Welcome to our second newsletter. As we celebrate Easter, we do so with the words of Jesus to Thomas echoing throughout our lives, *blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe’.* To live life as blessing is to live life in all its fullness. John O’Donohue helps us to understand the importance of living life as a blessing for ourselves and others, he asks *‘what is a blessing?’,* and then answers his own question, *‘a blessing is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal and strengthen. Life is a constant of emergence. The beauty of blessing is its belief that it can affect what unfolds’[[1]](#footnote-1).* We are blessed in Easter and we can bless others in the light of Christ. Our response with Pope John Paul II Easter is to sing ‘alleluia’

‘we are an Easter people and alleluia is our song’

Pope John Paul II

Thy Kingdom Come 29 May 2025 -
8 June 2025

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**Community of Prayer Newsletter**

# Thy Kingdom Come

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting in March with Bishop Malcolm and who are planning to keep this year’s Thy Kingdom Come time of prayer.

Many churches across the country get involved in Thy Kingdom Come by holding an event linked to prayer and mission during the period between Ascension and Pentecost. It might take the form of 24-7 prayer, virtual prayer meetings, or a Thy Kingdom Come-themed service. Please make sure you share your service or event by letting Ben Martin, Lay Ministries Officer know via his email ben.martin@derby.anglican.org

Thy Kingdom Come is a time of prayer for those who we know to come into faith. Please use the materials to pray for five people who you know and hold them in prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

**‘The Lord’s Prayer’,** *a day of reflection for Thy Kingdom Come*

The prayer day will be part of the season of prayer which begins on Ascension Day and concludes on Pentecost. The day takes place on **Friday 6th June at St John’s Walton, Chesterfield 10am to 4pm.** The day itself will have three talks, time for personal reflection and two times of collective prayer. There will be three speakers, Bishop Malcolm and Ben Martin in the morning, together with Cameron Butland in the afternoon. The day is open to anyone who wishes to attend but numbers are limited. Please book a place as soon as possible, there will be a reserve list.

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/>

# Spiritual Direction

## Do you want a ‘soul friend’?

## Spiritual direction is where one person accompanies another in faith in the footsteps of the first disciples on the road to Emmaus. They accompany one another seeking to discern God’s direction for their life. Often there is some confusion of the various names for this ministry, but simply put it is where one Christian helps another in seeking to discern God in their life, is a partner in prayer, in short – a soul friend. Many Christians find being accompanied on their faith journey helpful. A spiritual director can help individuals explore their struggles and joys in living out their discipleship. Spiritual direction is available to all and you are interested please contact Cameron to find out more. Information is available online, please follow the link - <https://www.retreats.org.uk/spiritual-direction>

## ASA course

The new Art of Spiritual Accompaniment (ASA) course will come to a conclusion at the end of June. There are a group of 15 people taking part in the course. The training team is made up of six experienced spiritual directors and it is co-ordinated by Ali Craig. It would be helpful to the team to know the names of any people who are considering applying for the next course. As yet no decision has been made as to when the next course will be available, therefore it would be helpful to ascertain how many people would be looking to train for this ministry.

## Spiritual Directors Refresher Mornings

A second online meeting of current spiritual directors to place on Thursday 3 April 2025. During the meeting there was a discussion of the provision of referesher days following the conclusion of the current ASA course. It was agreed to hold a series of refresher days around the diocese in the autumn, the theme of the days will be on: Supervision; Neuro-Diversity; and a general refresher day for those who returning as spiritual directors.

## Cycle of Prayer

In May the present cycle of prayer will come full circle. From June we will start to pray for the deaneries, parishes, churches and all those in ministry again. The cycle takes eight months to complete. From May the Cycle of Prayer will focus on the first Sunday of each month for those to be prayed for in Thy Kingdom Come, to pray for five people whom we know to come to faith.

It would be good to incluse prayers for any special mission events, services or projects to bring others to faith. Please contact Cameron if you would like anything included in the forthcoming cycles 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).

## A black and white celtic knot  AI-generated content may be incorrect.Quiet Day

**‘Mysticism’***, a day of reflection on the writings of English Mystics*

This Quiet Day will look at various English Mystics and reflect upon the Mystery of God. The day takes place on **Saturday 20th September at St Helen’s, Darley Dale, 10am to 4pm.** The day itself will have three talks, time for personal reflection and two times of collective prayer. It will be a quiet day, silence will be maintained during the day, between the opening prayer and lunchtime. Then from the third talk until the discussion prior to the closing prayers. The day is open to anyone who wishes to attend but numbers are limited. Please book a place as soon as possible, there will be a reserve list.

Contact

For more information about spirituality in the diocese please contact The Revd Canon Cameron Butlland

The Bishop’s Spirituality Adviser

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)

1. *Benedictus* by John Donohue, Bantam Press, London p.210 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)