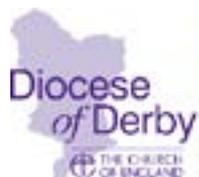


October 2024



# Priest in Charge of Ashbourne with Mappleton, Ashbourne St John, Clifton and Norbury with Snelston



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community  
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

# Archdeacon's Welcome



I am delighted that you are interested in finding out more about this unique and exciting post. We are looking for an enthusiastic priest with a pastoral heart and passion for market town and rural ministry. Someone who can work collaboratively within a minster model rebuilding a missional ministry team and engaging as part of a wider ecumenical team serving Ashbourne and working across these village communities.

We are praying for someone who will love people, recognise and seize opportunities, balancing tradition and innovation to engage creatively and missionally sustaining existing church life, developing lay ministries while also innovating and forming new partnerships and worshipping communities.

There is significant potential here for building upon tourism and visitor engagement especially at Norbury and St Oswald's with the help and support of our diocesan tourism officer. St Oswald's acts as a Civic Church and engages with several thousand people entering its doors every year. There are strong ecumenical relationships through Churches Together in Ashbourne and a willingness to work across boundaries for the sake of the Kingdom.

The church schools are keen to work with us and we have a desire to engage more effectively with parents and families. The cathedral is a potential partner to develop and expand our recently launched HymnPact® project supporting music in schools. In the fullness of time we would hope that Ashbourne could become a Growing Faith hub. St Oswald's choir has a strong musical tradition that we hope will bring new people into the life of the church and there are various missional activities in place that can be built upon to form new worshipping communities.

We are seeking a leader who can inspire others to use their gifts and work in partnership to transform lives through growing church and building community. In the past year we have lost key members of the ministry team and investing in identifying, training, nurturing and equipping lay people to develop their calling and vocation will be an important area to focus on. The smaller churches are also seriously considering combined governance and ways of working that will be more sustainable into the future and release energy for missional community engagement.

You will find a willingness and energy to look outward, to work in partnership with others and an aspiration to grow the church through generous faith, courageous hope, and life-giving love. Building on the network of relationships that are forming across the churches in the area, you will find supportive engagement from clergy and laity.

At a pivotal time in the life of the Diocese of Derby, this role offers an innovative opportunity to work and model a new way of leading churches into growth through partnering across boundaries as together we seek to be good news for all bringing God's kingdom near in transformed lives through growing church and building community. So do read on and if you are wondering whether this might be where God is calling you please contact me and request an informal conversation so I can answer any questions and we can begin exploring the possibility together.



The Venerable Nicky Fenton  
Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak and Dales

# Acting Area Dean's Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile. Carsington Deanery consists of three market towns – Matlock, Wirksworth and Ashbourne – along with a number of rural villages surrounding each town. The deanery is the result of merging two smaller deaneries and this coming together has benefitted both clergy and lay folk as we now have a greater pool of resources and experience from which to draw. The name of the deanery comes from the reservoir that sits at the heart of the geographical area.

Our clergy chapter meets regularly and is a place of mutual support and encouragement. Synod meetings cover a variety of subjects and are known to be a forum where issues and questions can be passed to Diocesan Synod. It is a place where we celebrate what is good in our parishes and we can also share the things that are more challenging and using a lot of our energy.

The hope and expectation is that after six months, the person appointed to this role will be invited to consider becoming area dean, accepting responsibility for supporting clergy wellbeing, accompanying parishes in vacancy and delivering deanery Chapter and Deanery Synod within the deanery supported by an assistant area dean.

There are many blessings and opportunities to be found in our context along with a number of challenges as well. Using the resources of the Parish Support Team, along with training and equipping lay people into the ministries to which they are called, will help us to continue to reach out to all those within our communities with the love of Christ.

I hope you are excited by what you discover about this role and may our gracious Lord give you discernment for the way ahead, remembering that “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it”.

# Our Shared Vision

This vacancy is an exciting and challenging opportunity for a new incumbent to lead and provide fresh vision to take our mission and faith forward. The combined congregations of all six churches, whilst keen to maintain their individuality and frequency of services, are also looking to be inspired by an individual who can help the churches grow and extend mission across the communities and beyond the church buildings.

The new incumbent will be working in a minster model with St Oswald's being the main civic church in the thriving market town of Ashbourne supporting the smaller rural churches which stand at the heart of their communities, helping to provide a sense of place, celebration and worship.

Our vision is that the new incumbent will love the people God calls into the church and its community and focus on the following unique opportunities:

Building on existing community engagement events such as Ossie's Kitchen and Ossie's Potters to bring people to faith and form new worshipping communities	Developing our work amongst schools, children, young people and households, exploring the potential for a Growing Faith hub based around Ashbourne
Build upon the HymnPact® initiative supporting music in schools as a way to develop children and young people's discipleship and leadership skills	Contributing to the Civic life of Ashbourne developing a voice in the public square, advocating for and leading initiatives to challenge injustice and serve the community
Creating a tourism and visitor engagement strategy for the benefice and building a strong relationship with the National Trust in Norbury	Working with the village churches to move to sustainable patterns of leadership and governance
Identifying and releasing lay people's gifts and calling enabling them to live out every day faith and forming, training and overseeing a new ministry team	

# The Community

Ashbourne is located 12 miles to the north west of Derby, on the A52. The nearby River Dove (see map) forms a natural boundary between Derbyshire and Staffordshire to the west. Dovedale and the White Peak lie to the north, though all the churches in the group are outside the Peak District National Park. Mappleton and Clifton are a five minute drive from Ashbourne town centre whilst Snelston and Norbury can be reached in 10 and 15 minutes respectively.

Ashbourne is an historic market town with a population of approximately 8,000 which is growing due to the continued building of new housing. It is an important tourist centre which describes itself as the “Gateway to the Peak.” Carsington Water and Alton Towers are within easy reach. As well as a variety of privately-owned housing, there are several Housing Association sites, a number of alms houses, sheltered accommodation, and residential houses and flats in the town centre. Over the last 30 years there has been a subtle change, as more people travel daily to work in Derby, Uttoxeter and Burton-on-Trent and an influx of retired persons.

St. Oswald’s Community Hospital has a range of facilities including a Physiotherapy Unit and Clinics for visiting Consultants and a walk in service at weekends. There are two GP surgeries in the town (one under the same roof as the hospital) as well as dentists, opticians, veterinary practices.

