



St Nick's, Allestree & St Paul's, Quarndon Newsletter

December 2025



*We extend our thanks to all who have served in
many varied ways this year.*

Both Sarah and Rachael are making a donation in lieu of Christmas Cards
this year. Thank you

Knowing and worshipping God and sharing His love

Beating the Bounds in Prayer

As autumn moves into winter, with leaves falling, temperatures dropping, and daylight fading, I find myself reflecting on the summer. One standout memory was joining Mid Derbyshire MP Jonathan Davies on the final day of his walk across the constituency. We met for coffee at the Little Shed and walked together through Allestree Park, then across the fields between Allestree and Quarndon, and into Markeaton Park for a well-earned cuppa.



During our walk, we spoke about many things, including how Jonathan's journey echoed the ancient tradition of *beating the bounds*. I later read a little more about this medieval practice which involved clergy, parishioners, and local dignitaries walking the boundaries of their parish once a year, tapping boundary markers like gates, walls, or trees with sticks. It was a way to reaffirm parish borders and pass on local knowledge, especially in times before maps were common.

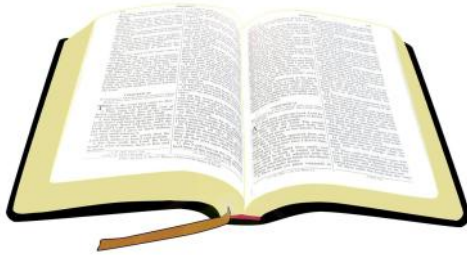
Though the tradition waned after the Reformation and was banned by Oliver Cromwell, it saw a revival in Victorian times. Today, it's largely faded from practice. While I don't foresee us reinstating it literally, the experience of walking through our parishes offered a fresh perspective, seeing familiar places anew and reflecting on our shared community and how God has brought us together as a group of four parishes to seek God's blessing upon our community, to seek its good and to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

This walk reminded me of our own spiritual version of "beating the bounds": our community prayer initiative. We may not be marking territory, but we are intentionally praying for every street and household across our four parishes. It's a way of seeking God's blessing—not in a territorial sense, but in the spirit of the diocesan vision that *the Kingdom of God is good news for all*. Who knows what God might do as we join together in prayer for the people parishes of St Edmund, St Matthew, St Nicholas and St Paul who are known and deeply loved by God.

Reverend Sarah Watson

Test Your Knowledge.

Challenge time: How many books from the bible can you spot below?



I once made the remark about the hidden books of the bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts.... and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to spot them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the bible in this paragraph.

(I wonder how many you will get without looking at the answers).

Submitted by Bruce Innis

For answers see page 21.

Advent Appeal 2025

On Sunday, 21st December, St Nick's Church will host its Advent Appeal for donations. We invite our congregation and wider community to come together in generosity and support.

All donations received will be shared between two vital areas of ministry:

- The Jigsaw Ministry Team, whose outreach and care continue to make a meaningful impact for children in the Philippians.
- Youth Work at St Nick's, which nurtures and empowers the next generation within our church family.

Your contributions help sustain and grow these important ministries. We are deeply grateful for your kindness and support.

God bless all the work your generous donations will support.

Church Office

The Church office will be closed from 3pm, 19th December till 9am 5th January as Emma will be on annual leave.

Emails will still be monitored but not as regularly.

Any items for January's newsletter will need to be submitted by Monday 15th December.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.



ST NICK'S CHURCH

Nativity Festival

WEDNESDAY 10TH FRIDAY 12TH
& SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER
10AM - 2PM



A COLLECTION OF NATIVITY
SCENES FROM AROUND THE
WORLD WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
AVAILABLE

WWW.STNICKSALLESTREE.CO.UK

COOP Fundraising Campaign Success

We are pleased to announce that St Nick's Community Café has received a generous donation of **£1,853.19** thanks to the support of COOP members during our recent fundraising campaign. These funds will be used to expand our food offerings through the purchase of new equipment.

The café is run by volunteers and operates every Wednesday from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** during term time. We warmly invite you to join us for a coffee and a slice of cake.

Thank you once again for your continued support!



Thank you

Everyone at St Nick's and St Paul's would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful — and wonderfully diverse — groups who regularly use our facilities throughout the year.

Your presence and activities bring life and community to our premises, and we are truly grateful for your continued support.

