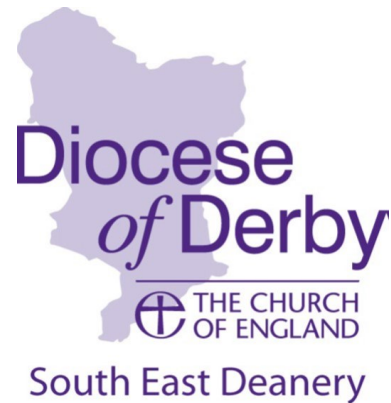


South East Derbyshire Deanery Newsletter January-February 2024



You crown the year with your goodness (Psalm 65:11)

A Deanery Prayer for the New Year

God of all that has been, of all that is, and of all that is to come,
we hold before you the people and parishes of the South East Derbyshire Deanery.

As we think upon the year just gone, we praise you for work done;
for ministries begun and ended; for people met and served.

We thank you for our Deanery Synod -
for the laity and clergy who have supported it and for those who have led it;
for our gatherings, conversations and elections.

We rejoice that, in all places and through many faces
you have been with us; you have guided us; you have sustained us.

As 2024 begins, we offer you afresh
our intentions, our questions, and our concerns.
We pray for those who direct us, those who resource us, those who love us.

In this New Year may we wait for your Spirit, listen for your call,
and commit ourselves to one another and to you;
that your name may be glorified
in our South East Derbyshire Deanery.

Contact Us



Deanery Administrator: Helen Bridger

01332 278148 helen.bridger@derby.anglican.org



Lay Chair: Brian Parker

brianp103@hotmail.co.uk

Deanery Treasurer: Andrew Whysall

ajw99@btinternet.com

Deanery Secretary: Vacant

Chapter Clerk: The Rev Bob Short

bobthevicar@gmail.com

Deanery Safeguarding Lead: Nicky Bailey

07809 680034 nickybailey1938@gmail.com

Bishop's Badge—Continued Congratulations

In the last Deanery Newsletter (October/November 2023) we celebrated those in our Deanery who had received the Bishop's Badge either on 17th September or 1st October.

Regrettably, one name was accidentally missed off the list—John Sterland of St Andrew's Swanwick and St Matthew Pentrich. John received his award in Derby Cathedral on 17th September.

John is a much valued member of St Andrew's and St Matthew's, ably supporting clergy and wardens as member of the Premises Committee and organising local bellringers from his parishes and beyond to ring each Sunday.

John—I'm sorry I managed to leave your name off the list last time, and many congratulations on receiving your Bishop's Badge.

Helen Bridger (Deanery Administrator)

For Your Diary

Upcoming Deanery Synods

Tuesday 6th February 2024 Christ Church Cotmanhay.
7.00pm for refreshments, 7.30 start. Topic: **Parish Finance**



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

For Licensed Clergy—Chapter Review

Monday January 15th, 7.00pm at St Clements Horsley

For Clergy who Undergo Ministerial Development Review: Special Chapter Meeting

Tuesday 27th February, 11.00-2.00, Holy Trinity Ilkeston— lunch will be provided.

(N.B. this is a mandatory meeting for all clergy who receive MDRs. If you are unable to attend, please contact Archdeacon Karen).

Archdeacon's Visitation

Wednesday 3rd July, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Langley Mill

Statistics for Mission—Deadline End January 2024

I know, I know...Collecting statistics is one more job...

However, it is a job which plays a vital role in understanding not only what's going on in our individual churches, but also in our diocese and on a national scale. The more we are faithful in submitting data the more it's possible for mission decisions which affect us strategically and financially to be made faithfully and wisely. The life of our diocese and deanery is directly impacted by the figures we provide.



Statistics for Mission data are required to be submitted by **end of January 2024**, and it's not too early to make a start on them. There should be a designated person in your church for submitting these. (Statistics for Mission figures are often submitted by the Incumbent, Warden or Parish Secretary). The link for this is available here: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

If you do not know who is the designated person for this in your parish or you need help accessing the online system, please let Helen Bridger know as soon as possible.

If your parish is currently without a member of the clergy and you think you will struggle to submit your return online, please contact Helen so that she can help find the best way of supporting you. Email helen.bridger@derby.anglican.org or phone 01332 278148

Upcoming Deanery Synod
6th February 2024 at 7.30pm
(refreshments from 7.00pm)
Christ Church Cotmanhay

Deanery Synod Representatives, PCCs and Treasurers

You are **all** invited to the next Deanery Synod meeting
on the subject of Parish Finance.