“The Leys” Residential Home on Old Derby Road is operated by Derbyshire County Council and is scheduled for closure. There are two other residential homes, only one with nursing provision.

There are many Clubs based in Ashbourne serving both the town and surrounding villages. These include Royal British Legion, Women’s Institute, Rotary Club, Inner Wheel, Masonic Lodge, the Lions, Probus, 41 Club, Tangent, Heritage Society, Antiques, Flower Arranging, Young Farmers, two community choirs and Field Clubs. Youth organisations such as Scouts and Guides, Trefoil Guild and various sporting clubs, covering all ages, flourish. U3A has a thriving membership and there is an active 50+ Forum. St Oswald’s church hall is used as a venue for several of the above.



The Leisure & Sports Centre includes a swimming pool, gym, sports hall and squash courts and has facilities for meetings and social events. The Recreational grounds, adjacent to the Memorial gardens, have well-kept facilities.

Ashbourne has a successful Arts Festival and Agricultural Show during the summer and the traditional game of Royal Shrovetide Football is still played on the town's streets on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. There is a weekly local newspaper, the Ashbourne News Telegraph, which has been supportive of our Church and carries a weekly "Word for the week" column by local Clergy belonging to Ashbourne Churches Together (ACT).

Other church groups that meet in Ashbourne are:

- All Saints Roman Catholic Church
- Ashbourne Methodist Church
- Elim Pentecostal Church
- Ashbourne Baptist Church
- Ashbourne Christian Fellowship
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Ukrainian Church

There are regular bus services to Derby (13 miles), Buxton (20 miles) and Uttoxeter (12 miles) as well as less frequent services to surrounding villages and towns. There are well-used Community buses and local taxi firms.

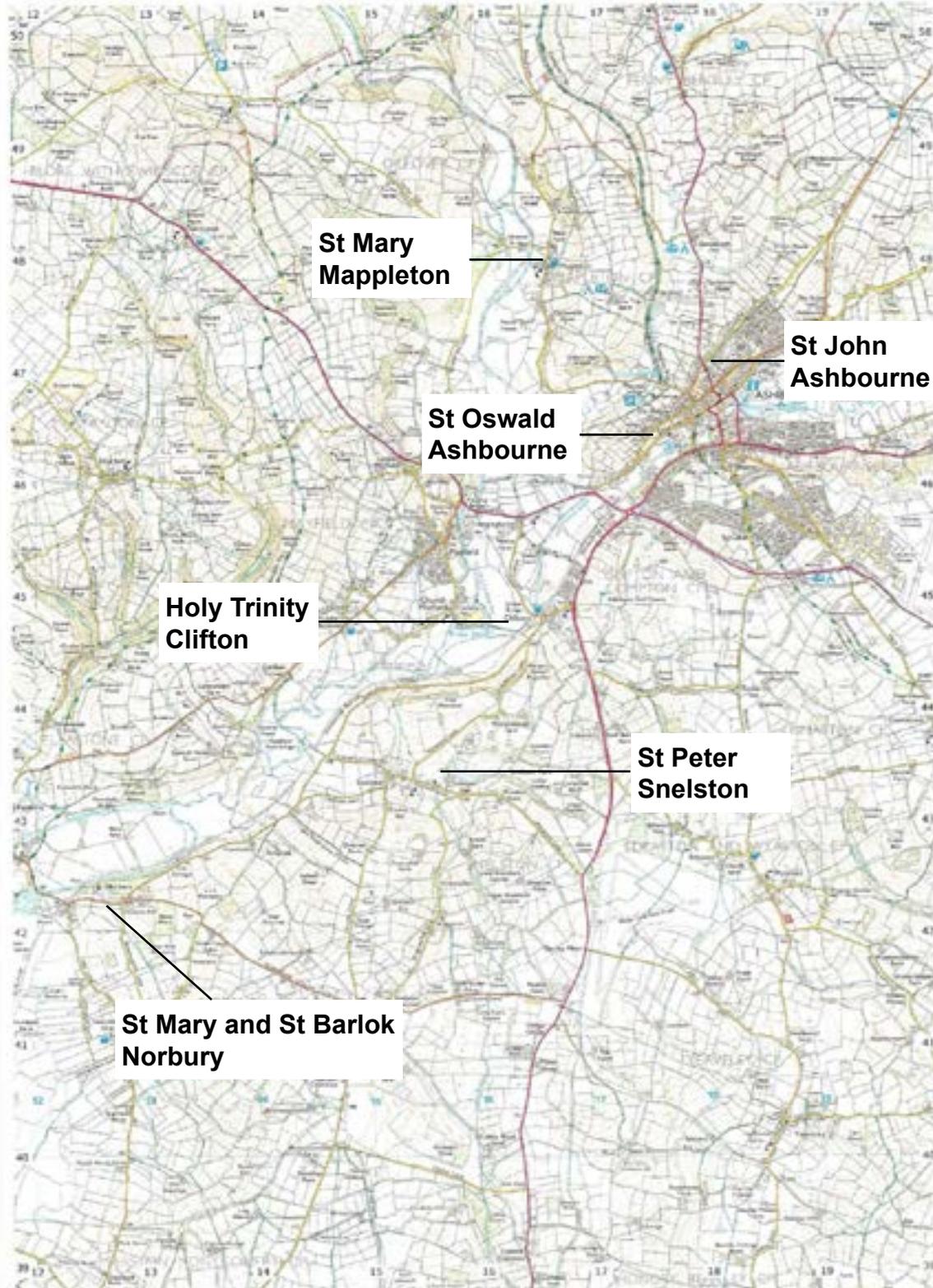
As a result of Derbyshire Dales District Council planning policy, development is at present restricted in the Peak Park whilst being actively encouraged in towns such as Ashbourne. A result of the new building is that new families are coming to live in the town, and establishing and maintaining contact with these will be of increasing importance in the future.

## Overview of the Benefices

Ashbourne with Mappleton, Ashbourne St. John's, Clifton and Norbury with Snelston is a diverse group of six churches in the Western Corner of the Derbyshire Dales.

