



Sinfin Moor Church

Arleston Lane, Sinfin Moor, Derby DE24 3DH

A Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) serving

Sinfin Moor and Stenson Fields

December Newsletter

(Published Sunday 7th December 2025)

Welcome to our Monthly Newsletter

A reminder that at any of our Church Services, please be considerate to others and ensure your phone is set to silent or switched off. Thank you for your consideration.



The festive season is once again upon us (doesn't time fly!). I would just like to wish everyone A MERRY (but not too merry hic!) CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY, HEALTHY & PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

Joy

For our **Morning Communion Service** today, the Worship Leader is **Paul Desborough** and our Communion is also presided by **Rev'd Paul Desborough**.

Our Intercession Prayers are being led by **Wendy Roe**, **Joshua Osah** is projecting, **Wendy Stower** is providing the music for the hymns and **Margaret Platt** is on sound.

The Vestry Steward today is **Melanie Sant**, if you have any queries or need anything announcing, please speak to her.

Rita Archer is our reader and the readings are:

Isaiah 22: v20 - 23

Revelation 3: v7 - 8 & 8: v10 - 13

Psalm 89: v19 - 29

(using the New Living Translation)



The Church is fitted with an inductive loop system.

Hearing aid users should switch to the 'T' position (if so fitted) or adjust your hearing aid as required.

With it being the first service of the month, Communion will be served at the rail, please come forward when asked to do so by the Usher. If you cannot easily come to the rail, please tell the Usher and we will happily serve you Communion to you at your seat. Should you require a blessing, please come to the rail when asked to do so, and tell the person who is presiding or tell the Usher if you cannot get to the rail.

Advent Joy and the O Antiphons
Revd. Gael Browne

Advent is a season of waiting, of quiet hope, and of joy. This year, our theme is joy, and we're exploring it through one of the most beloved Advent carols, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

Many of you will know this carol from its haunting, beautiful melody and its repeated plea: "O come, O come, Emmanuel." But have you ever noticed the verses? Each one begins with a different title for the coming Messiah: *Wisdom, Lord of Might, Root of Jesse, Key of David*... These are known as the *O Antiphons*, and they have been sung in the final days of Advent for more than a thousand years.

Originally, the *O Antiphons* were short prayers or chants used in monasteries and churches across Europe. Each antiphon addresses Christ in a different way, highlighting one of the many hopes we place in him: wisdom for the wise, freedom for the captives, light for those in darkness. They were sung in the evenings leading up to Christmas, building a kind of spiritual journey through longing, hope, and anticipation.

When we sing them today, even without knowing all the history, we participate in that journey. Each verse invites us to reflect: What do we long for in our own lives? Where do we seek God's presence? And, ultimately, how is our joy shaped by this hope?

This Advent, as we light our candles and sing these verses, we are reminded that joy is not just a fleeting feeling. It is a deep, steady hope that carries us through the waiting. The *O Antiphons* guide us to see the many faces of Christ's coming, and in doing so, they help us discover joy that reaches far beyond our circumstances.

I so look forward to singing, praying, and excited waiting together this Advent season, with hearts open to the joyful gift of Emmanuel: "God with us."

Paul's Piece

Here we are in Advent, 2025. That time of year when we are waiting for the joys of Christmas, when we are waiting for a break from work, waiting for the family get togethers, waiting to celebrate with food and drink, waiting to rejoice again the wonder of the birth of a Son who has changed the world, waiting for the completeness of love shown to be fully comprehended.

Waiting can be hard, despite our cultural preference to stand in queues. The frustration of not knowing how long, the patience needed to carry on and not arriving yet, the demanding self-control of not trying to attain a fulfilment when it is not in our gift to give. Yet, the season of advent is a time and space that Christians have given to allow all these, very real, feelings and thoughts to emerge. Why is this necessary ? what does it achieve ?



In the Christian Celtic tradition It is believed that the 40 days of Advent were split into three segments, informally termed the three comings of Christ. The first was the incarnation, the birth of Jesus where we all tend to focus upon at this time of year; the second is Christ coming into our lives; the third is the coming of Christ at the end of all things, as depicted in the book of Revelation.

The incarnation, as the gospel writer John says ' the word became flesh and lived among us' (*John 1:14*). Jesus has always existed, even before creation, historically ' he came from heaven to earth as the gift of love to us, for us, to be with us that we may know his love. We don't have to wait, this has happened. Our challenge here, is continuing believing. Knowing and trusting that although these things happened many years ago they are still for us now. '...everything of God finds its proper place in Jesus without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe - people and things, animals and atoms - get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood poured down from the cross' (*Colossians 1: 19-20*).

