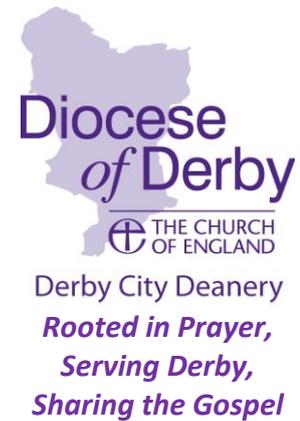


Derby City Deanery NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022



From our Acting Area Dean, The Revd Dr Simon Cartwright:

Dear friends,

As I write this, the sun is shining through the window and I am sure it is going to be another very hot, dry day. They say Britain was hotter than the Sahara at one point in July. Certainly, it felt too hot to me, and I am not sure I could live in the desert.

One man who did live in the desert, is John the Baptist. John has always been an inspiration to me: his courage to speak the good news, challenge authorities and pastor the poor made him so attractive that people from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and the Jordan Valley, went out to see and hear him. His courage and passion remain, and speak to us, through the ages.

Before John was born, his father sang about him, in now familiar words of the Benedictus. I love this canticle that many of us use in Morning Prayer. It speaks about a human being and their call to ministry "to go before the Lord, to prepare his way." and "to give his people the knowledge of salvation." As clergy and laity in the church of God, this remains our primary calling - to prepare the way for God to act.

Indeed, John's whole ministry, although very public and at times provocative, was always about preparing the way for others and then getting out of the way. My own ministry as Acting Area Dean has been similar. I have visited many parishes in vacancy, as I helped PCCs and congregations to prepare their parishes for a future ministry. It has sometimes been pastoral, and at other times provocative. As we have explored the best way for each parish to share the message of salvation, in this time and place. It has been about preparing the way for another person's ministry.

In our Diocesan life, we are now at another important juncture. For a number of months now we have been discussing the need for a new Archdeacon and exploring their potential new role and preparing plans for their arrival. The Ven. Matthew Trick has taken this role in Derby City, and he has written an article, introducing himself, later in the newsletter. He will be our guest at Deanery Synod on September 20th.

In many ways, I have been preparing the way for Matthew, and we have had a number of induction sessions together, as I have welcomed him into the church in Derby City. It now

feels the right time for me to get out of the way! As John the Baptist said, "he must increase, I must decrease."

Therefore, I have decided to step down as Acting Area Dean. I lay down the role with some sense of relief, but also sadness - I was Assistant Area Dean for 3 years and I have taken on some, or all of the Area Dean role, for another 3 years. Many of these years have been through the Covid pandemic, and as we recovered, trying to discern our new diocesan vision. So, this feels the right time to let this go, and let Matthew and my successor take the lead.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your partnership in the Deanery. My special thanks go to Madelaine for her constant support, to Jo and Kelly for their administrative skills and to the Deanery Leadership Team who have advised and helped me to lead over the years.

Many thanks, and I pray the Deanery goes from strength to strength.

This termly newsletter comes from Derby City Deanery – the group of Anglican parishes which fall within the city boundary – and is for sharing around churches and communities.

Acting Area Dean Revd Dr Simon Cartwright: revscartwright@gmail.com

Deanery Administrator: Mrs Kelly Martin: kelly.martin@derby.anglican.org

Lay Chair: Madelaine Thomas-Goddard: goddard35@btinternet.com

DEANERY ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICES:

Kelly Martin, Deanery Administrator: kelly.martin@derby.anglican.org

Deanery Synod Dates:

Tues 20 September, Weds 23 November

Diocesan Synod Dates:

Sat 15 October

DERBY CITY DEANERY: ROOTED IN PRAYER

The 2027 Community of Prayer

What is the 2027 Community of Prayer?

We are the Diocese of Derby network of prayer – praying together, as we prepare to celebrate our centenary in 2027, for transformed lives in growing church and building community the length and breadth of our diocese.

Our shared prayer across the diocese is the frame that holds us together as God weaves the threads of our lives, our worship, witness and work for Christ, into something beautiful.

We hope that over the next five years 2027 people will commit to regular prayer, as individuals, and as churches, groups or schools.

Why join the 2027 Community of Prayer?

As a Deanery we are 'Rooted in Prayer', prayer is a part of our rhythm of life. In prayer the Spirit unites us to God and to one another; in prayer we are changed ever more into the likeness of Christ; in prayer we are equipped for our Heavenly Father's service.