The formation of the Ashbourne group of churches, as it now exists, can be traced back to the creation of the United Benefice of St Oswald Ashbourne with St Mary Mappleton in 1974, though it seems historically likely that the Vicar of Ashbourne and the Rector of Mappleton were frequently the same person! St John's Ashbourne joined in 1983, and then in 2008 Clifton (Holy Trinity) and the rural parishes of Norbury (St Mary and St Barlok) with Snelston (St Peter) joined the group.

There are six distinct and autonomous church communities. St John's, Ashbourne is a Peculiar and has Trustees rather than a PCC. Currently there are four PCCs but there is an appetite for the formation of a combined PCC for Clifton, Norbury and Snelston churches.



The 2021 Census statistics are shown in the table below:

Parish	Population in Parish	IMD Score	Age 0-4	Age 5-19	Age 20-29	Age 30-44	Age 45-69	Age 70+
Ashbourne	8,039	10.7	4.6%	16%	10%	16%	34.4%	19.1%
Clifton	2,033*	13.0	5.7%	17.6%	9.8%	17.3%	35.9%	13.5%
Norbury	291	17.3	4.9%	17.3%	5.6%	12.7%	46.1%	13.4%
Snelston	205	12.6	2.0%	14.3%	6.9%	7.4%	47.3%	22.2%

Note \*Clifton village has a population of approximately 500, but the parish extends to housing on the outskirts of Ashbourne.

There is very little ethnic or religious diversity (98% white, 59% Christian).

# Ministry Team

The Ministry team will consist of the incumbent and, for the next two years, support one day a week from the priest in the adjacent Peak Five benefice for work in schools and care home visits.

In recent years St Oswald's Group of Churches has been most blessed with the support of retired priests with Permission To Officiate, who aid the incumbent in facilitating worship at all Churches on a regular basis and in the wider Parish work including schools and Care Homes. As this is drawing to a close, a key task of the new incumbent is to identify giftings and vocations and to reform the ministry team.

# Parish Office

The Parish Office is located in St Oswald's Church Hall and is secured with a keypad and burglar alarm. The office is provided with two desks, computer, a photocopier/printer, telephone and broadband internet connection.

St Oswald's employs a Parish Administrator who works from the Parish Office. The Parish Administrator is employed for 14 hours per week and undertakes duties for the group of churches. The Parish Office is open on 3 mornings a week.

A weekly and a monthly newsletter are produced. The weekly newsletter is distributed by email whereas the monthly newsletter is available online and printed for those who do not have access to email. There is a website ([www.ashbournechurch.org](http://www.ashbournechurch.org)). The newsletters and website are maintained for the whole group of churches by the Parish Administrator.

# Pattern of Worship

Each church has regular Sunday services and the parishioners are passionate about maintaining these, but recognise that changes in the service rota will be required to reflect the resources available to lead services. The current normal service pattern is:

Church	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
St Oswald's Ashbourne	10:30 HC	09:00 BC	10:30 HC	10:30 HC	10:30 HC
	18:30 EV	10:30 HC 18:30 CE	18:30 EV	18:30 EV	18:30EV
St Mary's, Mappleton		09:15 HC			
St John's, Ashbourne	09:15 HC		09:30 MS		
Holy Trinity, Clifton				10:45 HC	
St Mary & St Barlok, Norbury	11:00 HC				
St Peter's, Snelston	09:15 HC		10:30 FS		

## Key:

BC : Breakfast Church (Lay Led)

CE : Choral Evensong

EV : Evensong (BCP)

FS : Family Service (Lay Led)

HC : Holy Communion (CW)

MS : Morning Service (Lay Led)

# 2023 Statistics for Mission

Church	Electoral Roll	USA	USCA	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
St Oswald's Ashbourne	115	89	4	26	8	25
St Mary's, Mappleton	22	17	1	2	0	1
St John's, Ashbourne	N/A	9	0	1	1	0
Holy Trinity, Clifton	13	7	0	1	0	5
St Mary & St Barlok, Norbury	14	12	2	1	0	3
St Peter's, Snelston	20	12	0	2	0	5

## Finance

Church	Common Fund Request 2023	Common Fund Paid 2023	Total Income 2023	Total Expenditure 2023	Restricted Reserves at 31/12/23	Unrestricted Reserves at 31/12/23
St Oswald's Ashbourne		£46,788	£217,400	£167,714	£288,409	£37,110
St Mary's, Mappleton	£89,096	£1,000	£5,882	£9,378	£21,968	£7,413
St John's, Ashbourne		£1,000	£30,552	£30,643	£641	£73,546
Holy Trinity, Clifton	£4,984	£675	£17,427	£8,054	Nil	£36,095
St Mary & St Barlok, Norbury	£8,459	£3,500	£18,890	£15,098	£51,915	£28,484
St Peter's, Snelston	£8,710	£2,500	£12,136	£8,352	£22,699	£50,929

Note: St John's reserves will be depleted in 2024 due to unforeseen expenditure to address dry rot in the attached cottage.

## Ashbourne Schools

The town is served by three primary schools:

- St Oswald's CofE Primary School is located opposite St Oswald's. The previous Incumbent was a governor and the PCC may appoint two further Governors (subject to Diocesan approval).
- Ashbourne Hilltop Primary School on Wyaston Road was built in the 1970s.
- Ashbourne Primary School built in the 1950s on Cokayne Avenue.

Each of the Primary schools has a nursery class and there are also three private nursery schools in the town.

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School (QEGS) is located on the Green Road in Ashbourne. It has one of the largest catchment areas in the country. It is a highly-regarded Phase 2 Academy. Historically, the Bishop has the right to appoint one governor to QEGS and this is usually the Incumbent.

St Oswald's clergy take regular assemblies in all the Ashbourne schools. Carol Services, Founders Day services, etc. have been held in St. Oswald's, St. John's, Clifton and Norbury. Through Ashbourne Churches Together each of the Primary schools has a Christian Collective worship every week.

There are also Cof E primary schools in Clifton and Norbury.



## St Oswald's, Ashbourne

St. Oswald's was consecrated in 1241 and is a large Grade 1 listed building with magnificent stained glass and memorials with historical significance. The church building is well maintained and is open daily from 10:00 to 17:00, and receives many visitors, including organised groups, as befits such a famous and distinctive church. The last Quinquennial was in 2020 and since then the Chancel roof has been replaced and other minor repairs have been completed.

The churchyard is closed and is maintained by the District Council. There is a memorial garden for the burial of ashes.

