

Volume 1 | Issue 1  
**February 2025**

# Community of Prayer Newsletter

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*'The heart of spirituality  
is a thirst, a longing for  
the living God, to know  
him and to come to a  
deeper and deeper  
union with him through  
prayer even in the here  
and now'  
St Teresa of Avila*

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***Thy Kingdom Come***  
***29 May 2025 -***  
***8 June 2025***

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Welcome to the first newsletter bringing together information about the work of spirituality in the Diocese of Derby and promoting the 2027 Community of Prayer.

Three newsletters are planned for the coming year, the second to be sent out at the end of April and third in July.

The newsletter will highlight the role of the Diocesan Spirituality Group, resourcing and training days, quiet days as well as items of interest to all those who have signed up to the 2027 Community of Prayer.

## Thy Kingdom Come

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Thy Kingdom Come. This year there will be a special focus on 'The Lord's Prayer', and several gatherings are being planned. Thy Kingdom Come is for all churches and congregations, it is an opportunity for all of us to pray for individuals to become Christ's disciples.

The diocesan vision is about transforming lives, growing our churches and building community. In praying for each other we can see the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all people. To find out more visit the website - <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Bishop Malcolm is hosting an online meeting on **Monday, 3 March at 7.30pm** to discuss the opportunity to promote and pray Thy Kingdom Come in the diocese this year. Please contact [bishopofrepton@derby.anglican.org](mailto:bishopofrepton@derby.anglican.org) to receive a Zoom invitation.

## Spirituality Statement

The Diocesan Spirituality Group have been reviewing its role and seek to closely align the spirituality work with the Diocesan Vision and Strategy. A new statement was drafted at the November 2024 meeting which aims to explain the role of the DSG, which reads as follows:

***We recognise that spirituality is something that every human being has and is something to be nurtured and developed in all of us regardless of age. The Diocesan vision of "transformed lives through growing church and building community" is rooted in our***

*making and encouraging of Christian disciples. The diocesan spirituality group (DSG) seeks to offer ways to deepen your walk with God, following Jesus as the Holy Spirit works to transform your inner journey leading to outward faith.*

## 2025 Programme

### New ASA course

The new Art of Spiritual Accompaniment (ASA) course started on 20 January. There are a group of 15 people taking part in the course. The training team is made up of six experienced clergy and lay spiritual directors and it is co-ordinated by Ali Craig.

Due to demand and the timings of the 2025 course there were several people who weren't able to apply, their names have been kept, and they will be notified of the next ASA in due course.

### Spiritual Directors Online Catchup

Many spiritual directors were able to attend our first online coffee morning in November 2024. All spiritual directors will receive an invitation to a second meeting on **Thursday, 3 April 2025 at 3.30pm**. Cameron will give a brief overview of resource days. Please look out for an email from Dawn Knight about these events and requesting your details for 2025.

### Cycle of Prayer

Please prayer for the ministry and mission of the diocese, the parishes, churches and individuals. Many people still seem unaware of the diocesan Cycle of Prayer, this can be accessed via the Diocesan website: [www.derby.anglican.org/prayer](http://www.derby.anglican.org/prayer).



### Quiet Days and Lent Retreat

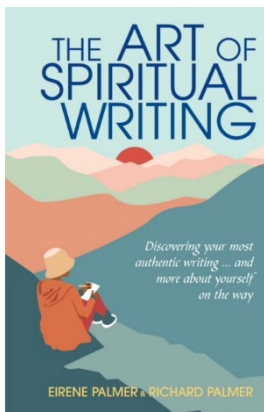
**'In their Footsteps'** led by Cameron Butland. Monday 31 March 2025 at St Helen's Darley Dale. A day for the retired clergy to explore and experience the distinctive prayer of British Christians. Cameron Butland will draw on the example of the earliest saints from the fifth to the eighth centuries. The day will focus on the distinctive features of what has come to be referred to as 'Celtic spirituality'. Lastly the day will also reference contemporary Christian teachers and communities. The day itself will have three talks, quiet time for personal reflection and two times of guided prayer. The retired clergy will receive their invitation direct from the Bishop's Office to book a place.