Being rooted in prayer nourishes our shared values of generous faith, courageous hope and life-giving love. Prayer is essential as we engage afresh in living out the 5 Marks of Mission – to tell, teach, tend, transform and treasure – in response to the vision God has given us of the Kingdom of God as good news for all.

Prayer is a demonstration of our love and commitment to all the people and places of our diocese in Derbyshire, the city of Derby, and beyond.

Who can join the 2027 Community of Prayer?

Anyone can join - everyone who wants to be part of this movement of prayer. We pray for God's Kingdom to come in our diocese – please join us.

You can become a Companion of the 2027 Community of Prayer as an individual, and as a church or group, or as a school.

We will also occasionally keep you updated with other prayer resources as part of your daily or monthly email.

To join the 2027 community of prayer, go to <https://derby.anglican.org/en/faith-and-life/2027-community-of-prayer.html> and register your membership.

DERBY CITY DEANERY: ROOTED IN PRAYER

Loving Heavenly Father,

We pray for the young people in the schools, colleges & university
of our City & County

Remembering particularly those who are coming to the end of their
formal education.

May the holidays be a time of fun & recreation.

Keep your children safe & free from the influences of those who
would wish them harm.

We pray too for parents,

Especially those who find it difficult to be good role models for their
children,

Also, for all who are struggling to feed & clothe their families.

Make us all more ready to share the good things with those in need
for the benefit of all & the praise of Your Name.

Amen

DERBY CITY DEANERY: SERVING DERBY

St John the Evangelist, Mill/Bridge Street



Situated on the corner of Mill Street and Bridge Street, St John's has stood quietly and proudly since 1828 ready to serve its community. Now cars speed past it from Friar Gate to the inner ring road or on to Kedleston Road. Many of its surrounding buildings are part of Derby University and the elegant St John's Terrace behind the east end of the church was commended in the press recently as a hidden gem. Small children have been known to believe it is a castle owing to its crenelations and from time-to-time concertgoers have commented that although they have lived in Derby for many years, they regretted that they had not previously ventured inside. On entering the church, one cannot fail to be impressed by the imposing stained-glass

windows above the altar. Thanks to our fund-raising activities, we were able to refurbish parts of one window and we hope this feature of St John's will be enjoyed and appreciated by future generations.



Of course, St John's welcomes all comers and although we are now in a period of Interregnum, our much-loved vicar, Canon Elaine Jones having retired at Candlemas, we are emerging from the Covid restrictions with hope and a renewed desire to serve the community of Derby and to extend our outreach whilst retaining the essence of St John's worship. During the lockdowns we sought creative and varied ways of remaining connected using social media to see and hear hymns played on the organ and prayers and reflections relayed via Facebook and craft tasks set to celebrate major festivals as well as a phone tree to maintain contact and fellowship. How delighted we were when our church

could be open again for shared worship!

Our present congregation come to the services from Allestree, Littleover, Spondon, Mackworth, Chaddesden as well as from homes closer to church and we always look forward to welcoming new members. Our Sunday Eucharist is at 9.45am with Children's Church provided for our younger members.



A model made by Children's Church whilst exploring its history and in response to some repair work on the roof.

On the first Sunday in the month Choral Evensong takes place (6.30pm in the summer and 4.30pm in the winter) often with friends of the choir swelling our voices.

We have recently reinstated our monthly weeknight Iona Service which is a congregation-led service with hymns, readings, prayers and quiet reflection followed by shared refreshments in Gwen's Corner - a new servery in church, established for the wider

community and the congregation.

From time to time we participate in Messy Church celebrating particular occasions. All ages take part from two-year-olds to ninety-two-year-olds. Christingle is a particular favourite.



The acoustics in church are excellent and St John's is now an established venue for concerts by various groups including The Sitwells, (Saturday November 12th & Monday December 19th) Derby Bach Choir, (Saturday December 10th) and Derwentio Choir (Friday December 2nd, as part of our annual Christmas Tree Festival Weekend).

We are delighted to once again host Derby Arts Festival starting on April 22nd, 2023.

Our Social Room houses our Welcome Cafe, run in term time by Broomfield College students on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10.30-2.30pm and is open to all. The students and their tutors provide delicious snacks, cakes, lunches and drinks at very reasonable prices and as its name suggests, there is always a warm welcome as the young people develop their

hospitality and life skills.