The Church Hall was opened in 1992 and extended in 2001 and was refurbished in 2024. It is in great use for Church functions and is available to the general public for hiring. There is a well-equipped kitchen and separate meeting Room. The Parish Office is situated in an upper area, created at the time of the extension. There are toilets, which are fully accessible.

There is a car park adjacent to the Church Hall, which is accessed from School Lane. The main car park can accommodate about 30 cars. There is also an overflow car park which can hold up to 6 cars.

## Patterns of Worship

The tradition of services at St Oswald's is middle of the road; vestments are worn. The laity take part in services by reading the lesson, leading the Intercessions and acting as Servers and Eucharistic Assistants. A weekly Holy Communion (CW) service is held at 10:30 and Evensong at 18:30. A weekly recorded service is produced and made available via the church website.

## Fresh Expression

Breakfast Church is held in the Church Hall on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 9am to 9:45am and is led by members of the laity.

## PCC

There is one combined PCC for St Oswald's Ashbourne and St Mary's Mappleton which meets six times per year and a Standing Committee consisting of the incumbent and church officers also meets six times per year. There are two Churchwardens, one Treasurer and one PCC Secretary.

## Music

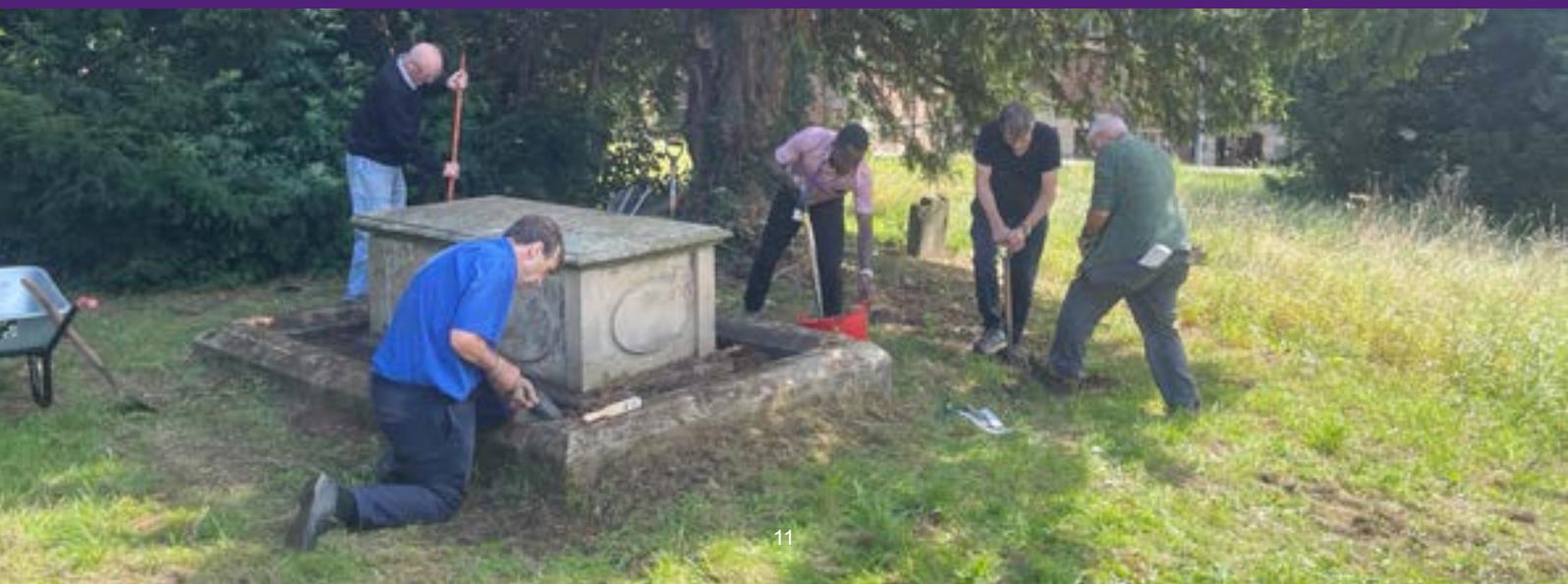
The choral tradition is a real strength of St. Oswald's and is led by our Director of Music with 30 choristers and four organists on the books. The hymn book we use is Common Praise although we access a wide variety of hymnody to enhance our worship. We work closely with other choirs in the town and RSCM choirs in the diocese and beyond. Many churches within and near rely on support from St Oswald's for both worship and music. Recitals and concerts are held in the church on a regular basis throughout the year.

The RSCM project HymnPact® has been introduced to St Oswald's Primary School and is being led by the Peak Five incumbent. We hope our new incumbent will help us reach out to children, young people and households through developing our choir and building upon HymnPact. Derby Cathedral music department are keen to partner with parishes supporting projects such as these.

## Church Activities

Activities that take place at St Oswald's include:

- Mothers' Union meets on the first Tuesday of the month (afternoon) and on the third Thursday (evening). Mother's Union support Baptism Ministry by attending Baptisms to welcome the family and friends and by providing a gift, cards and candles.
- Bell ringers ring before each 10.30 am and 6.30 pm service, for weddings and special



occasions, and practice on Wednesday evenings.

- Choir practice takes place on Friday evenings.
- Church cleaning is carried out by volunteers from the congregation
- Flower Arranging is undertaken weekly (excluding Lent and Advent) with additional arrangements at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and special services
- Connect Group is a home discussion group which meets weekly
- Home / Bible Study Group that meets weekly
- A Book Club meets monthly
- A Book stall which has an excellent range of Christian and secular books and cards is located in the church.
- A walking group organises two walks each month, one of approximately 5 miles and the other 10 miles
- Ossia's Kitchen established five years ago, is totally run by volunteers from the church congregation and the wider community, has provided circa 11,000 meals to date. It has been nominated for 2024 Kings Award for Voluntary Service and is a member of Derbyshire Local Integrated Group (DLIG) addressing Wellbeing and Health. It also works with Social Prescribing
- Ossia's Potters meet fortnightly and give members an opportunity to work with others to be creative and close to nature by undertaking small gardening projects to give a sense of group fulfilment, overcoming isolation and loneliness.
- Carers Count, meet monthly for respite with coffee and chat for carers
- St Oswald's School hold a Clergy or School led Service in Church each month, to which parents & carers are invited.
- St Oswald's School use the Church as an education resource with clergy and volunteers supplementing curriculum teaching with two sessions for each year group each academic year.
- The Church also hosts frequent education visits from other Schools from in around Ashbourne.
- Home and Care Home Communion visits by both Clergy and laity
- Bereavement visits by the Clergy
- There is an All Souls Service each November, to which those who have been bereaved during the year are invited
- A Christmas Tree Festival is held over the Christmas and New Year period.
- St. Oswald's has an important civic role for the town and holds special occasions during the year including the annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service and Mayor's Civic Service.