**'Deepening our life of prayer'** led by Bishop John Stroyan Saturday, 5 April 2025. St Alkmund's Church Room, Derby. Bishop John was Bishop of Warwick from 2005 to 2023. He was appointed President of Association for Promoting Retreats in 2017, and Patron in 2024, on his retirement from active ministry. He is an

experienced retreat leader and has a keen interest in the Eastern Spiritual Tradition, from which he draws deeply in his devotional book 'Turned by Divine love'. He writes, *'A fundamental priority of my ministry is the spiritual renewal of God's people and the deepening of our life of prayer'*. Bishop John has been actively involved in the ministry of healing and in the encouragement of this ministry in parishes and elsewhere. He also has a particular interest in the relationship between faith and the arts. He continues to be involved in rural affairs and the farming community and is now increasingly engaged in prison ministry. The quiet day is open to anyone to attend but places are limited. To book please email [cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org](mailto:cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org)

**'The Blessing of Creation' online retreat** led by Cameron Butland, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. This retreat will focus on the blessing of God's creation. John Main wrote, 'the light which enlightens us bathes the whole of creation'. Cameron Butland will reflect on the blessing of God's light in creation and in our lives. Martin Laird reflects on the unity of creation and the meaning of Christ's atonement when he writes, 'The grace of salvation, the grace of Christian wholeness that flowers in silence, dispels the illusion of separation. For when the mind is brought to stillness, and all our strategies of acquisition have dropped, a deeper truth presents itself: we are and have always been one with God and we are all one in God (John 17:21).'" After you book you will receive a link to an online folder which will be open from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April and this will remain open until 18<sup>th</sup> April. In the folder will be three talks and all the other materials that you will need to follow the retreat. During the 24 hours there will be times of meeting together online for those who wish to share in silent prayer together. The zoom invitations for each of these times will be sent out on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Please book your place with Cameron via email at – [cameronbutland@gmail.com](mailto:cameronbutland@gmail.com)

During the summer months the DSG are planning two more quiet days based around the diocese. Please look out for details of these days which will be featured in the April Newsletter as well as on the diocesan website.



## The Art of Spiritual Writing

This month sees the publication of a new book written by Eirene and Richard Palmer who are spiritual directors in the diocese.

'We wrote this book based upon our own experiences of spiritual accompaniment and from what we have learnt through running numerous retreats and courses on both the spiritual journey and on the art of writing. And we wanted to share the valuable insights we learnt with others. Because the question often arose – who am I? That is one of life's deepest questions, common to us all, and it can be the work of a lifetime to find the answer, but a clearer self-awareness can come through the practice of writing. So, we have produced a practical and friendly book offering a treasure trove of ideas to help you write about your spiritual life from that deep reflective place that is inside each of us. It shows you how you can use in your writing the experience of your

own journeys, past, present and future, mapping those areas of unique individual interest. It will help you to discover the value of writing meditative and reflective work, as well as the benefits of writing for therapy and prayer. It also provides invaluable advice on good journalling practices. We also hope it may be a useful source book of ideas for those accompanying others in their spiritual journeys.

*There's a lovely phrase at the start of the Anglo-Saxon epic when Beowulf the hero says he is going to 'unlock his word-hoard', meaning the treasury of language that will express the essence of his story. You are on a journey of your own, no less epic, to discover and explore the treasure within you. This book offers a delightfully accessible, practical and comprehensive guide to making this journey through writing, beginning with the single step of picking up a pen or opening a laptop. It presents a whole range of different approaches – an invaluable set of keys to help you unlock your own 'word-hoard' and let your soul tell her story. (Margaret Silf)*

The book was published by Darton Longman and Todd on 31 January 2025. It is available direct from the authors via email at [spirwrite@gmail.com](mailto:spirwrite@gmail.com) or via Amazon'.

## Contact

For more information about spirituality in the diocese please contact  
The Revd Canon Cameron Butland  
The Bishop's Spirituality Adviser  
[Cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org)

## Useful links

Spirituality page on Diocese of Derby website:  
[www.derby.anglican.org/en/faith-and-life/spirituality-1.html](http://www.derby.anglican.org/en/faith-and-life/spirituality-1.html)

2027 Community of Prayer webpage  
[www.derby.anglican.org/2027](http://www.derby.anglican.org/2027)

Thy Kingdom Come  
[www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

Diocese of Derby Cycle of Prayer  
[www.derby.anglican.org/prayer](http://www.derby.anglican.org/prayer)