

### Christmas Tree Festival

St Philip, Chaddesden  
21 December (10am - 4pm) and  
22 December (12 noon - 4pm)

**Carol Service** (joint with St James, Harpur Hill)

Harpur Hill Methodist Church  
Sun, 22 December - 10.30am

### Burbage Band Christmas Concert

Christ Church, Burbage  
22 December - 2pm

### Carol Service

St John the Evangelist,  
Hazelwood  
22 December - 3pm

### Carol Service

Christ Church, King Sterndale  
22 December - 3.45pm

### Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

St John, Buxton  
22 December - 6pm

### Carols by Candlelight

St Peter, Belper  
22 December - 6.30pm

### Family Carol Service

St Philip, Chaddesden  
22 December - 6.30pm

### Carol Service

St Michael, Holbrook  
22 December - 6.30 pm

### Carol Service

St Mark, Openwoodgate  
22 December - 6.30pm

### Crib Service

Holy Trinity, Milford  
24 December - 2 pm

### Crib Service

St Matthew, Morley  
24 December - 3pm

### Handbell Ringers and Crib Service

Christ Church, Burbage  
24 December - 4pm

### Crib Service

St Mary the Virgin, Buxton  
24 December - 4pm

### Crib Service

St James, Harpur Hill  
24 December - 4pm

### Crib Service

St Mark, Openwoodgate  
24 December - 4pm

### Children's Nativity Service

St John the Baptist, Tideswell  
24 December - 4pm

### Christingle Service

St Peter, Belper  
24 December - 6pm

### Christmas Eve Carol Service

St John the Evangelist, Derby  
24 December - 6.30pm

### Carol Singing in the Nags Head Garden

St Michael, Pleasley  
24 December - 7pm

More information can be found at [derby.anglican.org/events](http://derby.anglican.org/events)

Details of Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services are available on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

# Our Diocese



December 2019

[www.derby.anglican.org](http://www.derby.anglican.org) | @DioceseofDerby

## The Rt Revd Libby Lane, Bishop of Derby writes...



December always feels a bit frantic to me. And this year the unusual timing of a General Election only adds to that. Whatever else we might think of this election, perhaps its timing during Advent will encourage us to take a wider perspective and longer view.

We try to make Advent visible in our household: we decorate the house, but gently (we change decoration on Christmas Eve in celebration); each Sunday we light a candle on an Advent wreath; we put up the traditional pine or spruce, but until Christmas Eve it is a Jesse Tree, softly lit, hung daily with simple olive wood images depicting salvation history through the stories of God's people in the Bible. These are outward reminders to us that the season of Advent is not simply a countdown to turkey and tinsel.

It's not that I think we just ought to replace one kind of outward display with another more pious. And I'm not a grinch. I enjoy the hospitality of the run up to Christmas. I admire the ways people find time and resource to focus on family and friends – I'm not very good at present finding, but my (now grown up) children have the knack of identifying often small, inexpensive or home-made gifts that are just right and show an attentiveness that's not just turned on for Christmas. These things can also be outward reminders of important and precious things – of love and hope and desire.

And Advent should be full of desire: 'come, Lord Jesus ... even so, come'.

That desire is, I think, wonderfully subversive. This season, if taken seriously, strips away all self-reliance. If we allow it to, the eternal hopeful themes of the season can reveal the lack of substance in the relentless consumerism of the public face of the approach to Christmas – and this year, perhaps, undercut the hubris of political manoeuvring.

Amid all the noise and activity of December, Advent is the thundering silence of God, putting all our striving to shame, reminding us that we cannot save ourselves nor, in the end, hide from God.

Advent offers a perspective that reverses and upturns the views we too easily accept. It takes courage to journey through Advent. There is no hiding, no wrapping the truth up with ribbon and baubles, or indeed with election promises and campaign spending.

The extraordinary, outrageous mercy of Advent is the discovery that, as we yearn for Christ's coming – in both humility and glory – we discover that God has always risked trusting the outworking of salvation to the stuff of creation and to human flesh.

