

# Community of Prayer Newsletter

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In virtually every survey of leisure habits in Britain, 'walking in the countryside' is always the top activity. There are few of us who don't feel better for going for a walk. Spring is especially a time when we love to be out among the flowers and blossom. Why should this make such a difference to us? A neurologist might give us reasons to do with the increased serotonin on a sunny day. There are though many reasons medical, emotional, mental, physical and spiritual why walking in creation should make us feel renewed. For Richard Rohr the reasons are to do with our disconnected modern way of living. *'The modern and postmodern selves largely live in a world of their own construction and react for or against human-made ideas. While calling ourselves intelligent, we've lost touch with the natural world. As a result, we've lost touch with our own souls. I believe we cannot access our full intelligence and wisdom without some real connection to nature'*, he comments and then says, *'My spiritual father Francis of Assisi (1182–1226) spent many days, weeks, and even months walking the roads of Umbria and letting nature teach him. Francis knew and respected creation, calling animals, sun, moon, and even the weather and the elements his brothers and sisters. Through extended time in nature, Francis became intimately connected with non-human living things and came to recognize that the natural world was also imbued with soul'*.

This year we are marking the eight hundred anniversary of the death of Francis of Assisi and remembering his remarkable example of following Christ in being at one with God's creation. We are fortunate to celebrate Francis in our Quiet Day on 20<sup>th</sup> June, led by Simon Cocksedge, as we are reminded of our own connectedness with God in creation. *Cameron Butland*

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*Becoming Prayer: A Franciscan Guide* by Simon Cocksedge and Nicholas Alan Worssam is a 160-page book exploring a life of prayer inspired by St. Francis of Assisi. Canterbury Press, 2026

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## Franciscan Quiet Day

**Francis of Assisi on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June at Edale Church.**

The Rev'd Dr Simon Cocksedge will lead a quiet day to reflect on what we can learn from Francis of Assisi and his followers about prayer. Places will be limited, please book early for your place. Outline of the day: coffee available from 1000; start 1030 with opening prayer and a talk then silence; lunch 1230-1.15 [bring your own - refreshments available - lunch may be silent or talking, we'll take a vote on the day!]; 1.15pm second talk then silence; 3.15pm eucharist and homily; finish about 4pm. There are numerous lovely walks and places to sit near to

our church. Please try to arrive by train or bus if possible [the train station and bus stop are about 5mins walk from the church]. If you come by car, please allow plenty of time to park and then walk back to the church. Please contact Cameron to book your place.

## Book Review 'Becoming Prayer'

It is good to be able to recommend Simon's new book 'Becoming Prayer'. I read it through Lent and it was the perfect companion. Rather than a biography the book reflects on how Francis prayed and inspired others to follow his example. This book as a result is a perfect companion to developing our own prayer life. Bishop Dominic Walker in his review for the Church Times commends this book as an excellent guide, *'Francis regarded Jesus as a brother, and all living beings as his brothers and sisters. The Sun, Wind, and Fire he addressed as "brother" and the Moon, Earth, and even Death as "sister". From this great love and reverence for all around springs activity — preaching, care for the sick and the marginalised, and seeking peace and reconciliation. As the writers state, "This juxtaposition of activity and prayer, especially prayer in solitude and silence, remains central to the Franciscan charism. It is a core foundation of life for all contemporary followers of the poor man of Assisi." There are various paths that lead to "becoming prayer". Those inspired by Francis will find this book to be an excellent guide on that journey'.*

***Becoming Prayer: A Franciscan guide***  
***Simon Cocksedge and Nicholas Alan Worssam***  
 Canterbury Press £13.99 (978-1-78622-619-8)

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### **Thy Kingdom Come**

*Begins on Ascension  
Day 14<sup>th</sup> May and  
ends at Pentecost on  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May*

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## Thy Kingdom Come

**Prayer Day**  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
 St Helen's Church, Darley Dale



*'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).*

A day to explore the nature of prayer led by Cameron Butland. The Prayer Day is taking place between Ascension Day and Pentecost as part of the events to mark this year's ecumenical 'Thy Kingdom Come'. During the day there is the opportunity to reflect on different forms of prayer and to be quiet together.

The day itself will have talks, optional spiritual exercises and quiet time for personal reflection. There will be two times of guided prayer. There is no charge for the day, but donations can be given. Please book a place with Cameron via his email –

[cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org](mailto:cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org)

## Programme

10.00am	Arrive, ( <i>refreshments available on arrival and at lunchtime</i> )
10.30am	Opening Prayer
11.00am	<b>First Session, 'Pray your own way'</b> <i>During this first session there is the opportunity to look at how we pray and what has influenced us in learning to pray. This is followed by time of reflection</i>
12noon	<b>Second Session, 'Praying for others'</b> <i>Why do we pray for others, and what do we understand by intercessory prayer, followed by time of reflection</i>
1.00pm	<i>Lunch, please bring your own packed lunch</i>
2.00pm	<b>Third Session, 'Prayer of the Heart'</b> <i>What can we learn from other Christians and the way in which they pray, followed by time of reflection</i>
3.00pm	Closing Prayer
3.15pm	Depart

St Helen's Church Darley Dale has a comfortable meeting room, and the church is easy to find being close to the A6 between Bakewell and Matlock. The address is Church Rd, Darley Dale, Matlock DE4 2GL. There is parking on the road.

This year's Thy Kingdom Come diocesan programme is being organized by a committee chaired by Matt Barnes, please contact Matt - [Matt.Barnes@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Matt.Barnes@derby.anglican.org) for more details to take part in this years' time of prayer.

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### ***New Email Address***

*Notice of a new email  
address for all  
spiritual  
accompaniment  
enquiries*

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## Matching and Supervision Team

A new email address is being set up for those wishing to enquire about spiritual direction as follows:

[spiritualaccompaniment@derby.anglican.org](mailto:spiritualaccompaniment@derby.anglican.org)

Please continue to use Cameron's address for all enquiries at present but look out for the introduction of the new email which will be introduced in the summer.

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>

## Cycle of Prayer

Following last year's Thy Kingdom Come the first Sunday of each month is being used to remember those people who we prayed for

Ascension to Pentecost. This provides a focus for praying for others to come to faith. 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

**Walking in Faith on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at St Helen's Darley Dale.** Cameron Butland will lead a Quiet Day on the theme of spiritual walking. His three talks will reflect on the theme of Jesus walking in the gospels; the earliest pilgrimages inspired by St Helena; and the example of walking in faith among the first British Christians. The day begins at 10am and will finish by 3.30pm.

Please book your place at any of the three days by emailing Cameron - [Cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Cameron.butland@derby.anglican.org)

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**East Midlands  
Young Adults  
Pilgrimage**

*1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August*

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## Taizé Pilgrimage

The Diocese of Derby, along with the Dioceses of Leicester and Lincoln, has come together to offer a Pilgrimage to Taizé for young adults aged 18-35, which will take place from August 1-9 this year. Taizé is an ecumenical Christian community in Southern France which produces the beautiful contemplative worship music familiar to many. Its mission is to reach young people throughout the world ([taize.fr](http://taize.fr)). If you are interested in spending a week camping with a global and monastic community, we will be making this pilgrimage together, travelling and camping as a group from across the East Midlands. The trip will cost approximately £350, and priority is given to young adults aged 18-35. For more information, contact the Rev'd Dwayne Engh at [vicar@ashbournechurch.org.uk](mailto:vicar@ashbournechurch.org.uk). To book, go to: <https://learn.lincoln.anglican.org/learning-resources/east-midlands-youth-pilgrimage-to-taize-2026/>

## 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)