



St Nick's Church Allestree

February 2020

'...not all of us choose what we give up, the things we love are taken, or never ours at all. If we're lucky, life is defined, not by what we let go, but by what we let in. Friendship and kind words. Frailty, {love} and hope. To be human is to be imperfect, and to accept that is to thrive. No path is always strewn with flowers, but therein lies the power of each fragile, tender bloom...'

These were the words offered by the narrator at the conclusion of the BBC programme, 'Call the Midwife (Series 9 Ep 2). For the benefit of those who aren't regular viewers, the series revolves around a group of nurse midwives who live and work at the fictional convent of 'Nonnatus House' set in the East End of London in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The series was created by Heidi Thomas originally based on the memoirs of Jennifer Worth who worked with the Community of St John the Divine, an Anglican religious order of midwife trained nuns which was founded as a nursing order in 1849. The show has extended beyond the memoirs to include new, historically sourced material. Watching the show on a Sunday evening, I have the sensation that watching 'Call the Midwife' is like pulling on a nice, warm comforting blanket which you then need later on to wipe the tears from your eyes. In the episode mentioned, the House and its occupants were seen in their mid-Lenten struggles, cigarettes were confiscated, a delicious looking Dundee cake hidden on a high

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shelf and flowers removed from the altar table.

The observance of Lent is for many Christians a season of spiritual spring-cleaning, a time of denial and austerity. For those of us who live in a society where anything and everything seems to be available at all times, a bit of delayed gratification is no bad thing. A growing body of academic literature has linked the ability to delay gratification to a host of other positive outcomes, including academic success, physical health, psychological health, and social competence. However, as the narrator remarks wisely, *'not of all us choose what we give up, the things we love are taken, or never ours at all.'* To have a choice is a precious gift indeed and one that not everyone has access too- a choice over where they live, what they eat and drink, where they work, not everyone enjoys good health or can say where they are going to be from one day to the next. In a month when St Valentine is celebrated, there are those who lament not meeting the 'right one', who struggle with the unspoken expectations perhaps from work colleagues and families around settling down and having a family.

One of our Lent groups this year will be looking at Ruth Valerio's book 'Saying Yes to Life' recommended by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Ruth writes much about communities across the world affected by climate change and environmental disorder, about places and people who have no choice about what they *'give up'*. As I write this letter I'm aware of the continuing bush fires in Australia, the volcanic eruption in the Philippines, and the avalanches and flooding that have hit homes in Pakistan and Afghanistan are just a few of recent headlines.

The conclusion of Lent is of course Easter, when those things that may have been given up, are given back to us, often in abundance- chocolate eggs, the traditional Easter Day fare of a roast meat dinner and flowers in church. So what might an eco-Easter Day look like? Fairtrade chocolate eggs? Perhaps a roast dinner that is local, organically farmed, perhaps a vegetarian or vegan meal? Flowers cut from our gardens, rather than flown in from Africa?

If we're lucky, life is defined, not by what we let go, but by what we let in. Friendship and kind words. Frailty, {love} and hope. To be human is to be imperfect, and to accept that is to thrive.

Who or what will be let into our lives over the next few weeks of Lent? What might we change or alter, what might be taken from us and what might we be given back in return?

Yours in faith, Becky

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (25th Feb) and there will a service St Nick's Church on Wed 26th Feb at 12.30pm of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes. Please bring along a packed lunch if you intend to stay afterwards.



**Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm
in the Chapel, St Nick's**

January 15th

February 12th

March 11th

April 22nd

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

September 16th

October 14th

November 11th



DERBY
CITYMISSION

Thank you so much for the gifts and/or money that you gave to our Christmas Connection project this year to help families and children in need at Christmas. This project is always an act of faith and we are so grateful to you, and to God, for providing all the presents that we needed. We were able to bless around 460 children referred to us by churches, other charities & social workers. 150 more than last year.

What we are able to do with your help makes such a difference to the families who receive the presents. I hope you'll be encouraged by these stories.