## **Ecumenical Links**

Ashbourne Churches Together (ACT) is actively involved in such activities as Christian Aid collections, One World activities, Arts Festival activities, lantern parade at Christmas as well as shared prayer meetings for Lent, a pulpit swap, Walk of Witness on Good Friday and Lent lunches.



## St Mary's Mappleton

Mappleton is a small estate village situated approximately two miles from Ashbourne. There are about 50 dwellings of which 8 are owned by the Walker-Okeover estate and the rest owned privately. St Mary's Mappleton is first mentioned in records in the reign of Edward 1.

The current church was built in the 18th century: the architect was James Gibbs, a contemporary of Sir Christopher Wren. Gibbs designed Derby All Saints (now our Cathedral) and St Martin in the Fields and the architectural links are seen in St Mary's. St. Mary's was brought into a United Benefice with Ashbourne in 1974 which it still is today. The church can hold a congregation of 80 downstairs. There is a small balcony which can hold 20.

Repairs are always ongoing; the last quinquennial inspection was completed in December 2022. The church has mains water but there are no facilities such as a kitchen, toilets, etc.

### Patterns of Worship

Churchmanship is middle of the road; vestments are worn. The organ is played at every service. Since COVID, normally one Sunday service per month is held at 9.15 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday of the month and is usually Holy Communion (CW). Special Services – Easter, Christmas, Harvest and the Christmas Carol Service – are usually very well attended by villagers and visitors. Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms are held during the year. Arrangements for these are made through the Parish Office in the first instance. The churchyard is open.

### Church Activities

Very few social activities take place in St. Mary's, however a community coffee morning takes place in the village Pavilion which is attended by members of the congregation, who help with the refreshments, and a wonderful Harvest supper is held in the local public house.



## St. John's Ashbourne

St. John's is a 'Peculiar' church, also known as a private chapel. It sits on Buxton Road in Ashbourne above the Market Place.

St. John's currently have two services each month, one Holy Communion (usually CW but occasionally BCP) and one congregation-led. For the congregation-led service we have recently adopted a Taize style, which we have found to be beautifully spiritual, and we hope to develop this style of worship further. We have an organist for some services but for others we use pre-recorded music or have guitar accompaniment.

As well as the regular Anglican services, St John's has become a hub of worship! Ashbourne (Independent) Baptist Church hold two services in St. John's on Sundays and the Ashbourne Christian Fellowship holds a service on Sunday mornings in St. John's church hall.

Because we are a Peculiar, we have trustees rather than a PCC and we have welcomed trustee members from all the churches currently using St. John's, as well as other members of the local community.

Several community groups use St. John's church or hall for their meetings – Ashbourne Singers, ACE Youth Trust, Ashbourne Town Band, art groups, flower arrangers, an embroidery group and dog training classes amongst others. The Ashbourne Festival office is also located within the church hall.

There is a small cottage attached to St. John's Hall which is rented out privately.



## Holy Trinity Clifton

Clifton is a village of approximately 500 people situated about 1.5 miles from the centre of Ashbourne. The main section of the village, including the school, lies just off the A515, but it extends along some side lanes to the A52 bordering onto Mayfield. Properties include original cottages, some outlying farms, an estate of modern family size detached homes, and an estate of semi-detached houses which were originally Council property but are now virtually all owner occupied. Properties and gardens are all well cared for.

Whilst a number of residents are retired, there are a significant number of young families in the village with children either pre-school, attending Clifton school or Queen Elizabeth's School in Ashbourne.

The village school is a C of E Primary school in the federation of Dove Valley with 103 pupils who mainly come from Clifton and Ashbourne. A member of the PCC is on the governing body, and there are excellent links between village, church and school.

The village has links to the Clifton Cricket Club and Ashbourne Golf Club. A variety of classes and activities are held in the Church Hall , including Pilates, Yoga, Short Mat bowling and Ballroom Dancing. The Cock Inn is a focal point for the village and the church community. With "after service" socialising on many occasions.

The local village newsletter issued by the Parish Council gives all the details of services each month in all the surrounding churches. We also receive contributions from fundraising activities organised by the Parish Council on a regular basis.

Holy Trinity Church sits in the middle of the village of Clifton, opposite the village pub (which is significant) and is surrounded by some of the original village cottages. Holy Trinity is a Grade 2 listed building, originally built by subscription in 1854 on the site of an old chapel. The Clock in the Lychgate has been repaired and refurbished with an hourly chime and new green and gold face. All done by one of the villagers.

## Church Life

A service of Holy Communion is held once a month and currently a service on the fifth Sunday is shared with St. Oswald's Church at 10.30 am. Special annual services include Mothering Sunday, Holy Trinity Patronal Service, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, and Carol Service at Christmas. School Collective Worship is held once a month with 'end of term', school Harvest Festival, Easter Service, Christmas Christingle and Carol Service all held annually. Weddings, baptisms and funeral services are held in Church, and there is a sentimentality about coming back to Clifton for such occasions.

