



## **St Nick's, Allestree & St Paul's, Quarndon**

*May2024*

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### Opening letter by David Horsfall

I hope you had a great Easter, and I imagine that thoughts are now turning towards going away. However, let's not get ahead of ourselves, for this month we have two more big moments in the Church calendar: Ascension Day, and Pentecost. Limitations of space prevent me from going into close detail on both of these, so I'll focus on the first, Ascension Day.

“[Jesus] was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They [his disciples] were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee’, they said, ‘why do you stand here looking in to the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven’.”  
Acts 1:9-11



For some considerable time now, many Christians have been unsure what to make of the Ascension. In the Church of England Lectionary (a sort of services calendar), Ascension Day is written in red letters, which makes it a Big Deal, to be marked by a special service. All through my ministry, I have held such a service, and all through my ministry, the turnout has been tiny. We're talking single figures, or not far into doubles. Of course, Ascension Day is always on a Thursday, and midweek services of any kind don't tend to draw crowds, but I still say that we don't always know what to make of it. We might even go so far as to suggest that some of us find the idea embarrassing. After all, we are told in Acts chapter 1 that Jesus rose from the ground and went up to heaven. But don't we all know by now that heaven is not "up there"? Isn't this all rather primitive?

Well, not so fast – sometimes we can be too clever to use our intelligence. We should not assume, for instance, that people of the first century were a herd of gullible primitives. Yes, there was a lot of superstition around, but then there still is. The fact is that many in those times would have found the Ascension story just as startling as we do, and would have felt the same temptation not to believe it. We also bark up the wrong tree if we imagine that Luke is trying to tell us that heaven is "up there".



The precise location of heaven is not the issue, for Jesus is demonstrating to his disciples that he is going out of this world and into another. The best way to do this is surely to rise from the earth and disappear into a “cloud” (more about that in a moment). The point is that Jesus’ bodily presence has come to an end and he was gone. There was no point in looking for him.

As for this cloud, well, in the Bible, a cloud is often a way of describing God’s glory, and that seems to be the obvious meaning here. This is very, very much more than airborne water! This is a human way of



describing the indescribable. Jesus was leaving the human world in his bodily form and entering the glory of his Father - entering heaven.

But we haven’t finished yet. You see, this is the culmination of the whole of Jesus’ earthly ministry. God had become human (born as a baby!), lived among us, died among us, and had been raised from the dead. Sins can be forgiven, and death has been conquered. All is complete. Jesus is entering the presence of his Father as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Shortly, at Pentecost, the Spirit of Jesus will come, and his presence on earth will continue by this Spirit. The Ascension is in fact a victory procession, and when Jesus comes again (as he will) it will not this time be as a baby in a manger, but as the risen, ascended, glorious King. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again, as we cry in our Communion services, and the Ascension points to all of these. There is so much to celebrate and rejoice in. All is complete. All is secure, for ever. Forget feeling embarrassed – let’s get excited!

## St Pauls 150 year since founding celebrations!



On Saturday 20th April there was a very enjoyable cream tea in the Village Hall organised by Mary Pitt. The Rev'd Sarah Watson welcomed everyone and talked about the history of the church. This was followed by three children from Curzon School reading out poems. On the tables at the side there was a wonderful spread of cakes and scones (with jam and cream) donated by people. Margaret Fearn provided some lovely flower arrangements. Volunteers handed out the drinks and the food. Over 70 people came and appreciated the food, drink and an opportunity for a chat. Games and drawing were provided for the children. All in all, an excellent afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who made the celebrations possible. Here's to another 150 years!





## Blessing of the Oils service

Our wonderful clergy and lay ministers (readers) attended a special service on Maundy Thursday at Derby City Cathedral.

(pictured below with Bishop Libby).



## Why is there a Blessing of Oils service?

Our own baptism is the sacramental sign of our union with Christ, and of God's gift to us of his Holy Spirit, to make us God's children by adoption and grace, and to equip us for the share that all Christians have in Christ's own ministry. The New Testament speaks of this gift of the Holy Spirit as an anointing (1 John 2.20-27; 2 Corinthians 1.21-22).