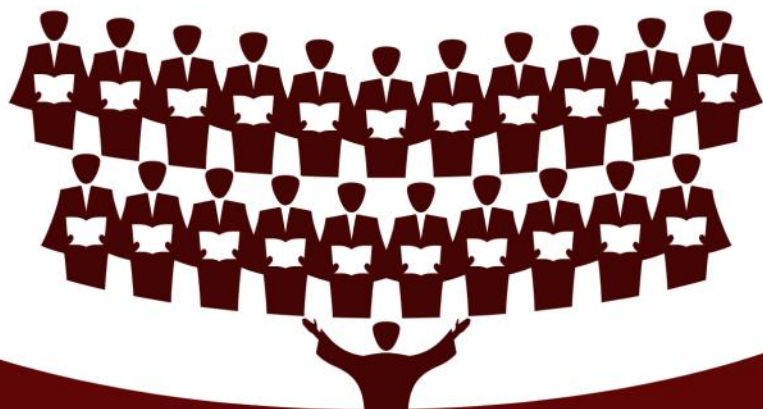
We wish you all a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year.





CAROL SERVICE

21ST DECEMBER 6PM



Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas with readings,
timeless carols and community togetherness.



**ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
QUARNDON**





ST NICK'S CHURCH

Carol Service

21ST DECEMBER
AT 4PM

ALL INVITED TO JOIN US FOR
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS.




ST NICK'S CHURCH,
ALLESTREE

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

25TH DECEMBER @ 10AM

JOINT HOLY COMMUNION
SERVICE WITH ST PAUL'S
CHURCH, QUARNDON



Extra Worship opportunities

Fancy a mid-week communion service? Or an early evening service?

St Edmunds, Allestree have a Communion service 10.30am every Wednesday.

The Evening Service (Evensong) at 6 pm on a Sunday alternates between St Edmunds and St Matthews, Darley Abbey, and always follows the Book of Common Prayer.

This months 6pm/evening services are:

Sunday 7th	St Matt's: Evensong Village Tree Trail Carols
Sunday 14th	St Ed's: 4pm Christingle
Sunday 21st	St Ed's 4pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Visit:

www.stedmundsallestreeandstmatthewsdarleyabbey.co.uk
for more information on upcoming services.





CHRISTMAS Memorial Service



DATE: SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

TIME: DROP IN ANYTIME BETWEEN 5:30 PM AND 7:00 PM

LOCATION: ST. NICK'S CHURCH HALL, LAWN AVE, ALLESTREE

WE WARMLY INVITE YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR
FRIENDS TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS
GET-TOGETHER TO HONOUR AND CELEBRATE THE
MEMORIES OF OUR LOVED ONES.

TREE OF
REMEMBRANCE

*In Loving
memory*

CAROLS

WARM DRINKS
&
REFRESHMENTS

A FEW WORDS
FROM OUR
CELEBRANTS
AND REVEREND
SARAH WATSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL 01332 409182

Supporting you every step of the way





Advent

• The Waiting Season •

Join us on **Sunday 7th December....**

The **2nd Week of Advent** as we prepare for Christmas together at our All Age **Sunday Breakfast@10** at St Nick's Church.

Breakfast starts from 9:45am come along for some food and exploring Advent together!

St Nick's Church | 2 Lawn Avenue, Allestree | DE22 2PE

Love God • Love One Another • Love Our Community

St Nick's Children's Society Update

Children's Society House Collection Box.

Thank you for your continuing support. If you have a box, could you let me have it back for the annual emptying so that the money can be sent to the Children's Society.

The Christingle Service is on Sunday January 4th at 10am. At this service children will be given a kit to make a Christingle for themselves at home.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Children's Society with vulnerable young people, I have put a September newsletter and Box Holder News on the notice board at the back of church. Please read and return, or look online childrenssociety.org.uk or Google The Children's Society.

Helen Illingworth.



Shoe boxes

To everyone who has so kindly donated to Love in a Box, a very big thank you. St Nicks have collected 38 shoeboxes this year which are now on their way to Eastern Europe. Thank you too to people who have given donations which are also much appreciated.

Thank you St Nicks

**Thank
You**

Maintenance team

In June I fell whilst stepping up the new step and injured my face. Again I tripped on the same step in September and broke my wrist. I had been trying to find a tradesman to erect me a handrail with no luck.

I was talking to Sara Jarrett and she suggested the church maintenance team might be able to help. She would ask them for me.

Paul visited me to see what the job needed. Then Clive and John arrived to measure up the area. Clive then proceeded to make the right angle rail that was needed. It stood in the garden for a few days when John arrived to put it in position. Finally both gentlemen came to do the final fix. I now have a lovely handrail to use and hopefully no more falls. I am most grateful to Clive for making the handrail and to him and John for giving up their time to fit it in my garden. I shall be making good use of it. I really am very grateful.

