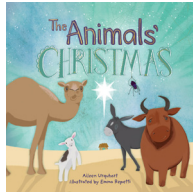


## The Animals' Christmas - Book Review & Competition

Sian Kellogg reviews "The Animals' Christmas": *This delightful hardback children's book provided an enchanting approach to telling the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of the animal characters involved in the story. It's nicely written and well presented, with colourful imagery and a nice balance between text and pictures.*



The Animals' Christmas is published by Redemptorist Publications and is available to buy for £9.95 from [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).

*I read this book to my four-year-old daughter and we both enjoyed letting the beautiful illustrations captivate our imaginations. With its simple description of the nativity story I felt my daughter was able to understand the context of story and engage with the characters. It provided a lovely understanding of the importance of Jesus' birth but also the importance of all God's children.*

**WIN A COPY** of the book (in time for Christmas!), Simply send an email marked "The Animals' Christmas" with your name and address to [Together@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Together@derby.anglican.org) by 10 December 2018. A lucky winner will be chosen from all entries received.



### Social Media for Beginners

A workshop to help churches get started with social media. This workshop is for beginners and will look at:

- setting up your accounts and pages,
- how to use them
- how (and what) to post
- Ideas and best practice.

Thur 13 Dec 2018 & Wed 9 Jan 2019  
10.30 am - 3.00 pm, Derby Church House

**Book your (free) place at:**  
[www.derby.anglican.org](http://www.derby.anglican.org)

# our Diocese

December 2018

A monthly snapshot of Church of England life around Derbyshire

## Bishop Jan writes...



As I went to brush my teeth the other morning, I was halted in my tracks by a news item on the radio. The Church of England's attendance figures had just been published. It wasn't sounding good. The number of people attending church regularly on a Sunday had declined once again. I picked up the toothpaste with a sigh. And then I paused once again when the reporter went on to say, "But the number of people attending mid-week and occasional services is on the rise." This, they concluded, was "evidence that the Church's desire to relate to cultural change was beginning to bear fruit."

We are so used to going to church on Sunday morning that we sometimes fail to see that those around us are out shopping. Or playing football. Or cleaning the car. Or working in Tesco's. The 'cultural change' the news item referred to is the 24-hour culture we find ourselves in, where Sunday is no longer seen as a special day. Christians will always meet on a Sunday morning. We are, after all, celebrating the resurrection that first Easter Sunday. But for those on the fringes of the church, or for those with no church background at all, any day will do.

Christmas is the time when special services abound. Visitors will come to our

churches for carol services, Christingles, school nativities and Midnight Mass. How will we welcome them? For those of us who preach, how will we connect the old familiar story with the lives of those sitting in front of us? How will we use our noticeboards and websites and parish magazines to invite them in?

The Church of England has produced some excellent materials called Follow the Star. Posters, invitation cards, ideas for families and churches are all included. You can find out more at [www.churchofengland.org/christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/christmas) But whichever resources you choose, thank you to clergy, lay ministers, churchwardens, sidespeople, organists, choristers, bell ringers, welcomers, tea makers and washer-uppers who will make our churches across Derbyshire places of light and hope and joy this Christmas.

Amidst the busyness may you find time to ponder anew the mystery of our God who, "became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood." (John 1:14)

A very happy Christmas to you all.

*The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane  
Bishop of Repton and  
Acting Bishop of Derby*



## Breathing Space - Derby City Deanery needs your support



Breathing Space is an initiative of Derby City Deanery that aims to support positive mental wellbeing in the City of Derby. It focuses on the positive contributions that can be made to support the mental health of

everyone, and not just those who have a particular diagnosis.

We are appealing for funding to develop our social media – ideally an app that will help people to locate the activities as they need them – and to help fund mental health awareness training for volunteers.

Beside your prayerful support, please consider us as part of your Advent giving:

Crowdfunding (until 31 December 2018):  
[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/breathing-space-derby-mental-wellbeing-project](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/breathing-space-derby-mental-wellbeing-project)

What is a Breathing Space?

A Breathing Space is an activity or opportunity that supports one or more of the recognised features that help to improve our wellbeing - Connect, Be active, Take notice, Keep learning, Give.