This room is also home to art classes, and other self-help groups.

On the first Saturday of every month our doors are open for our "Drop-In" when we encourage members of the congregation and the wider community to join us for coffee and chat and on the second Wednesday afternoon of every month, we hold our Community Tea when events and talks take place and tea, and cake are consumed. We would love to increase our membership and encourage others to join us.

Often people can be seen seated on the picnic benches in the garden at the front of the church. We like to think of this as our "Breathing Space" - a natural area tended by dedicated congregation members, which we hope can feed the soul and look after the well-being of those who gather there. Our Garden of Rest is also a tranquil corner in the midst of life's "busyness".

Sometimes we erect our marquee and hold charity events on the lawn. Our recent Sausage Sizzle was popular even on the only rainy day we have had in months and in August we look forward to our Strawberry Tea. Our Christmas Tree Festival comes the weekend after our Advent services on Saturday December 3rd when we usually have over 50 trees on display and sometimes Father Christmas and his Elf call in to add to the fun. Monies raised here always go to a local charity. Our 200 Club and Valentine Prize Draw help to boost our own funds so that we can keep our church warm, safe and welcoming to all who step inside.

Our mission: to be a caring community striving to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ sharing in the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to love our neighbour, having the Eucharist at the centre of our worship.

DERBY CITY DEANERY: SERVING DERBY

Bearing Fruit – young children

St Nick's, Allestree

Context

St Nick's is a parish church with a regular congregation of between 30 and 40 people each week. This is an ageing congregation that once had many families that have left over the last 4-5 years.

Prior to Covid we had a successful Playtime toddler group run by a church member in the church hall supported by volunteers. This had no Christian content other than it was run by Christian volunteers, which had been a specific decision at the time. During the Covid pandemic, the leader permanently left St Nick's church and two of the other volunteers decided not to resume.

Concept

The concept of a New Parent Support Group was conceived during March last year. Our Children's, Youth and Families Worker had felt that God was calling her to do something for new parents who had been denied the support they probably needed during Covid. I had seen this first hand with my daughter going through her first pregnancy and maternity leave during this time and felt that we were being called to do something for new parents and babies, so unnaturally isolated.

We decided that we could offer a place of welcome, safety and space for new parents to chat within the Covid restrictions at that time.



Through careful measuring and taping off sections of the hall we could take 8 parents with a pre mover child. We had carpet squares and baby toys allocated to the same baby each week and ran it from mid may until the school holidays.

The mums and babies from the new parent support group had bonded and really appreciated somewhere just to discuss safely with other mums about their babies. The children's worker and I, joined in, listened and were a presence, cooing over the babies each week; something that sounds so normal but was very obviously being denied to these mums at that time. Phone numbers were swapped, and the mums arranged walks with each other in between times. We were told on more than one occasion the facility had been "a lifeline" to them.

During the holidays we held a weekly family fun morning where all could turn up- restrictions had lessened and with marquees, fine weather and enough outdoor space we could do this safely. We kept half the hall to baby and toddlers only and restricted numbers in this area- still mask wearing of course! We provided lunch every week aided by Food 4thought and made no charge- we saw it as our gift to the community. However, donations far surpassed what we could possibly have expected, and we reinvested it so that we could hire a bouncy castle every week. We saw old playgroup parents come as well as new families who had moved to the area in lockdown. We had a theme each week and quiet space in the chapel where we gently fed Jesus into their lives at that moment.

In September we relaunched and rebranded the play group- now it was "Play n Praise", and whilst it largely followed the old format- which had been successful, this time there were Christian baby songs as well as secular and there is a toddler Jesus story every week. We always finish that time with a blessing song before mayhem breaks loose and they spend the final 20 minutes with push along and ride on toys.

Numbers are restricted and parents have to commit to coming- we have a short waiting list, but it moves rapidly as parents go back to work. If they haven't attended for 4 weeks, we contact them advising them that we can no longer keep their place open. We have new volunteers as well as some of the previous ones who helped before. This means that we can split our time between being a listening ear for parents, and indeed grandparents- of which we have many, and our time watching the children as parents have space to chat to each other over a drink and homemade cake or healthy snacks.



We suggest a donation of £2 with the explanation that this money gets ploughed back into the group. However, it is completely voluntary, and we don't watch to see if someone donates or not!