Dorothy Stevens



Before



In Progress



After



Coming on 24th December 2025...

Crib Service

St Nick's
2:45pm Doors Open
3pm Start
4pm Finish

St Paul's
4:45pm Doors Open
5pm Start
6pm Finish

St Nick's Church, 2 Lawn Ave, DE22 2PE | St Paul's Church, 120 Church Rd, DE22 5JA

VENUE FOR HIRE

ST PAULS CHURCH

Village Hall

Ideal for Childrens
birthday parties, dance
classes, music
ensembles or local
community groups.
Car park on site .

CONTACT US

hallstpauls@outlook.com
or 07973702002



Looking for a venue?

St Nick's Church offers a range of rooms suitable for various events. Our spacious main hall is perfect for birthday parties, sporting activities, wedding receptions, and more.

On November 1st, we were delighted to host the wedding reception of Michelle and John Rutherford. The hall provided a warm and welcoming space for their celebration.

In addition to the main hall, we have smaller rooms ideal for meetings, workshops, and classes. The Derby Model Boat club recently held their AGM in our choir vestry and then visited the community café for a cuppa!

Visit www.stnicksallestree.co.uk to learn more or to book your event today call 01332 550431!



VENUE FOR HIRE

St Nicks Church

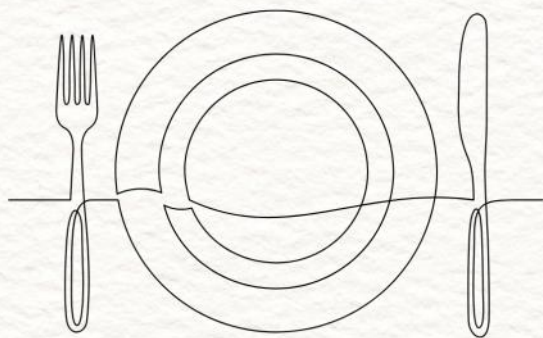


We have a large hall available to hire for a single event or a regular class.. Ideal for birthday parties and concerts

For more details contact our church administrator:
stnicksallestree@outlook.com
550431

For smaller groups we have rooms available for up to 40 people with access to small kitchens perfect for making refreshments.

Let's do
LUNCH



Come along and join us for a lovely time of fellowship over a tasty meal at our local Ember Inn pub - The Markeaton. For more details contact Christine on 07729371373 or read our latest newsletter for the next date (usually 3rd Sunday of the month). Everyone is welcome

St Nicks Church monthly Pub lunches
12 Noon @ The Markeaton

Upcoming dates: 14th Dec, 18th Jan, 15th Feb & 8th Mar.

The Answers in order of appearance:

Mark Luke Kings Acts Revelation James Ruth Numbers Job Amos
Esther Judges Titus Lamentations Hebrews Peter

Test your knowledge.(Answers the easy way)

I once made the remark about the hidden books of the bible.

It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts.... and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to spot them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the bible in this paragraph.

Social media

For those of you who regularly use social media why not give us a follow? Our social media accounts are updated weekly with information on services. All events are highlighted and photos shared where possible.

If anyone would like to be involved/star in any videos for social media highlighting ongoing in either church please contact Emma in the office.

Search:



www.facebook.com/stpaulsquarndon

www.facebook.com/stnicksallestree

[stnicks_ Allestree](#)

[stpaul_quarndon](#)



As it's my first Christmas since Peter died, I thought it would be nice to keep his memory alive by sharing one of his poems with you all. This poem was read at this funeral but if you missed it then, I hope it brings a smile to your face.

Celia Grattidge



On the Ordeal of buying my Wife's Christmas Present, 2007

What do you want for Christmas?

I know I shouldn't ask;

You'd rather I just surprised you;

But it's such a difficult task.

I thought you'd like a new necklace,

I saw one I thought rather nice -

A golden chain with dangly bits

Then I looked again at the price.



A new dress would surely please you

And come as a great surprise

But it's bound to be the wrong colour

And probably not the right size.

I was going to look at the perfume

But the assistant was ready to pounce

And I knew if I showed any interest

It would cost me a fortune per ounce.



Lingerie might be the answer
Something silky and trimmed with lace.
It seemed a good idea
And I knew a suitable place.

I looked at the range in the window
Many eye-catching items I saw
But then my courage quite failed me
And I went in the Cook Shop next door.

I know you didn't ask for a kettle
But this boils in 25 secs
It's stainless steel all over
And comes with a 2-metre flex.



This ordeal comes round every Christmas
And causes me such great pain
I want you to have a nice present
Can't you get it yourself once again?