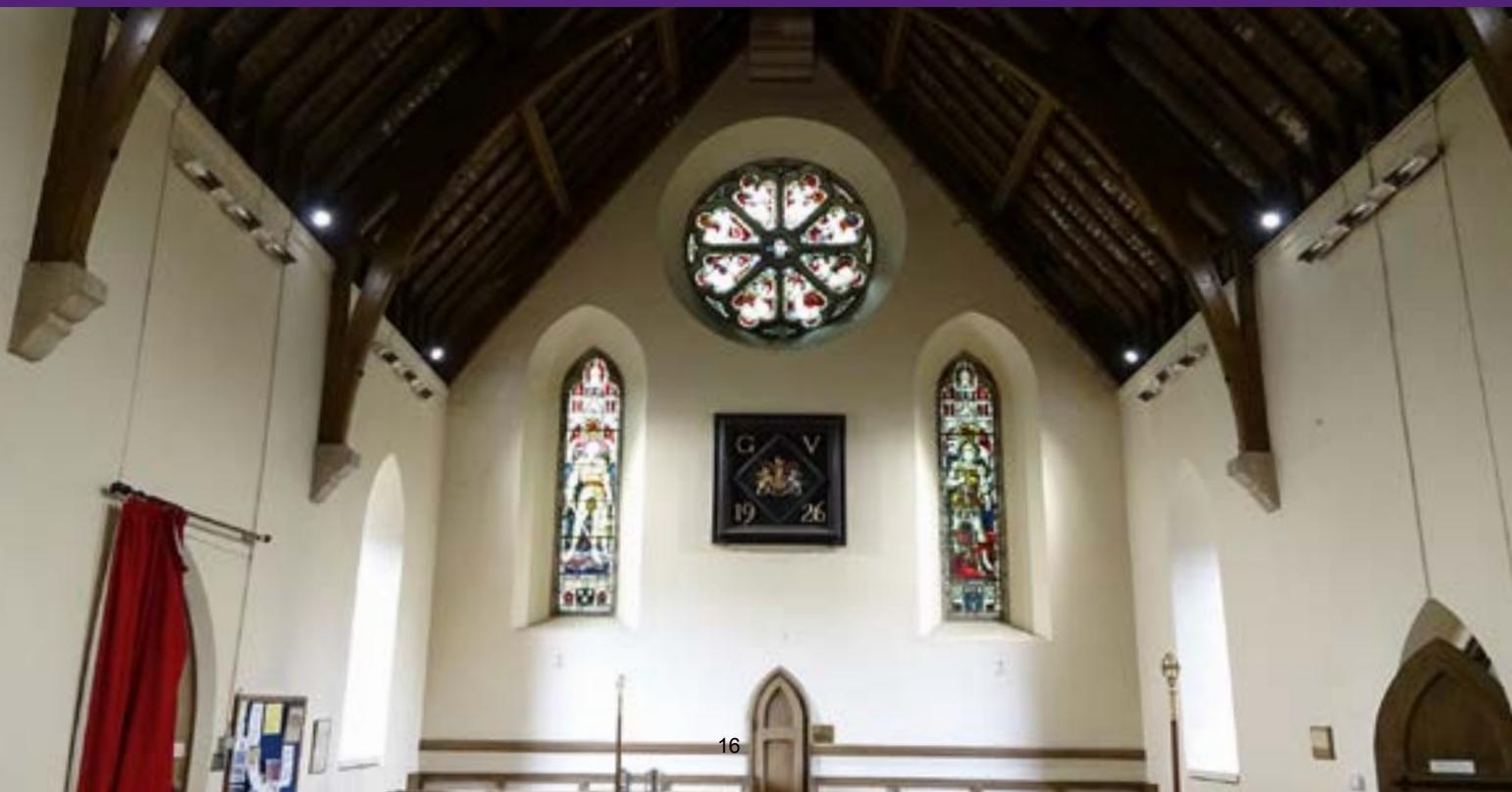
There are currently 3 members on the PCC including 1 churchwarden/treasurer. There is concern that membership is made up of elderly members of the congregation and encouraging new membership has been difficult. The PCC is committed to encouraging use and access to the church and to widening the church community. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the extension cemetery within the village. Mention should be made of the excellent support for over 30 years that we have had from our Reader Mike Warner. Unfortunately he passed away recently and will be sadly missed as a member of our PCC.

## Church Property

Clifton Smith Church Hall is a separate building about 150 yards from the church. The management of the hall is the responsibility of the PCC but is delegated to a separate committee which includes representatives of user groups and the PCC. The main user of the hall is Clifton School – for school meals, school activities and some after school clubs.

## Church Activities

All church members also play an active part in village life and activities. The village is a member of the Parish Giving Scheme and is well supported. We also hold an annual Village Lunch which is well supported. We hold a Lent Lunch in the Church Hall annually.





## St Peter's, Snelston

A Church or some form of Chapel has existed in Snelston since at least 1066. The church was mostly served by a curate as a daughter church of the more powerful church at Norbury. Snelston became a separate Parish and had its own rectory for the periods of 1871-1928 (Snelston House).

Little is known about the church, but it remains on the same site and was always in closeness to the Lord of the Manor. John Harrison, unimpressed with what is thought to have been a very dilapidated 15th Century church rebuilt the church, leaving only the tower. Compared to Harrison's other great buildings in Snelston the church was deemed as unsatisfactory and his daughter Juliana Bowyer-Stanton rebuilt the church in 1908 and this is the splendid church we see today. In 1928 the church rejoined with Norbury and in 1971 it joined with Clifton and in 2007 it joined the Ashbourne Group of Churches.

### History of Snelston

Since the Domesday Book, Snelston has gone from Abbey owned land through a succession of manorial ownership. It has been connected to many local families including the de Ferrers', Montgomery's, Okeover's, Bassett's and Bennett's. The parish always has had strong connections with Norbury which was then a powerful manor. In 1682 Robert Docksey acquired the estate and the village entered a period of continuous ownership and development. In 1769 William Bowyer of Roston brought the estate and through him and various failures of inheritance and legal disputes the estate came into the ownership of John Harrison in the early 1800's, he was married to Elizabeth Bowyer-Evans a descendant of William Bowyer. John Harrison's wealth came from his father's foundry business in Derby and he was successful lawyer during the Napoleonic wars. He redeveloped the village, built the current network of roads and built a new Hall. He also added to his property and Snelston become the centre of a considerable estate taking in various lands and properties in Edlaston & Wyaston, Clifton & Compton, Norbury & Roston, Cubley, Marston and further afield. The estate passed via the marriage of his daughter into the Stanton family in 1906. The 5th generation of the Stanton family retains the estate and the Lordship of the Manor.

The Snelston we see today dates from the period of John Harrison and with the odd exception most of the building date from the 1820's. The estate today consists of c900 acres and owns 17% of the houses. Up unto the late 1970's the estate consisted of 15 tenanted stock and dairy farms with the estate cottages housing estate or farm workers. The Estate ground today consists of two tenanted farms and the rest of the land is farmed in hand or on seasonal short term tenancies. The remaining land is in private ownership with 6 owner occupied farms and the remaining ground is owned and managed by people residing outside the parish. The village still retains much of the feel of a traditional estate village and plays an active role in the life and landscape of much of the parish.

