

New Diocesan magazine 'Together'

We are excited to announce that from May 2018 the Diocese of Derby is launching a brand new diocesan magazine called 'Together'.

The quarterly, glossy magazine will showcase the work of the church in every community, from Glossop to Repton and everywhere in between, and provide thought-provoking, relevant and accessible articles to our church leaders and congregations.

The magazine will be available in churches from the beginning of May - look out for your copy! If you would like to receive a copy direct to your door you can subscribe by paying just the cost of postage - that's just £5 for four issues. To subscribe please complete the form on our website www.derby.anglican.org/together, email together@derby.anglican.org or call 01332 388680.

We'd love to hear what your church has been doing! Please send photos, letters and comments to together@derby.anglican.org and we will include as many as we can in future issues of the magazine.

Due to the work involved with creating a new magazine this will be the last issue of 'Our Diocese'. The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer will still be available to download each month from the publications page of our website www.derby.anglican.org and there will be a message from senior staff on the homepage of the website every month.

Thank you for all the support you have given 'Our Diocese' over the years and we hope that you enjoy the new magazine.

The Communications Team - Lucy Harrison, Dave King and Sian Kellogg

Hold the Date! Bishop Alastair's Farewell Service

The Bishop of Derby, The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, is retiring at the end of summer this year. There will be a farewell service in Derby Cathedral on Saturday 14th July at 3.30pm. An invitation with further details will follow in due course.

Spiritual Freedom: the Gospel for the Parish and its Future Flourishing

Dates 10, 17, 24 April; 1,8 May

Venue: St Helen's Darley Dale. 7 for coffee for a 7.30pm start. For more information contact the Bishop's Office on 01332 840132

School of Formation training calendar

The new year is often a time to reflect on our lives, our work and what we hope to achieve. Perhaps you want to refresh your skills, learn something new or find a new way to discern your vocation? The School of Formation web pages on the diocesan website contains information on formal training courses but also hundreds of workshops, seminars, quiet days, conferences and pilgrimages - there really is something for everyone. The pages are updated regularly with events organised within the diocese and by external organisations around Derbyshire. You can find the pages at www.derby.anglican.org/schoolofformation

our Diocese

A monthly snapshot of Church of England life around Derbyshire

Bishop Alastair writes... The Parish of the Future: The Future of the Parish

In a world where organisational shapes and approaches to leadership change rapidly, it is important that we evaluate the parish as our key unit of operation for mission.

Place

The enduring strength of our parish system is the importance of place. As human beings we have a deep sense of needing to be 'placed' – able to belong, feel secure with a setting that is familiar. The church building is often the minister of the centrality of place. The parish take this sense of place seriously.

People

Parishes are people – in an increasingly mixed and changing cocktail. There can no longer be a single offer or a simple formula. If the Gospel is to be proclaimed and witnessed to, then there will need to be variety, and a toughness regarding the choices of what might be possible with limited resources. Who are those most in need of the generous witness of God's loving care?, and how might this offer be made?

Processes

God's children live and grow through engaging with processes of formation. Public worship and the Occasional Offices have been one of our key contributions. Now the invitation has to be crafted more flexibly. Messy Church for young families, schools as structures for nourishing young people, breakfasts for men, festivals..... and moments to enable meeting others and sharing the love of God, made manifest most powerfully in appropriate worship and witness.

Parsons

The genius of the Church of England is the parson, our commitment to providing pastoral care that gives leadership for such formation. Rarely in our history has every parish had its own resident 'vicar'. But always, each parish is embraced by the gospel caring and teaching organised by the Church. We all contribute to the work of being parson in our own communities. There are three classical models of parsoning:

- The priest, who uses the worship and teaching of the Church to mediate the Good News of Jesus Christ into everyday lives.
- The prophet, through whom the light of Christ proclaims a challenging critique of present failings, while proposing radical new possibilities.
- The prompter, who gathers and enables others to make creative responses to our challenges and opportunities, embracing those within the Church and those beyond our borders, in a common and connecting formation in goodness and grace. Calling all sorts and conditions of people to grow together as children of our Heavenly Father.