The coming of Christ into our lives, some know, some are asking for, some are unsure about and some not wanting to know. Again we do not have to wait, if we know - we know, if we're asking Jesus is coming. If unsure, what will it take for us to know? Advent is an opportunity to explore, to ask questions, to wonder and to discover. Where there may be a sense of irrelevance, Jesus continues to wait with a loving ache.

The third coming of Christ 'when all things are made new' (*revelation 21: 5*) When a voice from the throne says ' Look , God has come to dwell with humans! He will dwell with them and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them and will be their God' (*revelation 21:3*). This ' second coming' of Jesus is immeasurably wonder - full, its beyond our words and imaginations, but we get a sense of it in the words and vision of Johns revelation - ' no more tears, no more death, no mourning or weeping or pain any more - the first things have passed away' (*revelation 21:4*). We're not there yet and the waiting cry, the prayer of Advent is ' Come Lord Jesus !'

In the challenges of waiting, we have an assurance God is before us, we have the significance of knowing God is with us in our lives, and we have the hope there is much more to come, to know, to be transformed by and to be lived in. Help us God to see our waiting isn't wasteful or wearing, that it is wonder - full, wise and for our well-being.

A prayer and a song resources for Advent.

Advent Prayer

Where you walk
Where you work
Where you live?
Where you love
May you be fuelled
By the fullness
Of the goodness of God

In your hardships
In morning
In the night of grief, that groans
For the mearest glint of mourning
May you find faith
In the fullness
Of the goodness of God

When you choose to follow stars
And cross dark deserts
Because you've heard behind the skies
An Angel song
When you long for greater light
And yearn for learning
Unafraid to know your journey will be long
May you reach the source of healing
And find your heart's true home
May flourish
In the fullness
Of the goodness of God

Taken from - I see a new city: Poems of place and possibility. Gerard Kelly.



In the Waiting

<https://youtu.be/aDIOV93t3iM?si=4lenM0FZpwVRW0Ep>

Community Meals and Connect

There are now over 5500 Warm Welcome Spaces in the UK. What started as a crisis response to keep people warm through the winter has blossomed into a movement to reconnect individuals and communities across the country all year round. The Warm Welcome Campaign and local spaces have created what former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown calls a 'Chain of Hope.' Warm Welcome Spaces are places full of human warmth, belonging, connection and hope. Thousands of lives are being touched by Warm Welcome Spaces - they are the heartbeat of local communities, buzzing with life and bringing people together.



At the Warm Welcome Spaces Champions event in Birmingham we were able to share about Sinfin Moor Church Community Meals and Connect and learn from other Warm Welcome Spaces experiences. The national team gave helpful insights and information to continue working with local community partners and where to find further support.



"It is one thing for Warm Welcome to have supported a crisis response last winter. But to see the way that this movement has developed, speaks to something deeper and more significant - the potential that often lies latent in our communities. By harnessing this potential, Warm Welcome now has the opportunity to start to change the culture of this country, beginning to turn the tide on both poverty and isolation and connecting individuals and communities."

Right Honourable Gordon Brown - Former Prime Minister.

Do you know someone who may benefit from connecting with others and doesn't know about Connect and Community meals? We now have provision for young families and this is your opportunity to invite them, come with them and discover the joys of Mondays in this space.

Christmas Community Meal Monday December 15th

There is a free hot meal and dessert each week- you don't have to book a place. And there is help at hand if you need some support with the Cost of Living crisis or assistance from the local pharmacy with some minor conditions

(There will be no Community Meals on the 22nd and 29th December)



Sinfin Moor Church

We are a Christian Fellowship
committed to serving God
and sharing the good news of Jesus with everyone

Church Community Prayer Meetings



Each week we meet to pray together for our church and local community for around 30 minutes at the **Church Centre** on Thursdays 9am. All are welcome to join and you are not required to pray aloud.

We follow the Celtic Daily Morning Prayer that has some written prayer that we say together, some short bible readings, then we hear a reflection, meditation and move into a time of 'open prayer' for current needs and concerns, and life in the surrounding area, including praying for the church and its activities. You are welcome to join.

"Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of Containing God's gift of himself."
- Mother Theresa

Other opportunities to share together in prayer are through the

Prayer List in this newsletter - Contact Glen roeglennard@gmail.com with any requests at **Heath Court** on Thursdays 10:00am in the Quiet Room

and with the **CoDA (School) prayer group** - the next meeting is **January 12th 2.30pm** in the Church Centre Welcome Area. contact Fiona fiona@sinfimoorchurch.org.uk



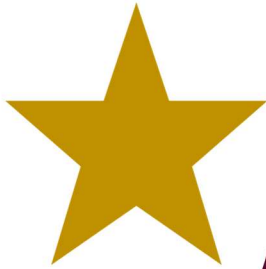
JOY

Christmas at Sinfin Moor Church

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER
10am CAROL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER
11.30pm CHRISTMAS EVE
COMMUNION

THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER
10am CHRISTMAS DAY
CELEBRATION



Memorial Service

The annual Memorial Service was held on Sunday November 30th in partnership with the Sinfin Co-op Funeral Home. The space offered time to reflect on the memories of those who are no longer with us but held dear in our memories. Tracey Harris Read Psalm 122 and Rev Gael Browne spoke of the comfort and encouragement in the words "May you have peace." They then read out 139 names and candles were lit by family and friends in memory of loved ones.



If you would like a copy of the Order of Service, some are available in the Welcome Area.



Rev Fiona's December Update



I wrote my last update as October drew to a close, with darker evenings and the month ending with Halloween. For many that time of year is one that is uncomfortable. Halloween, with its interwoven influences from across the centuries from pagan harvest celebrations, the Christian festival of All Hallows - more commonly referred to now as All Saints day on November 1st and All Hallows Eve on October 31st that led to the naming of Halloween. But today it feels like it's been taken over, an opportunity to sell dressing up costumes, spooky decorations and lots of sweets!

For many, Halloween is an uncomfortable time with strangers knocking doors undercover of the dark. Should we be fearful though? I totally understand not wanting to open the door to strangers - I'm a big advocate of closing the curtains and keeping the lights low! But we, as Christians can change the story of this time of year. We believe in the One called "the light of the world"! Surely on an evening which seems overwhelmed with darkness this is a time we can shine Christ's light. When I lived in Loughborough we didn't do trick or treating - we did reverse treating and delivered homemade cookies to all our neighbours.

And here on Boundary Moor Gardens, when I first arrived, there was a desire from the community to do something for Halloween. And so, we do! This year we once again had the gazebo of lights. We served hot chocolate, far too many sweets and hot dogs out of a neighbour's kitchen window! As we gathered and chatted, neighbours came and joined for drinks and food. And the dressing up was amazing! My favourite was two little ones dressed as the slinky dog from Toy Story with a spring joining them! And the guys in the photo were so funny - apparently, it's from a computer game!



And alongside all the fun, every child who visited was given a bag of Hope with glow in the dark stars, a Hope postcard to colour, chocolate of course and "A little book of blessings" donated by a local Christian graphic designer. We handed out 94 bags in just an hour and a half! With every blessing

Fiona

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST



FOR DECEMBER

Let us begin by thanking the Lord for His answered prayers. He is our all and all

Thank you, Lord for the interaction with the local schools praying that relationships will be built and unity between the churches will increase.

Pray for all the church events leading up to Christmas praying for all our church leaders that they will have all they need during this very busy season.

Let's pray that the Carols in The Park will be well attended.

The Community Christmas meal will go well and be well attended.

Pray for all the events that are planned for Boundary Moor Gardens. Pray for Fiona as she brings them all together.

- Lord, we pray for Your peace to be with Tricia and Bob.
 - Jacquie that her energy levels may increase and that she really feels Our Lord's presence during this time and support for Mel too.
 - Dom would like us to say a thank you that he has been able to visit all the MAF bases he is responsible for. He would also like prayer for endurance leading up to Christmas as it's an extremely busy time. Let's pray that Christmas can be a very special time for the whole family as the children return home for the holidays.
 - Please pray for Pat MacDonald to have a calm and peaceful mind and for David to have strength, grace and the wisdom to know how to move forward.
 - John Keith and family after his recent fall, pray that he will have total healing.
 - There are many people within our church family that need our prayers at present, many waiting for test results those with viruses and ongoing conditions.
 - Please remember to bring the young people in our area and beyond that they will come to know the love of Jesus
 - Thank you again for the prayer requests, it would be great if we could also have answer to prayers too, it would be GREAT to be able to include some good news .
- God bless you all for your faithfulness in praying.