Kate had to flee domestic violence and left with her two young boys and a few belongings she could carry. She was placed in a Women's Refuge and once she left there, she had absolutely nothing. She spent all her money on furnishing her new home but had nothing left over at all and two little boys excited for Christmas. Through the toys so generously given, we were able to give her presents for them and in turn, help support her in making a new life for them all.

This grandma cares for 3 teenage children and these gifts when given was a joy to see ...all three faces lit up with the biggest smiles, no words but their faces spoke of excitement, thanks and joy.

Sonya from the Mandela Centre writes, 'Some of the circumstances in which the families live are overcrowded and humbling and in many homes there was no visible sign that it was Christmas. The donation of those gifts made all the difference and brought joy and happiness to so many families. Your work is transformative; for each child you give not just the gift of Christmas but the gift of kindness which could change the whole way they see the world.'

Thank you so much for your support. It means so much to these families.
Kind regards

Viv Merkelt
Central Services Manager

Nagpur Link News

Representatives from churches in Allestree and Darley Abbey continue to meet to support projects in Nagpur India via the Church of North India (CNI) Social Services Institute (SSI). At the recent Nagpur link meeting, friends of a Nagpur Link church reported on the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Church of North India. They represented the Nagpur Link, along with 10 other delegates representing “International Partners of the CNI”, who along with 26 Bishops joined around 2000 people for the celebrations. These included a procession along the streets to All Saints Cathedral in Nagpur for special services, and the unveiling of a monumental plaque to mark the 50 years. Talks concentrated on how the CNI might develop over the next 10 years and how the partnership with Derbyshire churches might move forward.

During the visit to Nagpur, they also had the opportunity to visit the CNI SSI training centre, opened in 2019 and partly funded by our local churches in the Nagpur Link.

The following churches are hosting Lent Lunches, raising funds for the Nagpur Link as well as allowing opportunities for friendship and fellowship.



All lunches take place on a Saturday at 12.30pm. Cost: £4 adults, £2 children. Pay on the door. Cake stall + plant stall when possible.

7th March - Holy Family, Blenheim Drive

14th March - St Nick's , Allestree Lane

21st March - Quarndon Church Hall

28th March - Broadway Baptist Church

4th April - St Edmund's, Allestree

Lunches comprise a light lunch of a choice of home-made soups, bread roll with ham or cheese, fresh fruit and a hot drink. Gluten free options are available.

Jill Reed, Secretary. Jillreed721@gmail.com

STOP PRESS ** The Church of North India Bishops will be visiting Derbyshire churches this July, pre their arrival at the 2020 Lambeth Conference.

Allestree & Quarndon Lent Groups 2020

This year we are going to run 3 Lent groups over two locations with a choice of subject!

All 3 groups will run weekly commencing Monday 2nd March for 6 weeks.

Making Good Sense of the Bible Together is a course from the Bible Society, exploring some of the key aspects to understanding and interpreting the Bible, so that by the end hopefully *“understanding will be bigger and broader.”*

‘Making Good Sense’ will run on Monday Afternoons 2-3.30pm and Tuesday evenings 7.30pm-9pm, with both groups meeting in St Nick’s Chapel. Please contact Revd. Dawn Knight for more information.

‘Saying Yes to Life’ is the Archbishop of Canterbury’s recommended Lent book for 2020, written by Dr Ruth Valerio, the Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund. She is an environmentalist, theologian and social activist. She enjoys living sustainably – practicing what she preaches and inspiring others to do so.

Saying Yes to Life will run on Tuesday afternoons 1.30-3pm in Quarndon village, please contact Revd Becky directly for the venue information. You will be required to purchase a copy of the book in advance, whether in paperback or Kindle edition from any bookshop or online.

St Edmunds & St Matthew’s, are also running two Lent groups using Saying Yes to Life and all are welcome. There will be a Monday afternoon group at Darley Abbey and a Thursday evening group at St Edmunds’ vicarage. Please contact Revd. Peter Barham for more information, revpeterbarham@btinternet.com or phone 01332 551404.

If you’re unable to make it to a Lent group, how about obtaining a copy of Care for God’s Creation– a 40 day challenge published by Church House or downloading an app like ‘Everyday Faith’, ‘Time to Pray’ or ‘Reflections for Daily Prayer’ - please note they may charge a subscription rate.