From an early date, it became customary to trace the sign of the cross in oil on the heads of candidates for baptism, and to anoint them again after baptism with the perfumed oil of chrism – a sign of incorporation into the prophetic, priestly and royal life of Jesus Christ. At the same time, the Letter of James urges its recipients to anoint the sick with oil (James 5.15), as a sign of the healing and forgiveness that are also given through the Holy Spirit (cf Mark 6.13). These are the biblical roots of the ancient custom of using oils in the life of the Church, and of the three particular oils – of catechumens, of the sick, and of chrism – that are prepared in the Chrism Eucharist.

In the course of Christian history, they have come to be used in many ways – especially, as in the Old Testament, for the setting apart of people and things for a special place in the life of the Church, for bishops and priests at their ordination, for kings and queens at their crowning, and for churches and altars at their consecration.



There is a more recent custom, introduced first into the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Paul VI in the middle of the twentieth century, that the Chrism Eucharist is also an occasion for the renewal of commitment to ministry. As the priests gathered around their bishop on Maundy Thursday, to receive the oils to take back to their parishes, he suggested that they should renew their commitment to serve Christ.

This is appropriate on this day, when we remember that Christ consecrated himself to his Father's service and expressed his obedient self-gift in the institution of the Eucharist and in the agony of Gethsemane, and prayed for the unity of his disciples. It is now a widespread Anglican practice for deacons, Readers and authorized lay ministers to be associated with the bishop and priests in the renewal of commitment to ministry.

It is important to distinguish this renewal, which has to do with the commitment of authorized ministers (lay or ordained) to particular and defined ministries in the life of the Church, from the renewal of the commitment of all God's people to the royal and priestly ministry they have received in baptism. This second renewal, which is theologically prior to the first, properly takes place in the reaffirmation of baptismal promises at the Easter Liturgy



Reference: Words taken from—The Church of England website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-2>



## Summer family event.

Anna is currently planning our yearly summer family event. This has been a real success every year but can only happen with the help of a team of wonderful volunteers.

So.... Calling all willing helpers!!!

Please speak to Anna (CYFW) if you are interested in either helping on the day, preparing activities or helping to plan. Alternatively email the office: [stnicksallestree@outlook.com](mailto:stnicksallestree@outlook.com)

Thank you



## Advanced notice:

St Matthews Church, Darley Abbey are holding an Ascension day service , 9th May @ 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend this and/or

Ascension Day Service at All Saints' Church,

Kedleston Hall DE22 5JH @ 10.30am

Everyone is welcome to celebrate Ascension Day in this beautiful and historic Church.

Free Parking in the National Trust car park and entry for those attending the service

# QUARNDON PRESCHOOL



## Quarndon Pre-School

### 2 YEAR OLD FUNDING PLACES AVAILABLE

Have you checked to see if your child is eligible for 2 year old funding ?

We are now accepting applications, Please contact Dawn for more information.

Please note: Additional costs for extras such as consumables and non-funded hours are chargeable. Funded only sessions will have a set consumables charge applied



01332 556611 / 07708906743



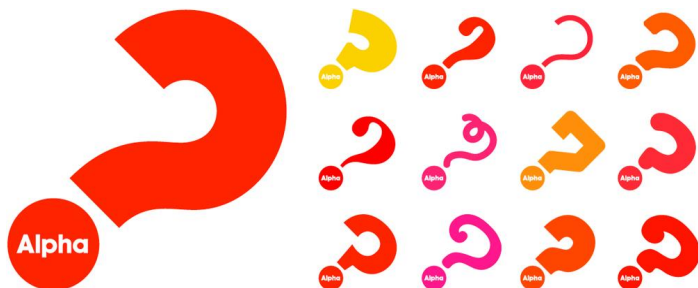
quarndonpre-school@hotmail.co.uk

<https://quarndonpreschool.org/index>



# ALPHA

The new Alpha course has begun.  
Every Tuesday 7.30pm in the church  
room. All welcome to join.  
For more details or to register please  
contact Emma in the St Nick's office.



The Alpha course enjoyed an 'away day' 27th April.  
Thank you to the Alpha team for arranging this event,  
and for all the hard work (and cakes).



## Church Prayer @ St Nick's

**Pre-church prayer** takes place in the chapel from 9.30am to 9.45am on a Sunday morning. We pray for the service to follow and anything else the Holy Spirit prompts us to bring to our Father.

Church prayer will be held in the Chapel

The next meeting will be Wednesday 22nd May  
7.30 - 8.30pm.

Contact Graham if you are interested in joining us in prayer.