Please remember to get in touch for any prayer requests

My contact for any prayer requests is, Glenn Roe Mobile 07949654286 email, roeglennard@gmail.com

Treasurer's Update

Eleven months have gone and just one to go before we reach the end of our financial year. Our financial situation has not really changed from last month in that we are just about holding our own, but we have now entered what are the three most expensive months of the year i.e. December to February when our running costs rise. These are cushioned a little bit now that we have the solar panels fitted.

Whilst we have benefitted from a reduction in our electricity bill thanks to our solar panels, we have not yet got them registered for the export of any excess electricity to the National Grid. Our Supplier, British Gas Lite decided after two months of trying, that we needed a new meter to be fitted to record the figures. This is because they did not accept the figures shown on the meter we had. This new meter has now been fitted, a suitable photograph sent and we are now awaiting them to respond. They seem to take about a week to respond each time, though this time they are taking much longer. It is not all gloom and doom, because at this time of year any excess electricity is topping-up our batteries. It will be next year before we start to reap that benefit of exporting to the national grid.

Recently one of our senior citizens informed me that after years of being exempt, she is now paying income tax because the tax-free allowance is now frozen. She enquired about Gift Aid. The rules for Gift Aid say that I can claim back 25p for single £1 that is given in the offering envelope. As long more tax is paid than I can claim back, there is no problem. In the new year, I will make our claim to the Inland Revenue and tell her and everyone else who takes part in Gift Aid what I am able claim back on their behalf. As a result, she promptly signed our Gift Aid form. What about you? Do you now pay income tax on your income/pension? Why not speak to me, don't let His Majesty's Inland Revenue keep all your tax contribution when we can claim some of it back. It costs you nothing more but helps us immensely.

On another matter close to my heart, may I commend to you the Church Christmas Card this year (see elsewhere in this Newsletter) and help us make it a slightly more 'GREEN' Christmas and help you save a bit of money along the way.

Happy Christmas to you all. I hope you find my updates informative and interesting as well.

Ian Sant - Treasurer

Some Save the dates

Heath Court Services

You are invited to a time of worship at Heath Court at **2.00 pm** (note the start time is now 2.00 pm) on the first Friday of every month.

You can be certain of a warm welcome, and there are always some lovely refreshments afterwards.



Biscuits Needed

We are in need of biscuits for after the Morning Service, it seems that they keep being eaten! If you are able, we need packets of biscuits, please give them to those serving refreshments on any Sunday Morning. Thank you to those who do bring biscuits occasionally, they are very gratefully consumed!



Duty Rotas

Can I please just ask again if anyone can help cover the coffee rota, if you would like more information just ask. We have lost 2 people and this is going to make it harder to cover on a Sunday morning, it may come to us setting up but you may have to help yourselves.

Also, if anyone is interested in helping on any of the rotas below, please ask for more information of what you have to do. Welcome rota, greeting people, Intersession Prayers, Bible Readers and help with setting out the chairs for Sunday services please let me know.

Thank you

Julie Froggatt

Our poppy festival has now been taken down, after such a wonderful time together of Remembrance, both at our Sunday Service and our opening of the church for all to see the beautiful arrangements.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, from those who made poppies, (many of whom I didn't know!). All those who made displays, helped put up the displays, helped with refreshments, preparing the church, welcoming people, supplying wool and paper poppies to colour. It took a team to do this and we certainly had a great team.

Once again, thanks to everyone

Anne

Church Christmas Card

To help us be 'a little more green' and to save having piles of Christmas cards around Church that never get to their intended addressee, we have purchased a Church Christmas card which will be in the welcome area for all to sign. There will be a donations box for anyone wishing to contribute, and the proceeds of this will be added to the Christmas offerings, this year they will be split and donated to our own Uniformed Groups and Hollybrook Carers Association.

Thank you

Melanie

Smile Time (or grimace)

From Choristers

The choir was practising the anthem.
choirmaster said to the trebles;
"Now don't forget, when the tenors reach
'The gates of Hell', you come in".

Christmas Message

'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST'
written in large letters outside a high
Street church was spoilt when vandals
knocked out the 'E'.
When considering replacement one person
said:
"Why not leave it as it is?" 'GLORY TO
GOD IN THE HIGH ST'.

