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# St Oswald's Church Newsletter

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## Open Daily

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

## St Oswald's Church

School Lane  
Ashbourne DE6 1AN  
Tel: 0303 300 0498

## Sunday Services

10:30 Holy  
Communion  
18:30 Evensong



## Dates for your Diary

- 20th January: Ossie's Kitchen
- 25th January: Week of Christian Unity
- 27th January: Ossie's Potters
- 4th February: Carers Count
- 8th February: Retreat in Daily Life
- 18th February: Holy Communion with Ashing

2026

We wish you a very happy  
and blessed New Year.  
From all at Ashbourne  
Group of Churches.

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# Ministry Thought for the Week

Happy New Year to you!

I preached at St Oswald's last Sunday about epiphanies. I think it's fair to say that our world needs more of them. Are we willing to be an epiphany for others? Someone in whom others see and hear and feel God's in-breaking inclusive love into our world? Someone whose living out of Scripture becomes an actual experience of the Word made flesh for others?

Three upcoming things I'm excited about that I wanted to share with you:

## **1. Lent Retreat in Daily Life**

This retreat offers a structured approach to focused prayer, discernment, and conversations with a spiritual guide over 40 days during Lent, while continuing our daily routines and home life.

Since many of us lack the luxury of retreating to secluded, peaceful retreat houses, the idea is to create a retreat within our everyday life - not away from it - by dedicating time to listen, align, wait, and then act. More details will be shared next week!

## **2. Visioning Awayday for all our churches**

It is scheduled for Saturday, 7 March, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hulland Ward Village Hall. It's open to everyone from any of our churches and communities to help decide how our six churches work together and where we are heading.

Everyone is welcome! Your voice matters, and we'd love for you to be part of shaping the future of our shared mission.



WRITTEN BY DWAYNE ENGH

### 3. Tourism Working Group

If you have any background in tourism or have an interest in joining our Tourism Working Group at St Oswald's Church, I'd love to hear from you! This will be a short-term time commitment. If it goes well at St Oswald's, we'd love to explore how this might work in our other churches too.

### A Blessing for 2026

May God the Father keep us in all our days. May God the Son shield us in all our ways.

May God the Spirit bring us healing and peace. May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from us and pour upon us blessings and light. Amen.

## Get in Touch

The Parish Office is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 to 12:00.

Telephone: 01335 343052

If you need a priest urgently call 01335 664159

## Upcoming Events



Week of Christian Unity

Starts 25<sup>th</sup> January



Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February



## Retreat in Daily Life

### What's it all about?

Yes, exactly. That's just the sort of thing we talk about.

No, I mean, what's a Retreat in Daily Life?

It's a chance to talk about important things with a spiritual guide.

This retreat offers a framework for focused prayer and discernment over approximately 40 days, while continuing our routines and home life.

Many of us don't have the luxury of spending time away at a secluded and peaceful retreat house. Instead, we contract time to retreat, not away from our normal life but in it – taking time to attend, to align, to wait, and then to act.

### How does it work?

We gather a group from various communities who commit to the retreat starting at the beginning of Lent.

Then, over six weeks, we meet all together twice to open and close the retreat.

The flow is as follows:

**Sunday 8 February at 2pm at St Oswald's Church**

The opening session of the retreat, where retreatants and retreat guides meet. We share, dream a little, pray, and keep silence.

We go back to our everyday households, neighbourhoods, and communities,

committed to a simple daily practice of prayer, reading, and contemplation.

- Individually, we meet with a retreat guide for about 40 minutes each week to reflect on what is happening in our prayer.
- We continue our daily practices and reflections, and our weekly meeting with a guide.

**Sunday 22 March at 2pm at St Oswald's Church**

- We gather at the end of six weeks to listen to each other, to listen to God together, to encourage, to share - and draw our 'retreat' to a close.



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## Retreat in Daily Life

### And a retreat guide?

You are accompanied during this retreat by an experienced spiritual accompanier who will listen to you and listen with you as you reflect on what you are discerning and hearing each day, in your prayer and in your faith community.

They support your discernment and accompany you through the weeks - praying, reflecting, underlining, and exploring with you.

### Is there a cost?

We ask for a small donation of £10 to cover the cost of materials. If you cannot afford that, no problem at all, we'd still love to have you join us! We'll collect that at the opening service.

### Okay, I'm interested... what do I need to do next?

Yup. Fair question. Contact the Rev'd Dwayne Engh if you want to get more details and see if it is right for you.

Or just book in with Nicola Fisher, our Parish Administrator, by ringing 01335 343052.

When you do book in, please provide your name, email, mobile number, and your Christian tradition. Places are limited, so book in today!



A photograph of a window with sheer curtains, through which soft light is visible. On a wooden table in front of the window sits a cup of coffee on a saucer with steam rising from it, an open book, and a lit candle in a dark holder. A spoon lies on the table to the left of the cup.

# Retreat *in* Daily Life

Join us for this Lenten retreat offering a structured approach to prayer, discernment, and conversations with a spiritual guide over the 40 days of Lent facilitated by St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne.

Create a retreat within your everyday life—not away from it—dedicating time to listen, align, wait, and then act.



For more information & to register, email: [ParishOffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk](mailto:ParishOffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:ParishOffice@ashbournechurch.org.uk)



## 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.

## A Big Thank You

A huge 'THANK YOU' from Janet Wright to all those who contributed to the success of the ACT Christmas Day party.

Maggie and the catering team, Adrian and his music, the quizzers and all those who came, joined in, and helped make it such an enjoyable occasion.