Diocesan & Deanery News

Revd. Ian Mountford

Here at St Nick's we were very sad to hear about the passing of the Revd. Ian Mountford, associate priest and Rector-designate of a neighbouring church of St Alkmund's on Kedleston Rd. His funeral service took place at St Alkmund's on January 9th and many came to pay their respects and offer their tributes. Please continue to pray for Ian's wife, family and the ministry team at St Alkmund's.

Training Opportunities

Please check the Diocesan website regularly for news of training events– the list is constantly updated throughout the year.

You can book through the website, just follow the link to Eventbrite or call the training team on 01332 388687.

You may be interested in:



Wed 5th Feb
7-9pm

Everybody Welcome: Welcoming and
Integrating Newcomers into Church

St Peter's Littleover

Wed 12th Feb
10am-12pm

Show me the Money: Keys to Successful
grant applications

Church House, Derby

Thur 13th Feb
2-4pm

Social Media for Beginners

Church House, Derby

NEW Certificate of Mission & Ministry

This is an easy to access, predominantly distance-learning course designed to help and strengthen discipleship and deepen understanding of the Bible. It consists of 10 -week modules on different subjects. Students can take as many modules as they wish, each module costs £25. For more details contact Ellie on 01332 388687 or have a look at the new course website: www.discipleship-training.org

Easter Experience needs you!

Tuesday 31st to Thursday 2nd April we need lovely people like yourself to volunteer to come and host a "station"/ a segment of the Easter story!

We have 3 sessions a day at 9.15, 10.30 and 1.15pm are you available? Even if it's just one session!

Everything is already prepared for you, you just need to read a script and be a warm, friendly presence to the school children & staff who come to the experience.

It's such a great opportunity to share a fundamental part of our Christian faith with a generation who are largely "unchurched", we already have 150 children booked on, all we need now is you 😊

If you're available and willing or you'd like to know more please don't hesitate to contact me or put your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Thank you - Anna Oldknow—07508 988722 / aoldknow@gmail.com

If you would like to help sponsor the work of our Children's Youth and Family Worker you can do so in the following ways:

A One off Gift

You can do this simply by using a normal church giving envelope and writing on CYFW and placing on the offertory plate at a Sunday morning service.

Planned Giving

If you are able to set up a Standing Order with your bank, then that's the most helpful form of giving to us . You will need to notify your bank via phone , branch or online banking. You will need the following information:

Account No: 11765161 Sort Code: 16-11-31 (Royal Bank of Scotland)

Please reference: CYFW Pledge.

You may also be able to fill in a Gift Aid Declaration form if you are a UK taxpayer. Please get in touch if you need a form, copies are available at the back of church.

Treasurer: Clive Jarrett: 840172 - Church Warden: Paul Taylor 556020

PRAYER — and — PRAISE

*The next Prayer & Praise will be on **Sunday 26th December***

This is a 7pm service on the fourth Sunday of each month. An informal service with contemporary worship songs, time and space to reflect on a Bible passage, open prayer, and the opportunity to be still in the presence of God - All are welcome, and we hope this will be a great space for you to come and be refreshed in spirit.

Allestree Local History Talks - Spring 2020

Date	Title and Speaker
12 Feb	“The Robins” – History of our Post Office and Postal Service by Bob Massey
26 Feb	Talks by our Members
11 Mar	“Bolsover Castle through the Ages” by Ian Morgan
25 Mar	“1817 – a Recipe for Revolution” – Reflections on the Pentrich Rising of June 1817 by Michael Parkin

Meetings are held in the Choir Vestry of St. Nicholas Church, Allestree Lane on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 pm. Enquiries about the Group to Terry 558256 or Matthew 842114

Enquiries concerning the program to Mike mikehannah068@gmail.com or 07985627717. Website: allestreelocalstudygroup.org.uk

What's on at St Nick's

*The following are regular activities that take place here,
and you are more than welcome to join in with them!*