We shall be joined by Martyn Marples (Head of the Finance Team at Church House) and members of his team, who will help us to think through issues including:

- Common Fund:- what it is and where it goes
 - Grants
 - Gift Aid
 - Living Generously
- Church House Support for Treasurers and PCCs

A combination of presentations and workshops will give you the opportunity to:
learn key information
share good practice and challenges in common.

On the Money

An excellent resource for understanding diocesan finances and the part played by each of our churches is the new publication: *On The Money*.

Reading it will provide both good preparation for the Synod meeting and clear explanations which your congregations may find helpful.

On The Money resources can be found here:

[On the money - Diocese of Derby \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org.uk/resources/on-the-money)

Deanery Leadership Team: Who, What, Why, Where?

Did you know we had a Deanery Leadership Team?

Do you know who they are and what they do?

The South East Derbyshire Deanery is served by a team which is dedicated not only to agreeing the business for our Deanery Synods, but also to shaping our vision and responding to issues which arise in our Deanery. The Deanery Leadership Team is usually chaired jointly by the Area Dean and the Deanery Lay Chair. In the current absence of an Area Dean, our Lay Chair heads up the South East Derbyshire Deanery Leadership Team.

Brian Parker (Lay Chair) and Andrew Whysall (Treasurer) were both elected for the next three years at our most recent Deanery Synod in October. They are joined by Bob Short (Chapter Clerk), Nicky Bailey (Safeguarding Lead), Rachel Hobbs (Archdeaconry Sub Warden of Readers) and Sue Cavill, (lay member of both General and Diocesan Synods).

Helen Bridger (Deanery Administrator) offers administrative support to the Deanery Leadership Team.

Why not take a moment to find out who they are?



I'm **Brian Parker**, and I attend Long Eaton St John's where I have been a worshipper for about thirty years now. I am the Treasurer, voluntary verger and, like many, end up as a jack of all trades!

Without an Area Dean for a good part of 2023, the role of Lay Chair has been both rewarding and challenging. It has been good to have the support of Helen Bridger and Archdeacon Karen. I was Church Warden at St John's when Archdeacon Karen was serving her curacy there, so we each know how the other ticks!

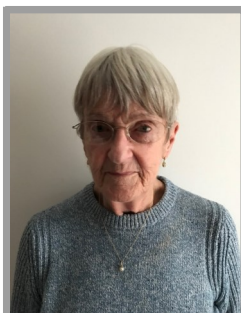
My hope for 2024 is that the Deanery can be effective in supporting the mission of all churches, and particularly those in or facing vacancies. I'd like to step back from some responsibilities at St John's to allow me to come and worship in churches throughout the Deanery.



Hi all! I'm **Andrew Whysall**, and I am a Reader and Church Warden at St Andrew Langley Mill, where I currently head up the Worship Team and play the keyboard like Les Dawson!

Now that I'm the newly appointed Deanery Treasurer, you have in your midst a Forest season ticket holder (no booing please) who is still working full time running a company that sells and services fork-lift trucks.

My hope and prayer is that the Deanery follows the leading of the Holy Spirit in all it does.



I'm **Nicky Bailey** and I worship at Holy Trinity, Ilkeston where I was a church warden for 18 years - I retired at Easter this year. I am currently the Parish Safeguarding Officer. I also served for several years as a trainer on the Derby diocesan safeguarding training team. I am the Deanery Safeguarding Lead.

My working life was as a teacher in Nottingham where I finished my career as the Deputy Head of a large comprehensive school in Bulwell. Now I have more time to enjoy my family although they are spread far and wide.

My hope for our Deanery in 2024 is that all the parishes but particularly those in interregnum continue to grow and flourish in 2024!!

Deanery Leadership Team:- Who, What, Why, Where?



I'm **Sue Cavill** and I'm a member of All Saints and St Mary's, Sawley. My husband and I have lived in Sawley for eight years since moving from Leicester.

I'm one of the musicians at church and my husband (who is a lay reader) and I lead a house group. I have also been very involved in projects to help the church become a silver eco-church. My background is in communications and although I am now retired from full-time work I still freelance advising public sector organisations about public consultations.

