

## Harvest Appeal 2017 Reminder

The Harvest Appeal 2017 for the Diocese of Peshawar has now finished. Please send any remaining donations to Edward Latham, 64 Birkinstyle Lane, Shirland, Alfreton, DE55 6BS by 1 March 2017. Cheques should be made out to the Bishop of Derby's Harvest Appeal.

## Thy Kingdom Come 2018 Launch Events

Thy Kingdom Come is a global movement, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to encourage Christians to pray for others to respond to the Good News of Jesus, particularly during the period between Ascension and Pentecost.

As in previous years, we'd love to encourage every church in the Diocese to get involved in any way they're able; to help churches to do that, we're running a launch event at different times and venues:

### Saturday 3rd February 2018, 10.00am-3.30pm

St Alkmund's Derby, Kedleston Road, Derby, DE22 1GU

### Saturday 10th February 2018, 10.00am-3.30pm

St Barnabas Centre, Pilsley Road, Danesmoor, Chesterfield, S45 9BU

At each event, we'll be outlining the plans for Thy Kingdom Come 2018 and offering ways that you can get involved. We'll be showing you the resources available and we're planning to have some of those resources ready for you to take away. We'll also be offering creative and imaginative ideas on encouraging the Church to pray – as congregations, as individuals and as families – that we can all use not only for Thy Kingdom Come, but to enrich our prayer lives and those of our churches.

The events are FREE and OPEN TO ALL; however, to help with organisation and administration, if you would like to attend please REGISTER by contacting:

Rev Jason Kennedy  
Diocesan Missioner, Derby Diocese  
jason.kennedy@derby.anglican.org  
01332 388691  
Derby Church House, Full Street, Derby DE1 3DR

## 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](http://www.derby.anglican.org/schoolofformation)

# our Diocese

A monthly snapshot of Church of England life around Derbyshire

## Bishop Alastair writes... Ashes and Affirmation

### To Be Blessed

The Christian year provides an important template for understanding the mystery of human life and its proper unfolding.

Christmas highlights the gift of life, the naming of the Person, and the love and attention that naturally surround this miracle. A season of blessing.

### To Be Resolute

At our best we sense a deep instinct to preserve and develop these values of life cherished, named and blessed. With the advent of a new year there is a tradition of making resolutions to better understand and pursue this agenda. A season of resolution.

### To Be Challenged

But... as we all know, resolution fades, love cools, complications arise and challenge this wholesome picture. The natural instinct is to improve performance, systems, targets. It is here that the Christian Gospel becomes more distinctive. The period of Lent is a time of owning that many of the factors that dissolve goodness, hope and health exist within ourselves. We are fallen, incomplete. Each of us has moles in our own eyes. The key to combatting the stress of sin and struggle begins by each of us owning our own failures and complicity. The sign is Ashes – the occasion Ash Wednesday. A season of confession.

### To Be Saved

By owning our own failures and limitations we make ourselves ready to receive a richer kind of gift. Not life, but new life – in Christ. Sinner made saint. Helplessness filled with hope. This miracle is enacted at Easter, when the worst expression of sin and failure, the torture and murder of an innocent Person, becomes the path of forgiveness and eternal glory. A season of salvation.

### Ashes as Affirmation

This journey is repeated continually in human living: individuals, groups, societies. The key is the humility to own our own 'ashes' – imperfection and fragility. That mark of the cross in ashes made on Ash Wednesday, is a sign of blessing, resolution, confession, salvation. Ashes are the key to real affirmation – try to find time on Ash Wednesday to receive this mark. Nothing could be more significant in making sense of the mystery of human living and its proper unfolding. A season for transformation.

+ Alastair



# #LIVELENT

## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

We're delighted to be sharing news of the Church of England's 2018 Lent campaign and resources for churches.

#LiveLent – Let your light shine is a Lent journey through the Gospel of John, offering a short daily reading, a pause for reflection and prayer and a challenge to act.

It is written in simple and accessible language by John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth, and includes an introduction from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, who say:

“These Lent reflections take you on a journey through the Gospel of John and give you an opportunity to explore what the gift of Jesus and the challenge of Jesus mean for you, in the context of your daily life.

“God offers us life for the sake of others. The light he gives us in Jesus Christ is not to be hidden but to shine – it's a gift to be lived and shared. Indeed, the more we share it and let it shine, the brighter it burns.”

A weekly five-session Lent course that can

be run in conjunction or separately to the daily Let your light shine material will also be available as part a range of downloadable materials to support churches.

The aim in 2018 is to be as joined up as possible and encourage people to journey from Lent and Easter into Pentecost and Thy Kingdom Come.

The full range of #LiveLent resources and activities will include:

- Full-colour printed book #LiveLent: Let Your Light Shine from Church House Publishing, which can be ordered here <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/live-lent>. They are available in bulk or as single copies
- Daily reflections – a daily discipleship journey through Lent from the Gospel of John, and a weekly Lent course based on these themes
- App for Android and iOS (available late January) including all daily reflections material
- Social media graphics from the national

Church of England accounts to share on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

- E-mail and text signups – which proved very popular over Advent and Christmas for #GodWithUs
- Additional downloadable resources, including the five group sessions based on the themes/synopsis of booklet.

We also have logos and other resources available on our website <https://www.churchofengland.org/lent>.

Our prayer is that these resources help you and your church to walk the Lent journey and bring you closer to Jesus, who offers abundant life to all who journey with him.

Other resources for lent are available on the diocesan website, [www.derby.anglican.org](http://www.derby.anglican.org)

## New Media Officer at Church House

There's something special about every church, parish and its people and everyone has a story to tell. And, as the new Media Officer at Derby Church House, I want to showcase the best that Derbyshire worshippers have to offer - YOUR stories – perhaps about a calling, a successful event, or someone who has gone above and beyond to help others. Share your pictures too to give us a real sense of the great work you're doing! Stay in touch on Facebook, Twitter and via email: [communications@derby.anglican.org](mailto:communications@derby.anglican.org)

I look forward to hearing from you

**Dave King**  
01332 388680



## Appointment of new bishop

As you will be aware, Bishop Alastair will be retiring as Bishop of Derby on 31 August 2018. 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 are now listed on the Diocesan web-site.

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.

There will be a consultation process, including an open meeting which will be publicised and 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](mailto: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.

We, as Chair and Secretary, will be having a preliminary meeting with Brad Cook on 15th January after which a further up-date will be posted on the diocesan website.

Christopher Cunliffe – Chair  
Vacancy-in-See Committee

Nadine Waldron – Secretary