12.30.

We are hosting our Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Church this year. There will be a cake stall, tombola, tea and coffee.

We are looking for people to help, to make cakes and biscuits and provide some prizes for the tombola.

If you would like to help, or would be able to make a contribution in some way, please give your name to Lindsay Walker/Chris Haycock or phone the Parish Office. It's going to be a fun morning!

Every cuppa matters

Cancer can disrupt someone's whole life. Coffee Mornings like this mean we can do whatever it takes to help people with cancer live life as fully as they can.

Physical support

We provide specialist nurses and information on cancer, side effects such as hair loss, exercise, and nutrition, so that each day is a bit more bearable.

Financial support

We provide benefits advice and are on hand to help make sure money is one less thing for people with cancer to worry about.

Emotional support

We offer a dedicated support line, a peer-to-peer Online Community and a signpost to local support groups so people with cancer can talk and get help with how they're feeling.



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC19198_Q032



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
8th and 22nd September from 1pm until 3pm.



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



Catherine Pettingale

We are delighted to welcome Catherine Pettingale to the role of Director of Music as she joins us this month.

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 was Deputy Head of Performing Arts. She conducted the main school choir and chamber choir, directed the music for the annual school musical, and organised 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.



RAMBLERS REPORT

7 ramblers completed a 5 mile route from Warslow. The start paths were well marked across the sheep fields and began to rise gradually along the edge of the moors, skirting just below the trig point. The path turned into a pleasant track with far reaching views towards Longnor and Chrome Hill.



The path dropped onto the Longnor road before we turned to cross Swallow Moss. Swallow Moss was a beautiful rugged area that due to the weather was very firm underfoot, at other times this would be a boggy no go zone.

RAMBLERS REPORT CONTINUED

After a short break for refreshments we continued on a road stretch, where the spires of Butterton and Grindon could be seen poking skywards, before turning east and heading across farmland back to Warslow.

A beautiful walk with amazing views.

Gill



Dates for your Diary

1 September, 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen

2 September, 10:00 - Carers Count

8 September, 13:00 - Ossie's Potters

8 September, 14:30 - Mother's Union

14 September, 10:00 - Ramblers Group

15 September, 16:00 - Ossie's Kitchen

22 September, 13:00 - Ossie's Potters

26 September, 09:30 - Walking Group

Bell Ringing Practice

Wednesday, 19:30 - 21:00

Choir Practice

Friday, 19:00 - 20:00

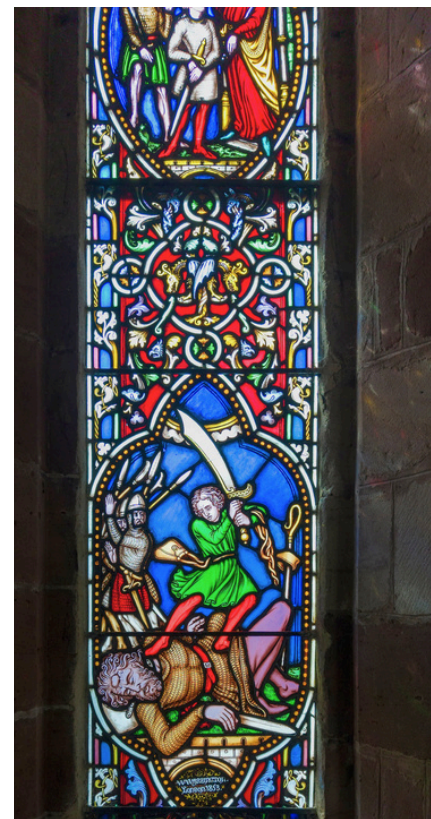
Ramblers Group

Next walk: 14 September

Walking Group

Next walk: 26 September

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