In 2021 I stood for General Synod on a platform of care for the environment, a belief in the parish system as a basis for our mission, a desire for lay people to be valued and developed, and for the church hierarchy to communicate better with those at parish level. I was elected to serve a five year term. As a member of the Deanery Leadership Team I try to communicate what's been happening at General Synod and how it may have an impact at parish level, and to listen to people's concerns to help me when making voting decisions.

What I appreciate about our deanery is the opportunity to meet people from so many churches and to hear so many exciting stories of God at work. My hope for the deanery as we move into 2024 is that we can support each other and work together more and more to bring the good news of our Saviour to the people of South East Derbyshire.



I'm **Rachel Hobbs**, and I spent all my working life in nursing. After marrying John, we moved to Risley in 1999. I have been a committed Christian since my early 20's, and was licensed as a Reader in 2007. I love gardening and after retiring in 2011 I began as a volunteer gardener at Treetops Hospice in Risley. John and I share a love of walking and our 4 year old border terrier, Milly, ensures this is part of our daily routine.

As a Licensed Lay Reader I am involved with Sunday services primarily in Risley, and am passionate about pastoral care which involves visiting a number of elderly folk in Risley and supporting a monthly benefice Tea and Company afternoon in Dale Abbey.

For some years I have been our Deanery sub warden of Readers and since July 2022 have been Sub warden of Readers for our Archdeaconry. This sub warden role involves keeping a pastoral eye on other readers, and being part of the Deanery (and Archdeaconry) Leadership team.

We are so fortunate that we have some extremely dedicated and hard working Readers in our parishes in this deanery, and my hope and prayer for 2024 is that we can encourage more people to prayerfully consider and explore training to be a licensed Reader. (Please do get in touch if you would like the opportunity to find out more).



I'm **Bob Short** and I have been in the South-East Derbyshire Deanery for 10 years now. I volunteered to be Chapter Clerk, representing the clergy in the Deanery when nobody else felt able to do it. I have been retired since 2013 and came here to live in Beeston when I finished being priest-in-charge of the Island of Ibiza in the Balearic Islands. Prior to that I was Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies for 11 years at Repton School in Derbyshire having lived most of my working life to that point in the Maya region of Mexico working as an agronomist and missionary.

I hope and pray that everyone who lives in the S.E. Derbyshire Deanery will always feel welcomed in the many different churches and congregations in the Deanery and that we will through our lives shine Jesus's light into their lives so that they will turn to the Lord.



I'm **Helen Bridger**, and I'm the Deanery Administrator. I worship at St Mary's Ilkeston, where I help out as a priest with Permission to Officiate. I'm married to Francis, who is a retired priest. We are both regularly to be found taking Sunday services around and about in our Deanery.

Over this past year I've noticed and appreciated the unsung, hard work of many of our church officers who give of themselves faithfully, wholeheartedly and sacrificially. My hope for 2024 is that we can all deepen a sense of mutual belonging across the Deanery and so support and strengthen one other in ministry.