### 'Annunciation' by Bishop Stephen Cottrell

**There is only one thing that prevents  
The gentle movement, heaven into earth:  
Not the fear that godly greeting brings,  
Nor cold presumption (God could never speak),  
Nor empty tomb, nor barren heart,  
Nor eyes searching, voices how long blaze,  
Nor the silence where there should be praise,  
Nor the bitter taste of human failing:  
But the lack of trust that what was promised  
Might in human flesh be born, achieved,  
How happy she who for us all believed,  
Strength of God in human weakness blending,  
Tenderly the humble servant lifted,  
From foetal cry the fatal mending.**

+ Libby Derby

The Rt Revd Libby Lane  
Bishop of Derby

## Learning in Faith

### Our 2020 course programme is now open for bookings

The new 2020 Learning in Faith course programme, 'Pray, Learn, Tell and Serve Together', is now available. All PCC secretaries should have received a copy and booklets for every church will be distributed with the December edition of Together Magazine.

There is a huge array of courses on offer - from familiar favourites, such as 'Talking Faith for Ordinary People' and 'Vocations Exploration sessions, to brand new sessions on 'Instagram' and 'Twitter', and 'Unexpected Child in the Church Area', to name but a few.

Booking a place is easy - visit [www.derby.anglican.org/training](http://www.derby.anglican.org/training) or call 01332 388687.

As well as attending sessions yourself, please add Learning in Faith 2020 to your PCC agenda and take the opportunity to discuss what is on offer and how the courses may support your own church to pray, learn, tell and serve together.

In her introduction, Bishop Libby says 'Taking part in this programme is one way to be fed and nourished by Christ'.

The Learning in Faith team wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2020.

[www.derby.anglican.org](http://www.derby.anglican.org) | @DioceseofDerby

## Derby Churches Nightshelter

Working with an army of volunteers, the nightshelter provides safe accommodation and a substantial meal for up to 35 guests each night during the coldest months of the year (December - March).

Seven churches in or near the city centre provide a welcoming venue, each opening their doors for one night each week.

As guests bed down for the night in new, warm sleeping bags and blankets, night staff are there to offer support and prayer throughout the night.

Before leaving at 8am the next morning, guests tuck into a healthy breakfast of cereals, toast and fresh fruit. Many are given ongoing support to address their needs.

It costs £137,000 every year to run a winter nightshelter. To donate please visit: [www.derbycitymission.org.uk](http://www.derbycitymission.org.uk)

### Nightshelter locations:

#### Monday:

Derby Cathedral, DE1 3GP

#### Tuesday:

Hope Centre, Curzon St, DE1 1LL

#### Wednesday:

Peartree Baptist Church, 154 Peartree Road, DE23 6QD

#### Thursday:

Ashbourne Rd Church, DE22 3AG

#### Friday:

New Life Church, Normanton Rd, DE23 6UU

#### Saturday:

Ozzy Road Baptist Church, Charnwood St, DE1 2GU

#### Sunday:

St Mary's Church Hall, Darley Lane, DE1 3AX



### Pupils raise £242.85 for Harvest Appeal

Pupils at St Peter's C of E Primary School in Netherseal have been doing their bit for the Bishop of Derby's Harvest Appeal, raising £242.85 through various table-top sales. After the teachers shared details of the appeal, a Year 6 pupil asked if they could do something practical to help - and the Save Zimbabwe Sale was born.

Headteacher Melanie Machell said: "The children worked extremely hard and organised everything! They designed posters, bought 'stock' for their stalls, wrote letters to businesses for donations, baked cakes, designed games and collected from parents. It was fabulous that the children felt so empowered to make a difference and we are very proud of their achievement."

The 70 pupils at St Peter's also spent time discussing the plight of the people of Manicaland and praying for them. Read more on [www.derby.anglican.org](http://www.derby.anglican.org)

### Church fills 255 Christmas shoeboxes for Romanian children

Volunteers at St Andrew's church, Langley Mill spent Saturday 9 November filling and wrapping an amazing 255 shoeboxes with Christmas gifts for children in Romania. The boxes are then sent to their partner church in Poiana where they are distributed to local children. Many thanks to the generous donors who provide gifts and cover the transport costs and, of course, all those who help pack the boxes each year.