We have done a very gentle Christingle at toddler level and taken the children in Church for Christmas story songs and rhymes.

All of this has begun to bear fruit. From an exodus of youth and families about 4 years ago we now have 3 regular families who attend some services, we have members of the "Play n Praise" team who run a creche once a month so parents can listen to the sermon and leave their children with known and trusted faces. At Easter we had 14 children present- which we felt really blessed by and can see now where God is bearing fruit.

Our next steps are to gently introduce a little more of Jesus and encourage our volunteers to step up to leading and organising the group in order for the children's worker and myself to be released to see where else we can join in with God's mission in the area.

DERBY CITY DEANERY: SHARING THE GOSPEL

Soul Table

In our everyday lives we all often meet and get to know friends/family/colleagues who have some faith experience and are keen to explore it further but just not in a traditional church setting. Traditional church can be a difficult place for many people and not many people choose to walk into a church as cold callers. Soul Table is a group of people who come together over a meal to share God's love. The emphasis is on Jesus, and anyone is welcome - you don't need to go to church to come along.

We don't see this as a "church meeting", rather a simple meal together for conversation, laughter and relationship building. This is an act of mutual hospitality, not lavish entertaining! We keep to this by always having jacket potatoes with toppings we can all contribute to.

The meal is followed by someone in the group sharing a prepared thought or question, and we invite people to share their thoughts in response. In the following conversation we discuss life's tough questions with a spirit of acceptance giving all a safe place to respond and with no pressure. Previous topics have included: uncertainty and doubt, shalom in creation, forgiveness is difficult, God with us, miracles, "magic" prayer and the sources are varied – from podcasts, to news items, to Instagram/Facebook posts, wherever the Spirit prompts. We acknowledge that there is no division between secular and spiritual.

We have agreed values for Soul Table; a key one is respect. Our aim is to listen to each other and consider each other's views. The time together is not about giving advice or making decisions, it is allowing space for people to share their thoughts, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to us all.

We always finish by breaking bread together using a short liturgy and bless each other back into the world. We encourage each other during the intervening days through ongoing prayer, conversation and acts of kindness/generosity/support.

Becky and Jon Hyde

DERBY CITY DEANERY: SHARING THE GOSPEL

St Francis, Mackworth



St Francis Mackworth has just passed the two-year mark of when my family and I brought a bunch of people over to Mackworth from St Werburgh's Derby to help revitalise our church. I want to reiterate that at present I am the only paid person, and we have no paid staff team (although St Werburgh's do support us in various ways.) This means that like most parish churches almost everything we do is run by volunteers who love Jesus and want to see others come to know Him.

Our vision is to be a light on the hill for our estate and we work this out in three ways: worshipping God, growing community and serving our estate.

Over our two years we have done all kinds of things to connect with and serve our estate including painted stones, a fun day, litter picks, led a remembrance service, plant sale Easter & Christmas cards and much more. We have a traditional communion service at 9am each week and a more modern service at 1030am each week, plus 4pm online. The 9am is small with between 12 to 20ish, the 1030 (including under 18s) is between 80 and 110, the 4pm has a handful watching online. A third of our adults (probably higher for children) would have been in no church at all 2 years ago.

One of the main ways that we listen to our area and engage with those who would not call St Francis home is by social media, we post almost every day on Facebook and Instagram, sometimes on Twitter (not TikTok yet!) and cheer on other local groups and initiatives.

In terms of regular events:

Some of our more mature members responded to a request from Mackworth Community library to host a craft group there and so Chatty Crafters was born where people gather and craft and chat on a Monday morning. A number of us gather every week at 7.30am on Tuesday mornings on Zoom to pray for St Francis and our estate, particularly for those who are new and that we would see a move of God across Mackworth. Our placement ordinand



Emma set up a toddler group on Wednesday mornings which is a great place for parents to come into the church building, connect with one another and build relationship with members of St Francis.

One of young adults has started 5 or 7 a side football which has been meeting on Wednesday nights for the past 2 months. There are now 30 local guys who are on

the WhatsApp group and about a third are new or not yet part of church. Some of the men have come through weddings, baptisms and toddlers!

We have continued to run Alpha each term, first online, now in person (although we are taking a break for the autumn 2022 to consolidate a little) and we have seen a number of people come to faith in Jesus as a result be baptised and are to be confirmed in the autumn.