CHURCH MINISTER AND CONTACT DETAILS

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Enabling Minister* | Rev'd Paul Desborough | 756336 | paul@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk |
| | | 07958 618507 | |
| Assistant Curate* | Rev'd Fiona Barber | 07966 520390 | fiona@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk |
| Assistant Curate* | Rev'd Gael Browne | 07405 922557 | gael@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk |
| Lay Minister* | Jean Desborough | 07415 671004 | reader-jean@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk |
| Secretary* | Julie Froggatt | 722222 | |
| Stewards* | Lauren Foster | Julie Froggatt | |
| | Melvin Worton | Ian Sant (Treasurer) | finance@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk |
| | Melanie Sant | Joshua Osah | |
| Church Council | Pam Burrows | Christopher Froggatt | |
| | Joy Hughes | Margaret Platt | |
| | Glenn Roe | Wendy Roe | |
| <i>*Are also members of the Church Council</i> | | | |
| Parish Safeguarding Officer | | | safeguarding@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk |
| Room Bookings | Melanie Sant | 721927 | bookings@sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk |
| Webmaster | Rev'd Paul Desborough | | |
| Connect Group | Wendy Roe | 762664 | |
| | Jean Desborough | 756336 | |
| Prayer Diary | Glenn Roe | 07379 469978 | roeglennard@gmail.com |
| Property Steward | Melvin Worton | 07745 294449 | <i>First contact for building matters</i> |
| Newsletter Editor | Ian Sant | 721927 | iansant@virginmedia.com |

Diary Dates - December

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| Sunday 7 th | 10.00 am | Sunday Morning Communion. |
| Monday 8 th | 10.00 am | Connect Group/Community Meals (all welcome). |
| Sunday 14 th | 10.00 am | Sunday Morning Worship |
| Monday 15 th | 10.00 am | Connect Group/Community Meal (all welcome). |
| Sunday 21 st | 10.00am | Sunday Morning Communion |
| Sunday 28 th | 10.00 am | Sunday Morning Worship |

Thursday 1st January 2026 Closing date for items to go in the January 2026 Newsletter.

Normal Weekly Meetings (Contact details below):

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|--|
| Monday | 10.00 am - 1.00 pm | Connect Coffee Morning |
| | 10.00 am - 2.00 pm | Community Meals (Monday hot meal 10.00 noon - 2.00 pm) everyone welcome. |
| | 1.00 - 5.00 pm | Asian Men Meeting |
| Tuesday | 5.30 - 6.45 pm | Beavers (Term time) |
| | 9.15 - 10.00 am | Yoga Group |
| | 1.00 - 5.00 pm | Asian Men Meeting |
| Wednesday | 1.30 - 2.30 pm | Seated Exercise Group |
| | 6.30 - 8.00 pm | Cubs (Term time) |
| | 8.15 - 9.15 pm | Footlights Stage School Adult Fun Tap |
| Thursday | 1.00 - 5.00 pm | Asian Men Meeting |
| | 2.00 - 4.00 pm | Sinfin Moor Church Friendship Club |
| | 6.00 - 7.00 pm | Brownies (Term Time) |
| Friday | 8.00 am and 9.30 am | Slimming World |
| | 1.00 - 5.00 pm | Asian Men Meeting |
| | 5.30 - 6.30 pm | <u>Squirrels (Term Time) in Middle Bay</u> |
| Saturday | 5.30 - 6.45 pm | Beavers (Term time) |
| | 7.00 - 8.30 pm | Scouts (Term time) |
| | 1.00 - 5.00 pm | Asian Men Meeting |
| Sunday | 7.30 - 8.30 pm | Footlights Stage School - Ballet |
| | 9.00 am - 4.30 pm | Footlights Stage School (various classes) |

Contact Details for the above

Asian Men

Mr Pabla (07845 891442)

Over 60's Group

Mr Gurdev Dhillon (07772 680827)

Footlights Stage School

Faye Elliott (07779 665181)

Anne George (01332 721108)

Various types of dancing classes, for all ages and abilities in the Middle and Back Bays, all day on Saturday and on Tuesday/Friday evenings. See www.footlightsdancederby.co.uk

Connect Coffee Morning

Jean Desborough (07415 671004)

SMC Friendship Club

Eirlys Smith (07872 623000)

Brownies

Fran Dolby (39thderby@gmail.com)

Girls aged 7 - 10 years

Scouts

Matt Baker E-mail: scouts119derby@outlook.com

Cubs (Nelson Pack) E-mail: cubs119derby@outlook.com

Beavers

E-Mail: beavers119derby@outlook.com

Slimming World

Zoe Hayward (07312 085137)

Yoga Class

Spencer George

Please advise the Editor when there are any changes to ANY of the above.