## **Current Worship Patterns:**

Worship is middle of the road, with vestments worn. Currently we have two services per month. Holy Communion is held on the 1st Sunday of the month and a Service of the Word on the 3rd Sunday. Festivals Easter, Patronal, Harvest, Advent and Christmas are celebrated in combination with available Clergy. Baptism, marriages and funerals take place as required. The graveyard is open.

## **PCC**

There are currently 8 members of the PCC, which include one Church Warden and the Treasurer.

## **Clubs and Societies:**

The Church PCC organises a variety of fundraising events which are supported by the whole community. The Reading Room committee organise a number of annual social events in the Reading Room and village annually.

## **Our Vision**

Our Vision is to encourage Christian faith within our community. This traditionally has centered around our Parish Church and the role that it plays in a rural village. However, inspired by Bishop Libby we are keen to engage the whole community, not just regular worshipers, into making the church a centre for community activity and interaction. We see the future as follows:

Continue to encourage wider community involvement and belonging through a flexible range of services and events which do not necessary revolve around traditional worship. To make it suitable for all ages and enabling individuals to find Christian faith which is relevant and accessible to them.

We wish to work closer with our all our fellow churches in the Ashbourne Group and have already taken actions to do this. Also to support our neighbouring Church of England Primary School's in Norbury and Clifton which our local children generally attend.

We would like to modernise our church facilities to include a kitchen and toilet as well as making the church available for wider community activities.

Promote financial stability through active fundraising and Parish Giving schemes.

To promote the church both within the community and wider for Christenings and Weddings.



## St Mary and St Barlok, Norbury

The Church which serves the parishes of Norbury and Roston is a hidden medieval gem, set high above the banks of the river Dove, on the border of Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

The present church was built in 1295 by the Fitzherbert family, with later additions in the 14th and 15th centuries. There is evidence of earlier Saxon and Norman occupation; three Saxon crosses which were found on the site are displayed in the church.

The 13th century, Old Norbury Manor House, home of the Fitzherbert's, now owned by the National Trust, is situated adjacent to the church.

Norbury church displays a wealth of medieval artwork and architecture. The crowning glory is the chancel, having eight complete, rare grisaille stained glass windows, dating from 1306. The chancel has been described as a lantern in stone. The windows have recently undergone major cleaning and refurbishment by Holywell Glass of Wells, at a cost of £155,000, mostly funded by English Heritage.

There are also two very fine examples of alabaster tombs of members of the Fitzherbert family, which are of national importance. More information is available on the web site [www.norburychurch.co.uk](http://www.norburychurch.co.uk)

### Patterns of Worship

Worship is middle of the road, with vestments worn. Holy Communion is held on the 1st Sunday of the month. Services are attended by a core of 8 to 12 people, with up to 60 at festivals. The church has seating for approximately 200. The church has a fine organ,

recently overhauled. There is not a resident organist or choir. There is a team of bell ringers who ring approximately once a month at festivals and weddings as required. Baptism, marriages and funerals take place as required. The graveyard is open.

## Church Activities

Norbury church serves the combined villages of Norbury and Roston. These are rural, typical of the area, with houses and farms scattered a distance from the church, some in a maze of deep lanes.

Norbury has a vibrant Church of England Primary School, with which the church has very close contact, it is hoped to develop this further. The church pays for transport for the children to attend church services as the school is approximately 1 mile away from the church.

## PCC

There are currently 5 members of the PCC, and no Churchwarden.

## Church Building

The church building is in excellent condition, with a clean bill of health given at the last quinquennial, although some minor work is needed on the masonry of one window. There is mains water but no toilets or kitchen facilities currently in the church. There is a toilet next door at the Manor House. The church is heated with a modern boiler and has a modern sound loop system.

There is a Village hall next to the school which is used for PCC meetings, harvest suppers and fund raising events.

## The Way Ahead

School children and families are welcomed at church, perhaps an after school service is something we could set up. There is a very spiritual atmosphere in the church for visitors and those visiting the historic building.



# St Oswald's CofE Primary

As Head teacher at St Oswald's Primary School for twenty years we have created a community which "Learns and Grows Together". We nurture the tiny seeds (that are each individual child and our community) to grow into the mighty tree, as Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven (Parable of the Mustard Seed- Matthew 13) Our ethos is underpinned by six core values; hope, perseverance, friendship, forgiveness, respect and honesty.

We are a 'Good' School judged 'Outstanding' for Behaviour and Safety and the Early Years. The whole school team cares passionately about securing good outcomes for ALL our children. "created a dedicated, hardworking staff team that shares leaders' high aspirations for the school."(Ofsted 2019)

We are relentless in our drive to ensuring the best as our OFSTED report highlights. "The headteacher and deputy headteacher are passionate and highly ambitious for the school. They are determined that only the best is good enough for pupils. The school motto of 'learning and growing together' continues to permeate the school..." (Ofsted 2019)

Our SIAM's Inspection judged our school to be an 'Outstanding Church School Leaders have ensured that pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development sits at the heart of the curriculum. This prepares them well for both the next stage of their education and for life in modern Britain. (Ofsted 2019)

We work closely with St Oswald's Church. " Biblical teaching reinforces the school's vision and values and pupils clearly make connections between them. Local clergy regularly lead worship and provide innovative support through 'Breakfast Church.' This is well attended by pupils and their families who cannot always attend a Sunday service. Parents hold the local vicar in high regard and this supports the strong relationship between school and church."

Regular services are held within the Church: annual Church services linked to the Church Calendar and in addition to this, monthly collective worship services, to which parents are invited. St Oswald's Church plays a large part in our teaching of Religious Education. Each class within the school makes 2 visits to church where members of the church team are integral in supporting their specific curricular teaching and widening the children's knowledge. "The school ensures adults as well as children thrive as each child is cared for individually as one of God's children and parents talk of being able to go to school for support and help. The school has a clear ethical ethos of welcoming all pupils. It goes the extra mile by actively seeking opportunities for inclusion and diversity." (SIAMS Inspection 2019)

We would like the new Vicar to be warm and welcoming- a Vicar who understands that St Oswald's C.E. Primary School is the school specifically linked to the Church. A Vicar who regularly attends Governors' meetings and is part of the school community. We would like a Vicar who is present not one who is so pulled across other parishes, churches, schools that they find it continually hard to fulfil their role of the incumbent vicar of St Oswald's. We would like a Vicar who has a sparkle and an enthusiasm at the beginning of their tenure to be able to keep that sparkle after a year or two.