## St Nick's Prayer Circle

St Nick's have a prayer circle as part of their pastoral care set up. For those unfamiliar with the practice, it is simply a circle of people who are committed to phone along a chain when people request prayer, or a situation arises that needs communicating and praying for. You can rest assured that you are being covered in prayer when you approach someone who is on the contact list.

***If you would like to be added to the prayer circle, please get in touch with the church office.***

## **Pastoral Care Update.**

Are you going through a difficult time at the moment and would like some emotional, spiritual or physical help? Then please let Clare Stacey know.

For various understandable reasons, many people find it difficult to reach out and ask for help but if you are aware of anyone who is struggling at the moment, please let us know. It could include for example, help with shopping, a home visit or merely a friendly chat on the phone. If we don't know, then it's difficult to help.

We are part of your church family and have been DBS checked and have completed the Diocesan Safe Guarding Training.



## **Prayer Requests:**

***Please pray for:-***

- We are deeply saddened by the sudden death of Gill Hannah and we continue to pray for Mike and his family as we all mourn her loss.
- For those who are ill and recently moved to a care home.
- For those on the Alpha course, that they may find it helpful in deepening their Christian faith.

## Coffee & Chat @ St Nick's

A reminder that Coffee & Chat takes place every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, in the Church Room, 10:30am -12noon. All are welcome to join in and enjoy this lovely social, which is much appreciated after a time of not being able to gather.



## St Nick's Pub Lunches

Join us after church for a pub lunch social once a month.  
12 noon @ The Markeaton pub.  
Future dates: May 19th and June 23rd.

LET'S DO  
LUNCH!

## Knit & Natter @ St Nick's

Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the 1st, 3rd, and where there is a 5th Wednesday of the month, 2-3:30pm.

*Membership fee* £5 each quarter, then £1 per session.  
Contact Sandra on 557114  
Come and join us for tea, biscuits, and chat.

## **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 20th of the month before.

**Please get in touch if you'd like to organise a Baptism at St Nick's or St Paul's, or would like to get married or celebrate a special anniversary with the renewal of wedding vows.**

Polite notice to St Nick's congregation, hall hirers and visitors.

Please could everyone be mindful when parking on the roads surrounding St Nick's and be considerate to residents. In particular ensure we are not parking across driveways and allow residents space to reverse in and out of their drives.

Thank you all as always for your support and kindness.

**Children's, Youth & Families Worker:** Anna Oldknow

**Email:** stnickschildrensworker@gmail.com

**Mobile :** 07472 664287

**Office Email:** stnicksallestree@outlook.com

**Websites:** [www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Paul-Quarndon](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Paul-Quarndon)  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Nicholas-Allestree](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Nicholas-Allestree).

[www.stnicksallestree.uk](http://www.stnicksallestree.uk)

**Office Hours:** Monday 9.15-4.15, Tuesday 9.15 - 2.45, Wednesday 1.15-3.15 and Friday 9.15 - 2.45.



### **Handy Contacts for both churches:**

**Church Office** Emma Patterson      **Contact:** 01332 550431.

#### **St Nick's**

**Church Warden:** Paul Taylor      **Contact:** 01332 556020

**Safeguarding Lead:** Miriam Chappell      **Contact:** psostnicks@outlook.com

**Telephone:** 07448607129

**Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)** Sarah Tupling, Phil Moncur and Bruce Innis

#### **St Paul's**

**Church Wardens:** Mike Annable      **Contact:** wardenstpauls@outlook.com  
Jan Calladine

**Safeguarding Lead:**      **Contact:** psostpauls@outlook.com

**Church Hall Bookings:** Val Annable      **Contact:** hallstpauls@outlook.com



## Upcoming Services — May

<b>Dates/Services</b>	<b>Leaders</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Sunday 5th May</b> St Nicks: 10am Informal Worship St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion	AO/PM SW	Acts 10:44-end John 15:9-17
<b>Sunday 12th May</b> St Nick's: 10am T@TT communion St Paul's: 3.30pm T-Time	DH/SW AO	Acts 1:15-17, 21-end John 17:6-19
<b>Sunday 19th May</b> St Nicks: 10am Morning Praise St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion	GT/PM SW	Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27,16:4b-15
<b>Sunday 26th May</b> St Nick's: 10am Bible Study 3pm Holy Communion St Paul's: 10am Morning Praise	DH SW PM	Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17

Advanced notice of APCM - St Pauls 12th May following T-Time.