Everyone Eats

Christmas Food Parcels and More

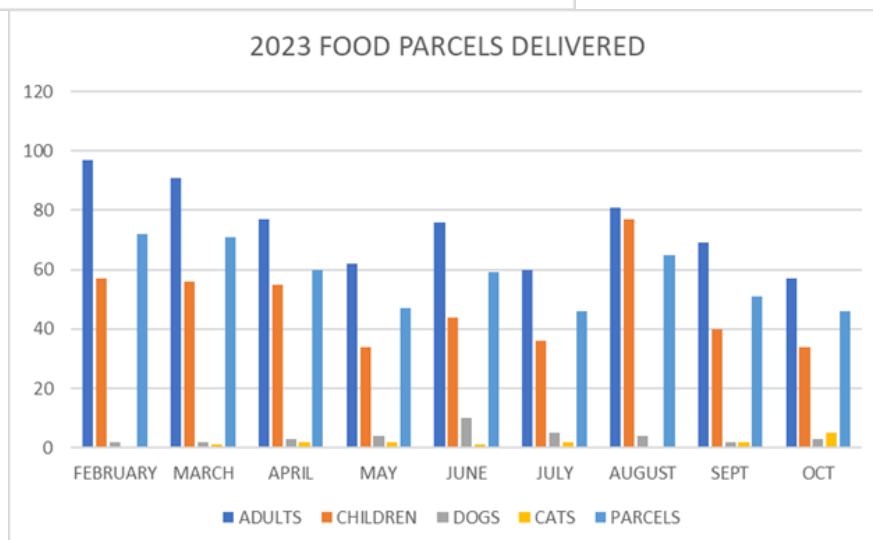
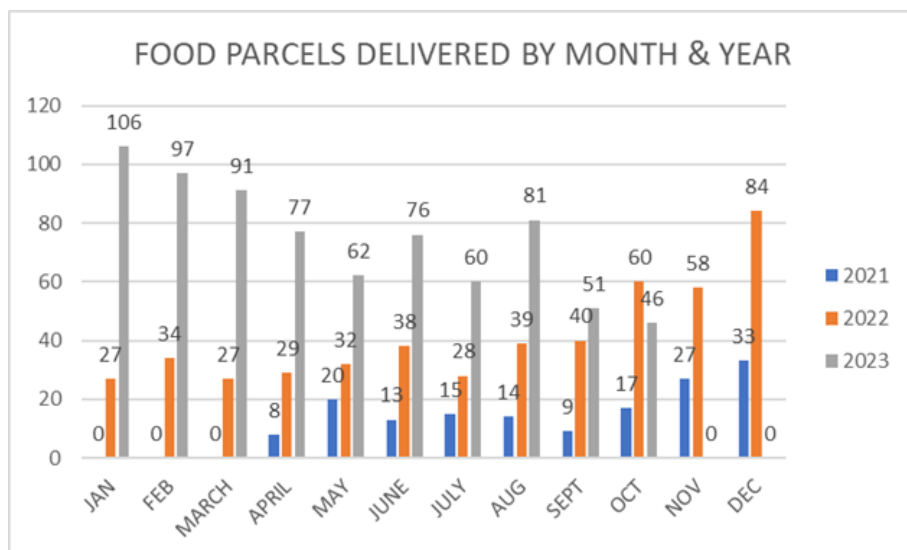


Every One Eats is an amazing example of what churches can do, linking with local charities and agencies.

This charity was set up by Rev'd Christine French at Kirk Hallam with neighbour Lindsey Rice, building on experience from the Ilkeston Winter Shelter. On Christmas Day this year the Every One Eats volunteers took out 200+ free Christmas Dinners, with pudding and treat bags too, expanding from the 175 meals delivered last year.

The Everyone Eats food bank (which takes food to people's front doorstep at an agreed time) has taken out over 600 food parcels in the Ilkeston area from 1st January to 31st October 2023. That breaks down to 776 adults, 509 children, 43 dogs and 16 cats.

Because of the increase in new requests for help, the Trustees decided that those who had been having food parcels twice a month for more than 3 months, could only have one parcel a month, reflecting that this provision is to support people at times of crisis in their lives.



Find out more about the work of Everyone Eats and how you might offer support at [Every One Eats | Facebook](#)

Advent and Christmas in our Deanery



At the time of sending this out, we are still (albeit by a matter of days!) in the Christmas season, during which our churches have been busy reaching out in all sorts of festive and worshipful ways to our communities. Here is a little slice of what we have been up to during the weeks of Advent and Christmas.

Advent Baptisms at St John's Long Eaton



St John's folk gathered to celebrate and baptise Mahdi, Ali, Ali-reza and Mehrdad. All of them have been worshipping there for many months now, having arrived from Iran. The church celebrated their growing faith and commitment to Jesus with their baptisms and Persian sweets.



The Bible in Farsi



Rev. Sam Tredwell and Philippa baptised Kirsty – a new member of St John's Church. St John's borrowed the baptismal font from their friends at Long Eaton Church and celebrated together.

Advent and Christmas in our Deanery



Decorations at St Andrew's Swanwick beautifully enhanced their community Christmas coffee morning and Christmas worship.



All Saints and St Mary's Sawley, along with puppet friends, presented "The Real Christmas" to local school groups.



All Change in 2024 for...

- **Fr David Lawrence-March**, who bade farewell to Holy Trinity Ilkeston and St Laurence Long Eaton at the end of October 2023 to serve in the Diocese of Gloucester.
- **Rev Chris Holden**, whose retirement as Self Supporting Minister in the Denby Group began on 1st December 2023 and who now serves as a priest with Permission to Officiate.
- **Rev John Wigram**, who steps down as Vicar of All Saints Ripley and Priest-in-Charge at St Matthew Pentrich and St Andrew's Swanwick on 30th April 2024.
- **Rev Chris Smedley**, who retires from his ministry as Rector of St Michael's Breaston and St Chad Wilne and Draycott on 31st May 2024.