#### Toy service

St John the Baptist, Tibshelf  
1 December - 11am

#### WI Carol Service

St John the Evangelist, Hazlewood  
1 December - 2.30pm

#### All Age Christingle

St Michael, Pleasley  
1 December - 3pm

#### Advent Carol Service

St John the Evangelist, Derby  
1 December - 4.30pm

#### Advent Carols by Candlelight

St John, Buxton  
1 December - 6pm

#### Advent Carol Service

St Mary & St Laurence, Bolsover  
1 December - 6pm

#### New Opera Company Derby Concert "Winter Warmers"

St Philip, Chaddesden  
4 December - 7.30pm  
£8 on door or 01332 701886

#### Christmas Tree Festival

All Saints, Turnditch  
5 to 8 December - 10am : 4pm  
(Sunday 12pm - 4pm)

#### Christmas Tree Festival

St John the Evangelist, Derby  
6 to 9 December

#### Christmas Tree Festival

St Thomas, Brampton  
6 to 10 December - 10.30am :  
7pm (Sunday 1.30pm - 5pm)

#### Christmas Fayre

Findern Village Hall  
7 December - 10am - 12 noon

#### Christmas Craft Market

St Thomas, Brampton  
7 December - 10am : 1.30pm

#### Christmas Festival

St Bartholomew, Elvaston  
7 December (10.30am - 5pm)  
8 December (11.30am - 5pm)

#### Derventio Choir Christmas Tree Festival

St John the Evangelist, Derby  
7 December - 7.30pm

#### Christmas Fair

Christ Church, Burbage  
7 December - 10am : 2pm

#### Carol Service of Hope and Thanksgiving

St John the Evangelist, Hazelwood  
8 December - 3 pm

#### Christingle

St Matthew, Morley  
8 December - 3pm

#### Beer and Carols Evening

Holy Trinity, Milford  
8 December - 6.30pm

#### Christmas Tree Festival

St Peter and St Paul, Eckington  
10 - 15 December  
Open 10-12 Dec: 10am - 3pm,  
13 Dec: 3pm - 6pm, 14 Dec:  
10am - 6pm, 15 Dec: 11am - 4pm

#### Folk Carols and Readings

St Mary the Virgin, Buxton  
11 December - 7.30pm

#### Wathall's Memorial Service

Derby Cathedral  
12 December - 6.30pm

#### Christmas Tree Festival

St Paul, Quarndon  
13 to 15 December - times vary.  
Visit [stpaulsquarndon.org.uk](http://stpaulsquarndon.org.uk)

#### Christmas Tree Festival

St Peter, Littleover  
14 to 16 December

#### Carol Service & switching on of Memorial Lights

Christ Church, Burbage  
15 December - 9.30am

#### Christingle Service

St John the Evangelist, Hazelwood  
15 December - 11am

#### Carol Service

St Matthew, Morley  
15 December - 11.15am

#### Candlelit Carol Service

St Peter, Littleover  
15 December - 6pm

#### Nativity Play and Carols

St Bartholomew, Elvaston  
15 December - 6.30pm

#### Carol Service

St Laurence, Shottle  
15 December - 7 pm

#### Christmas Tree Festival

Christ Church, Burbage  
16 December - 2pm : 4pm

#### Scrouge A Ghostly Tale for Christmas

St Lawrence, Barlow  
18 & 20 December - 7 pm  
Tickets £5 - email [julie.ferreday@icloud.com](mailto:julie.ferreday@icloud.com)

#### Christmas Carol Service

All Saints, Curbar  
20 December - 6pm

#### Music Evening with Sarah Hinds

Holy Trinity, Milford  
20 December - 8 pm : 10 pm

#### Choral Morning Prayer

St Bartholomew, Elvaston  
15 December - 10.30am

#### Carol Service

St Swithun, Belper  
19 December - 7.30pm