Our school website links: [www.stoswaldsschool.co.uk](http://www.stoswaldsschool.co.uk)

# Clifton CofE Primary School

Clifton CE (VC) Primary School is nestled in the small, quaint village of Clifton on the outskirts of the historic market town of Ashbourne in Derbyshire. Established in 1854, the school was originally founded to cater for the educational needs of families within the Clifton parish. Whilst there are currently a small group of children who live in the village, the school now serves a far broader catchment area, welcoming students from Ashbourne, Mayfield and other surrounding areas.

As an inclusive educational institution, Clifton CE Primary School prides itself on fostering a sense of belonging and community among its students. Rooted in Christian principles, the school's ethos is underpinned by twelve core values that are integrated into every aspect of school life. These values include:

**Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Courage, Compassion, Generosity, Forgiveness, Trust, Justice, Service, Truthfulness, and Thankfulness.**

A strong partnership with Clifton Holy Trinity Church enriches the spiritual life of the school community. Regular worship sessions are held at the church, providing students and families with opportunities to come together in celebration during key festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Christingle, Easter, and Remembrance. Led by Reverend Nigel, these child-centred services offer a meaningful space for reflection and communal engagement. "Let Your Light Shine" encapsulates the essence of Clifton Primary School. This encourages each member of the school family to strive for excellence in education, spirituality and morality by placing a strong emphasis on nurturing students through Christian values. By upholding these values, the school aims to empower every individual to achieve to their full potential by making a positive impact both within the school community and beyond.

At Clifton CE Primary School, a commitment to academic excellence is intertwined with a dedication to personal and spiritual growth. Through a supportive and caring environment that promotes the values of the Christian faith, the school endeavours to inspire pupils to excel academically, grow spiritually and contribute positively to society, embodying the principles of friendship, respect, and service.

Our school website can be found at: [www.clifton.derbyshire.sch.uk/welcome](http://www.clifton.derbyshire.sch.uk/welcome)

# Norbury CofE Primary School

We are a small rural school, surrounded by nature and filled with laughter and learning. We know and respect our children as individuals and provide a positive environment for learning, opening up horizons of hope and aspirations for them. We want our children to leave school equipped with the self-esteem, resilience, empathy, kindness and ambition to success as lifelong learners and members of their local and global community.

Ofsted recognises our work as a 'good' school (December 23), stating that 'The school is highly inclusive' and 'ambitious for all pupils' and describing our children as 'highly accepting' and well prepared for life in modern Britain. Children and parents describe our school as a 'great big family', with one parent summing up the views of many; 'My child is happy and worry free at this school, and learns and develops every day'. Our most recent SIAMS report (2018) describes our school as 'a welcoming, inclusive school that has strong relationships based on Christian values'.

## Our links with St Mary and St Barlok

We are a nurturing, inclusive community that celebrates the life-giving message of Jesus Christ. We recognise, develop and appreciate everyone's gift so that they may let their light shine! (Matthew 5:16). We know that God loves each one of us to bits, and wants the best for all of his creation. Underpinning this are daily acts of Collective Worship, working together to develop our understanding of Christian values through reflection, story, song and prayer.

We are proud of our location at the heart of the village of Norbury and are keen to engage fully with village life. We visit St Mary and St Barlok every half term. Our Collective Worship Group of children lead us in acts of worship and families are encouraged to join us for these special times together. In this way, we hope that we can contribute to the growth of the Church congregation. Some of our families attend Church regularly outside of school time, with children making positive and enthusiastic contributions to Church services.

## What would we like from our new vicar?

Our children would like someone who will visit and become part of our school community, and will get to know them and their families. We would like to work with someone who is kind and helps to make learning fun. We would like someone who supports us on our journey to developing as thoughtful and kind members of our church and local community. Our headteacher and governors would like someone who is willing to help us to develop our school vision and values. Find out more about our school at [www.norbury.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.norbury.derbyshire.sch.uk)



# Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne

The QEGS Vision: we care, therefore we question, we explore, we give and as a result, we succeed.

At QEGS, we value education in the broadest sense; with sport, the arts, enterprise, performance, employability skills, competition, cultural school visits and many other amazing opportunities taking equal standing with academic success. At QEGS, our goal is to prepare students for life beyond school, for QEGS students to be employable, to be life-long learners and to be happy and successful in life. We believe that for students to achieve their best academically their education should be enriching and well balanced to ensure they are mentally and physically ready for the academic challenges they will face. Enabling our students to be the best they can possibly be is our duty and privilege.

Ofsted 2024: 'Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School continues to be a good school.' 'Pupils describe extra activities as the 'best things' about the school. The wide variety of clubs and activities means that there is something for everyone. Teachers join in too: for example, the Race for Life event involved many young people and members of the community. This not only encourages participation, but also shows the school's commitment to engaging with the community' 'Leaders are considerate of the workload and well-being of staff. Staff say that they feel valued and appreciated. Staff retention is strong. One member of staff summed up the views of many by commenting that the school, 'is a great place to work [and] I look forward to coming to work every day'.

We work with the church on a number of school events such as Founders Day and a Christmas service. We also have church representation on our local governing body and the church support the wellbeing of our students and staff.

We would be looking for someone who can get involved in school life and support our existing school/church events and also suggest more! Someone who cares about young people and the staff who provide their education.

[www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

# The Vicarage



The vicarage is 3 Spire Close, Bellevue, Ashbourne, DE6 1DB.

It is a modern, spacious, well-maintained property with ample parking. Located within a highly regarded location on a small prestige development overlooking a green area with footpaths to the town centre, Mappleton, Thorpe and the Tissington Trail, it enjoys the convenience of local amenities while being surrounded by open countryside.



## How to Apply

Thank you for reading this profile. We very much look forward to hearing from you and will be happy to supply any further information you may need. If you have any specific questions or would value a pre-application conversation then please contact:

Ven Nicky Fenton [nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org](mailto:nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org)

Be assured you are held in our prayers as you discern whether God might be calling you to this role.