Examples of Breathing Spaces:

- Connect - Gathering Place at St Augustine's: breakfast, chat, debt advice, signposting to social services, and lots of encouragement.
- Be Active - The Daily Mile at Ashgate School: children run and walk around a track in their playground with amazing benefits to their concentration in class!
- Take Notice - Thursday Evensong at Derby Cathedral, is later on Thursdays so that working people can drop in to participate, or just relax and unwind with the music; Green Space Lunch : city workers picnic in St John's garden, with occasional speaker and music – and the opportunity for reflection, offloading, and prayer in the Quiet Space.
- Keep Learning - Godly Play with Elders, at St Edmund's Allenton & Shelton Lock: stories, memories, sharing, playing (why should children have all the fun?) and Faith through Art, creative activities at St Werburgh's, Spondon.
- Give - Christmas Lunch on Jesus at St Peter's in the City, sharing meals and food parcels.

To register an activity as a Breathing Space, please contact Deanery Administrator Jo Simister [jo.simister@derby.anglican.org](mailto:jo.simister@derby.anglican.org)

## Now is the time to #FollowTheStar



#FollowTheStar is the Church of England's 2018 Christmas campaign.

The campaign will serve a number of purposes as thousands of Christmas services and events will be taking place in churches all over the country in the run up to Christmas to:

1. Remind everyone that Christmas doesn't end on Christmas day - in fact, that is just the start!
2. Encourage people to remember that their church is there all year round, not just at Christmas.
3. Guide people to the A Church Near You website so they can discover more about our churches to experience and explore.

How your church can get involved:

- Visit [www.churchofengland.org/christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/christmas) to learn more about the campaign and order resources including banners, booklets, bookmarks and posters.
- Update your page on A Church Near You with your Christmas services and events.
- Share the #FollowTheStar Christmas videos and social media posts.
- Be a "star church" by displaying stars prominently.
- Participate in "night of the stars" on Friday, 21 December 2018 by having a star on your church building.
- Download the #FollowTheStar app (available late November 2018).

Be part of this national initiative and raise the awareness of your Christmas services so that we can unite and bring the true meaning of Christmas into our communities.

## Christmas Events around our diocese



**Christmas Tree Festival**  
Crooked Spire, Chesterfield  
17 November - 2 December 2018

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
Old Whittington, St Bartholomew  
30 November - 4 December 2018

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
Dronfield, St John the Baptist  
30 November - 9 December 201

**Christmas Craft Market**  
Brampton, St Thomas  
1 December 2018,

**Christmas Market**  
Allenton & Shelton Lock, St Edmund  
1 December 2018

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
Barlborough, St James the Greater  
1st & various dates in December

**Christmas Angel Festival**  
Chapel-en-le-Friith, St Thomas Becket  
1 - 8 December 2018

**Holy Spirit Evening**  
Langley Mill, St Andrew  
2 December 2018

**Ocho Christmas Concert**  
Repton, St Wystan  
04 December 2018

**Derby New Opera Company concert**  
Chaddesden, St Philip  
5 December 2018

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
Chesterfield, St Thomas  
7 - 9 December 2018

**A Celebration of Christmas (concert)**  
Darley Dale, St Helen  
8 December 2018

**Messiah by G. F. Handel**  
Derby Cathedral  
8 December 2018

**Concert of Music for Christmas**  
St Lawrence, Whitwell  
8 December 2018

**Festival of Trees & Nativity Scenes**  
Holy Trinity, Tansley  
8 - 11 December 2018

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
14 - 24 December 2018  
Belper, Christ Church

**Flower Festival**  
Breaston, St. Michael  
14 December 2018

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
Bakewell, All Saints  
14 December 2018

**Christmas Concert in aid of Rainbows**  
Repton, St Wystan  
14 December 2018

**Christmas Tree Festival**  
15 December 2018  
Wirksworth, St Mary

**'A Festival of Angels'**  
Ashbourne, St. Oswald  
16 December 2018 - mid January 2019

**Organ Recital - Seasonal Music**  
Staveley, St John the Baptist  
19 December 2018

**The Muppet Christmas Carol & Elf**  
Derby Cathedral  
22 December 2018

**Celtic Service with Carols**  
Crich, St Mary  
23 December 2018



Details of these and other events can be found at:  
[www.derbyshirechurches.org](http://www.derbyshirechurches.org)