Finally on Sundays we make welcome a high priority (Romans 15 v7 welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you) and have sought to grow a culture where it is embedded. We have flags and signs out by the road, welcome team by the gate and doors with signs saying "Welcome" or something similar. Weather allowing, we have free refreshments outside, so people can grab a drink and brownie before they even come in and during the service, we have a short break as kids go out where we ask anyone who has been with us more than 2 weeks to get up and go and say Hi to someone new. We also explain what we are doing

whether it be what a chapter and verse is, or why some people might have their arms in the air as they sing. For so many people church is totally outside their experience, what we believe is strange enough already, so we try to remove as many unnecessary barriers as possible, so that their only stumbling block might be Jesus and His call on their life.

- Revd Andy Bond



Spotlight: Meet Our New Archdeacon



I am excited to be joining the Diocese of Derby and working towards our shared vision: The Kingdom of God, Good News for All and serving the people of the diocese in faith, hope and love.

Being new to both the diocese and Derbyshire, I look forward to getting out and about early on, meeting ordained and lay colleagues and discovering the churches and communities of Derby City and South Derbyshire - so please get your invitations in!

I was born in South Wales and am a proud Welshman who for the last decade has lived and ministered in England. I am married to Sarah, a chartered accountant, and have two young children: Izzy aged 7 and Henry aged 3.

I started attending St Illtyds Church, Llantwit Major, aged 16 and the warmth of welcome and community persuaded me to stay. I came to personal faith in Jesus Christ on an Alpha Course at St Mikes Church, Aberystwyth, where I studied as an undergraduate.

Prior to ordination I worked for Lloyds TSB in their Business Banking division. I trained for ordination at the then St Michael's College, Llandaff, Cardiff and found it deeply enriching to train alongside Baptist and Methodist students. My ordained ministry has encompassed affluent market towns with connected suburban and rural communities, areas of significant deprivation and major new housing developments. Ecumenism has shaped my ministry to date both informally through local Churches Together groups and formally as the Minister of a four-way LEP. For the last couple of years, I have been an assistant area dean working with ordained and lay colleagues and diocesan senior staff to develop collegiately and mission across Christchurch Deanery.

I believe Jesus transforms individuals and communities through local churches, and my passion is releasing churches to be agents of the Kingdom of God, growing the common good in their communities. Academically I am interested in Anglican Social Theology and Christian leadership and am currently undertaking a Masters in Theology & Ministry with Cranmer Hall, Durham. I am a Novice of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis and the words of God to St Francis "Go and rebuild my church" have been a source of inspiration for my ministry.

Having always lived by the sea, our move to Derby will be only the second time we have been land-locked, but with so much to explore we are looking forward to getting out and walking in the diocese. Sarah and I are foodies and look forward to sharing food and fellowship with ordained and lay colleagues. Balancing the demands of ministry with family life is important to us, and as a family we are no strangers to soft play centres and other family attractions.

NOTICEBOARD

**Can you spare £1 a week
to help support struggling
residents of Derby?**



**Join the
Squid
Army!**

Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance is looking for 1,000 people to donate £1 (a squid) a week, for the next 52 weeks, to raise essential funds so our foodbanks are able to cope with the increased demand caused by the rising cost of living.
Will you help?

Please scan the QR code or visit:
www.communityactionderby.org.uk/df4ta

 @DF4TA

 @DerbyFood4TA

 @DF4TA



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Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance is looking for 1,000 people to donate £1 (a squid) a week, for the next 52 weeks, to raise essential funds so our foodbanks are able to cope with the increased demand caused by the rising cost of living.

Over the last few months, we have seen an increase in food parcel requests. At the same time, we have seen a big drop in donations. When talking to our customers, the main reason for this is due to the rising cost of living.

For the last financial year, from April 2021 - March 2022, 18,162 food parcels were distributed to 20,122 adults and 17,588 children.

Will you help? Join the Squid Army!

www.communityactionderby.org.uk/help-and-advice/df4ta/donate/Join-the-Squid-Army



St Nick's
KIDS

Play'n'Praise



JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY TERM-TIME
TODDLER GROUP!
OPEN TO ALL PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN &
THEIR CARERS,
EVERY TUESDAY, 09:30 - 11:00

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED; CONTACT
ANNA FOR MORE INFO AT:
STNICKSCHILDRENSWORKER@GMAIL.COM