A poem by Peter Grattidge 2007.

The Big Give.

Our friends at Upbeat Communities - a charity supporting refugees in Derby - are taking part in the Big Give this year. This means every donation made to them will be **doubled** between 2nd -9th December.

They need to raise £25,000 during this week to fund their Integration Hub - a community centre in Derby where refugees can learn English, make friends, and receive practical and emotional support through meals, creative therapy groups, and much more.

Please do pray and consider what you could give this Christmastime to support people seeking refuge in our city. In a climate of such hostility at the moment, it's more important than ever to give refugees the help they need. Find out more at upbeatcommunities.org/biggive2025.

YOUR DONATION
doubled

Could you help us create
community for refugees
this Christmas?


upbeat
COMMUNITIES

*"At Upbeat, I
finally felt like I
belonged."*
-Damy, Upbeat
Participant

2nd-9th December
2025



upbeatcommunities.org/biggive2025

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>





Would you like to help out at the very successful Play n Praise which is for preschoolers and their adults @ St Nicks on a Tuesday morning (term time only).

We are looking to set up a team of volunteers on a rota. You would not be required every week, but every 4-6 weeks.

If you would like to know more, why not pop along on a Tuesday 9.30-11am and meet the current team and families who attend? Coffee and cake available.

Online donations @ St Nicks

We have a QR code for online giving for those tech savvy people amongst us who feel more comfortable giving in this way.



St Nick's and St Pauls are committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults from harm. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO). Our Diocese of Derby's safeguarding pages contain vital links and information including contacts for the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor who advises our PSO. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm please contact the PSO's by email: psostnicks@outlook.com or psostpauls@outlook.com

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 on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Chapel or on Zoom depending on the weather on:

28th January 7.30pm

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.

We have now set up a WhatsApp group so that prayer requests can be relayed more quickly than ringing each individual member. There is still provision for those who prefer to hear by phone. Please rest assured you are being covered in prayer.

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

***For more details, please see the poster at the back of
St Nick's.***

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 Safeguarding Training.



Prayer Requests:

Please pray for:-

- For those that are unwell and unable to get out at this time.
- Church vision and the future of working together with the three other churches.
- To give thanks for the launch of the café and the good number of people attending.

COFFEE & CHAT

ST NICKS CHURCH ROOM

TAKES PLACE EVERY 2ND AND 4TH
FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.

10:30-12 NOON

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN
AND ENJOY THIS LOVELY SOCIAL



KNIT AND NATTER

ST NICKS 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.



If you are looking to organise a baptism or would like to get married or celebrate a special anniversary with the renewal of wedding vows at St Nicks or St Pauls please contact: stnicksallestree@outlook.com to arrange all life event services.

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.

Newsletter Information - Deadline!

Please be aware that the deadline for any news you'd like to be included in the next Newsletter is the 20th of the month before.

Handy Contacts for both churches:

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

Office Email: stnicksallestree@outlook.com



Children's and Youth Leader Rachel Kennedy

Email: stnicksCYL@outlook.com

Contact: 07895051941



St Nick's

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

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

Telephone: 07448607129

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) Bruce Innis

St Paul's

Church Warden: Mike Annable **Contact:** wardenstpauls@outlook.com

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

or Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01332 388678

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

Websites: www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Paul-Quarndon
www.stnicksallestree.co.uk

Office Hours: Monday 9.00-3.00 Tuesday 9.00-3.00 Wednesday 9.00-11.00
and Friday 9.00-3.00

Upcoming Services —

Priest in Charge: Reverend Sarah Watson and Associate Priest
Reverend Rachael Brooks. Ordinand: Colette Desborough.

Dates/Services	Readings
Sunday 7th December St Nicks: Sunday Breakfast @ 10 St Pauls: 10am Holy Communion	Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
Wednesday 10th December St Nicks: 5:30pm Christmas Memorial Service with J Barlow & Family	
Sunday 14th December St Nicks: Sunday @ 10 with Holy Communion St Pauls: 10am Service of the Word	Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday 21st December St Nicks: Carol Service @ 4 St Pauls: 6pm Carol Service	9 Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24th December St Nicks: Crib Service @ 3 St Pauls: 5pm Crib Service	
Thursday 25th December St Nicks: Joint Christmas Day @ 10	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14
Sunday 28th December St Edmunds: 4 Churches Joint Service @10	

Sponsored by:

Phone: 01332 409182 or 01773 300974
 Email: info@jbarlowfuneralservice.co.uk



J BARLOW & FAMILY
 Funeral Service