As the season of annual meetings is underway, we might like to consider in our own particular context how we can best be called to craft a parish for the future, and thus work seriously together on the future of the parish.

+ Alastair



Up in the Air activity day

Wow! What a wonderful time we had on Monday 19th February 2018 when Pulse Ministries came to St Helen's and gave us the ride of our lives on the airlines Easy Jet and Ryanair! What? I hear you say I don't understand, how can this be!?

Well it all started with booking into the Departure Lounge at St Helen's Airport (Church Hall). We were split into two teams, Easy Jet or Ryanair. I was on the Easy Jet team. I had about 10 in my team. The flight took off at 10.00 am and we landed at 3.00 pm. On our journey we sang songs which involved actions and dancing.

We heard about Hannah and how she trusted God for a son and discovered what it means for us to trust God and how we can get closer to Him through knowing Jesus.

We even had a visit from a huge carrier pigeon called Pat who brought us a message from the bible. Pete and his team took us to places where we could do craft, modelling, colouring, making bracelets and we took part in Prayer Stations which helped us understand who God is, that we are not journeying on our own, Jesus is there too.

Pete used an illustration of the naughty step to show how Jesus took all our punishment for us

so we can be free from guilt and to help us understand His Sacrifice on The Cross for all of us.

We were shown how to ask Jesus to be our Friend, Saviour and Helper and shown what it all means - what it is all about.

We all agreed we had a brilliant time, then at the end of the journey we all sat down, they laid a cross on the floor and we were all given two sweets in the shape of a heart, one pink the other white, the choice whether to eat them or lay our sweets on the cross to show we were friends of Jesus. With no pressure nearly everyone put their sweets on the cross. At the end of all the activities and games the scores for the day were shared.

Boo Hoo! Ryanair won the most points over the day even though EasyJet were winning at lunchtime but never mind Pete had the custard pie in the face and not our team leader Amy. I really hope that Pulse comes again because great fun was had by one and all!

Dea Ayling (Sunday Kids Leader)

Saint Helens Church Darley Dale

Appointment of a new Bishop

As you will be aware, Bishop Alastair will be retiring as Bishop of Derby on 31/8/18. When there is no bishop, the vacancy is known as a Vacancy-in-See. The process to appoint a new diocesan bishop will be led, on behalf of the Diocese, by the Vacancy-in-See Committee, the members of which can be found on our website.

The Archdeacon of Derby, the Venerable Dr Christopher Cunliffe, has been elected as Chair of the Committee by Bishop's Council, and the Registrar, Mrs Nadine Waldron, has been elected Secretary. They will be the ones primarily involved in organising the process following guidance from the Archbishops' Appointments' Secretary, in this instance Mr Brad Cook, and from the Prime Minister's Appointments' Secretary, Mr Edward Chaplin. Below are details of the consultation process, including an open meeting which people will be very welcome to attend to express their views.

The dedicated e-mail address by which people will be able to write to the Vacancy-in-See Committee is vacancyinsee@derby.anglican.org No individual responses will be made but views and comments will be considered as part of the process of appointing a new bishop.

Please pray for the process of finding a new Bishop

Almighty God,
the giver of all good gifts,
guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a faithful pastor for this diocese:
that we may receive one who will speak your word and serve your people according to your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Informal meetings across the diocese. All welcome.

All meetings 7pm for 7.30pm until 9pm

20 March: Crooked Spire, Chesterfield

26 March: Ashbourne Church Hall

11 April: Chapel-en-le-Frith Primary School

23 April: Derby Cathedral

Public Consultation with the Archbishops' and Prime Minister's Appointments' Secretaries. All welcome

15 May: St Thomas' Church, Brampton

The Vacancy in See Committee will meet on 17 March and 16 May 2018

The Crown Nominations Commission will meet on 26 September and 1-2 November 2018