Activities	Time	Date	Venue
Morning Prayer	8:30am	Every Mon term time	Chapel
Playtime Toddlers	9:15am - 11am	Every Tues term time	Church Hall
Mid-week Communion	12:30pm	Every Wed term time	Chapel
Women's Fellowship	2:15pm	Wed 4th February	Church Room
Knit & Natter	2:00pm - 3:30pm	Wed 11th February	Church Room
Coffee & Chat	10:30am - 12 noon	Fri 14th February	Church Room
Pray Together	7-8pm	Wed 12th February	Chapel
Pub Lunch	12 noon	Sun 16th February	The Markeaton
Lent Groups	Various	From Mon 2nd March	St Nick's Chapel + Quarndon Village

Newsletter Information - Deadline!

Please be aware that the deadline for any news you'd like to be included in the next Newsletter is always the 16th of the month before.

Any info should be sent to the church office on stnicksallestree@outlook.com

Birthdays

If you've got a big birthday coming up, maybe 80, 90..... 100?! We'd love to know so that we can celebrate with you!

Please speak to Christine C who coordinates church birthday cards.

Church Family News

We were saddened to hear just after Christmas of the passing of Ted Olpin, a regular and well known church member at St Nick's. Ted had not been able to attend church in the last few years of his life, but he was regularly visited by church members and received communion a few days before his death. His funeral took place on Monday 20th January and the church was full of those who wanted to pay their respects and give thanks for Ted's life. Our condolences and prayers are with Beryl, his wife and the family as they continue to grieve his loss.

Pastoral Care

The Ministry Team have been doing some work on improving our pastoral care and communication between church members. Can we ask that if you notice someone has been absent from church or are aware that they have had a change in circumstances please do talk to a member of clergy or Anna Hopewell-Ryan who has offered to be our pastoral care coordinator. We are currently looking to recruit a team of volunteers who can offer the following: making a telephone call, can offer lifts to hospital appointments, provide hot meals on an ad hoc basis and pastoral care visits. Volunteers must comply with our safer recruitment policies and be prepared to undergo a DBS check and undertake safeguarding training if required. If you know anyone who would appreciate a home visit or a telephone call please do get in touch, Anna can be contacted on 01332 551144.

Sunday Prayers

You may have heard names being read out on a Sunday morning and wondered how do I get a name on the list? Please get in touch with Joan Sinclair 550019 or any member of the Ministry Team to refer a name or self-refer.

Prayer Circle

If you or someone you know needs prayer for anything please contact **one of the prayer circle** volunteers and they will form a circle of prayer with others. Anna 551144, Petra 554543, Daphne 559199, Anne 551589, Judith 556357, Linda 840196, Glenys 552697, Julie 840106 and Margaret 550602. This is completely confidential.

Upcoming Services

The Chapel is open for prayers from 9:30am on a Sunday before the service .

Dates/Services	Leaders	Readings
Sunday 2nd February 8am Said Holy Communion (BCP) 10am All Age Worship	<i>Becky</i> <i>Phil & Anna</i>	Malachi 3:1-5 Luke 2:22-40
Sunday 9th February 10am Informal Holy Communion	<i>Lee Martin</i>	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20
Sunday 16th February 8am Said Holy Communion (Reserve) 10am Morning Praise	<i>Dawn</i> <i>Phil Moncur</i>	Genesis 1:1-2:3 Matthew 6:25-end
Sunday 23rd February 10am Holy Communion 7pm Prayer & Praise	<i>Becky & Sarah</i> <i>Phil</i>	Exodus 24:12-end Matthew 17:1-9
ASH WEDNESDAY 26th Feb 12.30 Holy Communion & Ashing	<i>Becky & Dawn</i>	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Matt 6: 1-6, 16-21

Future Diary Dates:

Maunday Thursday (9th April) Bring & Share Agape Meal at Quarndon Church Hall
 Good Friday (10th April) 7pm Reflections on the Cross

St Nick's will be hosting the Deanery Festival of Life on Saturday 26th September

Please get in touch if you would like to talk to us about organising a Baptism or Thanksgiving service for the Gift of a Child at St Nick's or would like to get married or celebrate a special anniversary with the renewal of wedding vows.

Vicar Becky is always happy to respond to enquiries.