Thinking About Lent

**...but we've only just stopped thinking about Christmas!!
Is it that time of year already?**

With Ash Wednesday as early as 14th February this year, the answer is...yes!

Although many organisations have yet to make available their 2024 Lent offerings, here are a few possibilities to consider for Lent study or reading, either for yourself or for a church group.



The Church of England—Watch and Pray: Wisdom and Hope for Lent and Life.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleads with his disciples, “Stay here with me ... Watch and pray,” they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering.

This Lent all of us are encouraged to draw on the wisdom of Black Spirituality, particularly the practice of “tarrying” (waiting) as a community to draw closer to Jesus and to each other. This year’s resources have been inspired and informed by the 2024 Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent book, [Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for people of faith by Selina Stone](#) (SPCK). The daily reflections booklet (CHP) exploring the same themes has been written by Carlton Turner.

**Amazing
GRACE**
every nation, every tribe, every people



Diocese of Derby—Amazing Grace. This course jointly developed with the Diocese of Coventry was introduced for Lent 2023. Its main subject is understanding the problem of racism, those who experience it, the privilege of those who do not and its impact upon the church’s mission and ministry. There are downloadable resources for each week, which include prayer, lectio divina and a biblical reflection. Sessions are designed to last from between 75 and 90 minutes. It was well received last year and continues to be a valuable resource both for Lent study and at other times. Find out more at [Amazing GRACE \(amazing-grace.co.uk\)](http://amazing-grace.co.uk)



The Clewer Initiative—Over the last six months The Clewer Initiative has worked closely with the [World Council of Churches](#) to create an international Lent Resource for 2024, entitled True Freedom. <https://www.truefreedom24.com/>

True Freedom is a six week course, drawing on themes from the book of Galatians, and designed to encourage individuals and churches to respond to modern slavery in their communities.



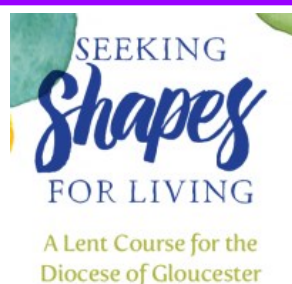
Christian Aid—Act on Poverty Christian Aid, along with partner organisations, has produced for 2024 a series of six resource packs for small groups, aimed at enabling churches and individuals to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of poverty both local and global, and to offer inspiration for actions big and small which can make a difference. The packs contain bible studies, audio and video recordings, questions for discussion, and a guide for churches to advocate for change. More information and

sign-up details at [Act on Poverty - Christian Aid](#)

Thinking About Lent



London Institute for Contemporary Christianity—Fruitfulness on the Frontline. This six-week programme explores six expressions of fruitfulness, using a resource book for individual reading, or videos and a discussion guide suitable for group use. Themes are: Modelling Godly Character; Making Good Work; Ministering Grace and Love; Moulding Culture; Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice; Messenger of the Gospel. More information with links for downloads here: [Fruitfulness on the Frontline | LICC](#)



Diocese of Gloucester—Shapes for Living. This 5-week Lent course invites participants into a pattern of life and discipleship which is sustaining and provides space to flourish. Mindful of the many pressures of modern living, and taking as its starting point the words of Jesus: 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10), the course is organised under five headings: Relating; Praying; Working; Playing; Growing. See [Shapes for Living – Diocese of Gloucester \(anglican.org\)](#)

In last year's January/February Deanery Newsletter we also highlighted the well-regarded "Life on the Breadline" Lent Course. Resources for this are still available here:



Life on the Breadline Drawing from findings from a three-year research project on urban poverty, Life on the Breadline's Lent Course promises a 6 week course using prayer, video, scripture, guided reflection and practical action. It covers themes including Christian responses to poverty, race, ethnicity, austerity and faith, deficits and assets, housing inequality and structural inequality.

More information at:

<https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk/churches/lent-course>

And Finally....

A Training Opportunity—The Catalyst Training Course

The Catalyst is a fully funded training course for volunteers and employed staff ministering alongside children and/or young people.

This six-month course includes 5 training sessions plus a 3-day conference run in partnership with Ridley Hall Cambridge. It is perfect for your key volunteers working with children and young people, and for those who could be. If you are a volunteer in a toddler group, helping at a youth club, doing Sunday morning sessions or serving in a children/young people's outreach programme, this is for you.

For more info see [Catalyst YCF ministry training advert](#) or contact:

Aidan.watson@derby.anglican.org.