## Pastoral Matters

If you would like to contact a member of the clergy team to discuss any pastoral matter please telephone 01335 664159



## Visioning Awayday

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March

10:00 - 15:00

Hulland Ward Village Hall



## Retreat in Daily Life

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

14:00

St Oswald's Church



## St Oswald's Book Club

St Oswald's Book Club met on Monday 5th January in Ashbourne Library. It was lovely to all be together again after the Christmas break and ten of us chatted over December's books, 'Orbital' by Samantha Harvey and 'Isolation Island' by Louise Minchin.

Two more extreme reads you would struggle to find. One book written by a fictional writer about the true story of six astronauts/cosmonauts in 1991 living aboard a space station orbiting the world 16 times every day. Our second book followed 10 celebrities, now part of a gruelling reality show, who are cast away on a remote Scottish Island.

There is always time after these discussions to chat and share a coffee. The library staff make us very comfortable, and we can sit and watch Ashbourne bustle along Shrovetide Walk as we talk. We welcomed three new members to the group this month – Maxine, Elizabeth and Ruth.

We are 14 in total so there is some sharing of books necessary, but we manage with e-books and downloads to Kindles. We all agree that we are reading more and this can only be good for us.

January's read is 'Murder Before Evensong' by The Reverend Richard Coles. This is going to be a fun read and so close to home. When Daniel (vicar) announces a plan to install a toilet in the Church, the parish is suddenly (and unexpectedly) divided. A member of the Church is then found stabbed in the neck with a pair of secateurs! Daniel the vicar attempts to keep his fractured community together and catch the killer!

If you would like to know more about the [Book Club](#), please contact Lindsay Walker through the [Parish Office](#).

*The Parish Office is open between 10:00 and 12:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.*

## Church Website

The Church website has recently had a refresh and update.

A list of forthcoming services now appears on the homepage, as well as in the Calendar, which includes regular events - these are also listed on the homepage.

We have a News section on the website. Items from the newsletter will be available there as well as other updates about church events and activities.

You can read the latest Ministry Thought for the Week, see all the Online Services, and the weekly Readings and Prayers.

The website can be accessed at:  
[ashbournechurch.org.uk](http://ashbournechurch.org.uk).



## Sanctuary Flowers

I am in the process of compiling the List for Sanctuary Flowers for 2026. During the last few years, several of our donors have sadly died and whereas once it was difficult to accommodate everyone, now there are several gaps and I am appealing for people to come forward - there may be a date that has particular significance, for example, marking the passing of a loved one.

Everyone is welcome to arrange their own flowers but if you would prefer not to, then the weekly flower arrangers will be pleased to do so.

We continue to be grateful to all those who donate towards the flowers in Church, like so many things the cost has soared and we rely heavily on the flowers given by M & S for there to be flowers in the body of the Church.

I am in Church most Sundays so please have a word with me or I can be contacted on 07939 118969.

## Follow Us

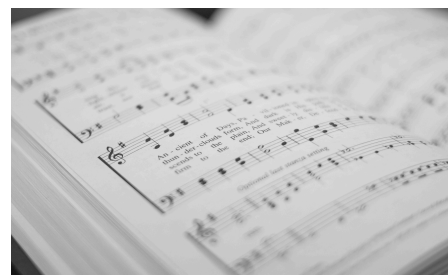
Find us on Facebook and Instagram - @ashbournechurch.

Keep up to date with all the latest news.



## Bell Ringing Practice

Wednesday, 19:30 - 21:00



## Choir Practice

Friday, 19:00 - 20:00



***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](mailto:vicar@ashbournechurch.org.uk)*

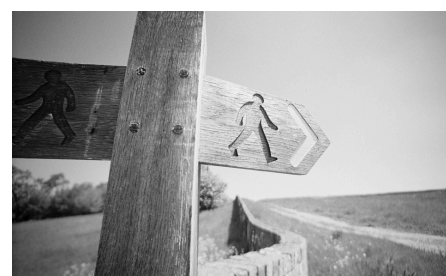
# Pilgrimage to Taizé

If you, or anyone you know, would like to join the East Midlands Young Adults Pilgrimage for those aged 18-35 to Taizé, please contact Rev'd Dwayne Engh or the Parish Office to register your interest.



**Ramblers Group**

Next walk: 9<sup>th</sup> February



**Walking Group**

Next walk: 31<sup>st</sup> January





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

## Walking with St Oswald's

St Oswald's has a choice of 2 walking groups.

The Ramblers group meet on the 2nd Monday of the month, start walking at 10.00am and covering approximately 5 miles.

The Walking group meet on the last Saturday of the month, start walking at 9.30am and covering approximately 10 miles.

**Ramblers Group Dates** (All rambles start at 10am)

- Monday 12th January 2026 - Narlows Lane Car Park (GR SK 164 505)
- Monday 9th February 2026
- Monday 9th March 2026

**Walking Group Dates** (All walks start at 9:30am)

- Saturday 10th January 2026 - Chelmorton Church (GR SK 115 703)
- Saturday 31st January 2026
- Saturday 28th February 2026

## Parish Giving Scheme

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 telephone the Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1260 to set up a payment. The PGS code for St Oswald's Church is 120612186



## Ossie's Potters

Alternate Tuesdays

13:00 - 15:00

Next: 27<sup>th</sup> January



## Ossie's Kitchen

Alternate Tuesdays

16:00 - 18:00

Next: 20<sup>th</sup> January

Join us for a Service in the Style of Taizé to celebrate



# Week of Christian Unity

**January 25, 2026 at 6.30 PM**

St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne

**Come and participate**

*Joint Service Open for all Denominations*

