

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DEANERY NEWS



05 Spring 2025

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Deanery News

I'd like to start by looking at the wonders that surround us. It's Spring in the garden and down at the allotment the weeds are already growing strongly. We've been spreading muck in the hope of creating a mulch and to give our plants the best chance although we won't risk putting them in until the frosts have gone. The birds are busy and our pet chickens have started laying again. It's small reward for getting woken up by them and having to herd them back up the hill when they've managed to escape in search of a more interesting place to nest. Beyond our own little worlds, we've had the usual Spring Equinox, the recent planetary alignment and a partial lunar eclipse. All of these remind me that we are only a small part of God's amazing universe and that for all the dreadful news, there is a much bigger picture than politics.

These seem to be difficult times for the Church of England. Justin Welby resigned following the Makin Review and the coverage of the subsequent debate about independent safeguarding at General Synod was kinder than I expected. We all have a responsibility to care for everyone in our churches and to report anything untoward. The 4 Rs can be useful:

1. Recognise the signs and reassure anyone coming to you that they're doing the right thing
2. Record the facts but do not investigate
3. Report in writing
4. Refer to your Parish Safeguarding Officer or Priest. You should also contact the local Authority or the Police, even using 999, if there is any immediate risk of harm

We must ensure that the quick, hard lessons are being learnt and support each other to manage the risks to vulnerable people. And we can all be vulnerable at different times in our lives.

I'd like to finish by paying tribute to all our volunteers. One example I'm particularly impressed with is the St John's transformation project in Donisthorpe. This is superb testimony to what hard work and prayer can achieve.

*by Mr Ben Scott, Deanery Synod Representative,
Appleby Magna*

NOTICES

Following your APCM's please let the Deanery Secretary know of any changes to your Synod Representatives. Thank you.

DEANERY SYNOD

Since the last newsletter, Synod have met twice - in December at St John's Donisthorpe where we received a warm festive welcome and listened to inspiring testimonies about the recent reordering of their church. On 25th March, Synod met at Christ Church Coalville with the main topic of the evening being safeguarding in our churches and we had the pleasure of Rachael Spiers, the diocesan Safeguarding Advisor as our guest speaker. Synod will next meet on Thursday, 22nd May so please do speak to your representatives before that date if you would like anything raised at that meeting.

MINSTER COMMUNITY GROUP 2B

Sunday 6th April 12.30pm - 2.30pm Prayer & Share Lunch at Christ Church Coalville. Everyone in Group 2B is welcome to bring lunch and pray for their Minster Community.

MINSTER COMMUNITY GROUP 2A

Tuesday 8th April 7pm - 8.30pm at Holy Trinity Ashby de la Zouch there will be another opportunity for Lay church members to meet to discuss and ask questions about the Minster Community process.

LAITY MEETINGS

We will be holding these informal gatherings again over the coming months and new dates will be sent out soon. If your church would like to host please get in touch with Noreen, Jean or Avril.

This year's **DEANERY EVENT** will be on **Saturday, 21st June** at St David's Broom Leys. Join us from 09.30am - 4pm for worship, fellowship, music, prayer, refreshments and exciting workshops! More information coming soon!



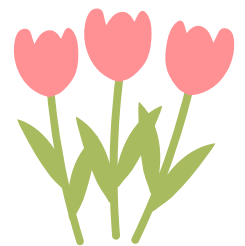
Regular Meetings

- **Saturday Foodbank** - every Saturday 10-12 noon at St Stephens Woodville
- **St Helens Church & Heritage Centre Ashby** - Fridays 2pm - 4pm - Warm Hearted Space - tea and cakes, soup, games and play area for young children.
- **St Andrews Thringstone** - Thursdays 10am - 12 noon - Open Church - coffee, cake and chat.
- **St Matthews Worthington** - Thursdays 10am - 11.15am - Cafe Church
- **Christ Church Coalville** - Tuesdays in the Church Hall 10am - 12 noon Camerados Coffee Morning and Essentials Table - household items at affordable prices for those in need. 2pm - 4pm Caring Cafe - a quiet, peaceful environment. Bring your friends and make new ones.



Quick Guide to What's On Around the Deanery this Spring

(see flyers page for more details)



Saturday 5th April 9.30am - 4pm - Healing Day at St David's Broom Leys

Sunday 6th April 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Prayer & Share Lunch for Minster Community Group 2B at Christ Church Coalville

Sunday 6th April 6pm - 8pm - Sunday Soiree at St Helens Ashby

Tuesday 8th April 7pm - 8.30pm - Holy Trinity Ashby de la Zouch - Minster Community Group 2A meeting

Sunday 13th April from 10.30am 1st Worthington Brownies for Palm Sunday at St Matthews Worthington

Wednesday 16th April 10.00am - 1pm - Easter Eggstravaganza at St Peters Bardon

Thursday 17th April 12noon - 2pm - Toastie Thursday at Holy Rood Packington

Saturday 19th April 2pm - 4pm - Experience Easter at Breedon Priory Church

Saturday 3rd May - Monday 5th May - Embroidery Exhibition at St Helens Ashby

Sunday 4th May 6pm - 8pm - Sunday Soiree at St Helens Ashby

Sunday 10th May from 10.30am 80th Anniversary of VE Day followed by a picnic lunch

Sunday 1st June 6pm - 8pm - Sunday Soiree at St Helens Ashby

THINGS
* TO DO *

Ashby Youth for Christ

Throughout 2025 Ashby Youth for Christ will be taking a flag with their logo on it across the country on various events and activities. We hope that this will raise awareness of Ashby YFC and raise some much needed funds. We have a map online where we can share the location of the flag, with photos. These events will often involve young people and various outdoor activities, such as rock climbing, camping and many more.

To track the flag please go to: <https://helen-ayfc.travelmap.net>

If you have a flagpole you would like to offer us, please contact Helen.davis@yfc.co.uk we don't expect the flag to be displayed for a long period of time.

If you'd like to donate here is the link:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/ayfcflayingtheflag>

You can follow the flags location with pictures here:

<https://helen-ayfc.travelmap.net>



Holy Rood Packington

A Sob Story!

“There’s always good things happening at your church” (Holy Rood, Packington) was an encouraging comment received from your Editor! However, we have something of a tale of woe to share at the moment! Our church clock and its motion works, not to mention the dangerously crumbling masonry surrounding it, have to be restored – around £6,000 – not to mention some unsafe tombs, one of which is a listed building, which are to be repaired - £10,000 – and then, when the recent mandatory electrical check was carried out, we received the startling news that our heating system had been condemned and would have to be completely replaced and that all the light fittings also had to be changed (a total of at least £24,000)! Of course, we all struggle with the responsibilities of caring for our beautiful but ancient buildings and no doubt some of you are facing even bigger bills than we are. However, we are still reeling a bit from the shock and the huge demand upon our resources which will be entailed. Currently, we have some temporary heaters in church and are already on the case in exploring the options for a new system. We are hopeful that we shall receive support from the local community in boosting our funds to meet our unexpected commitments, as well as applying for grants, but we would value your prayers that we make wise choices in the process of replacing our heating and lighting. Thankfully, we are able to continue with the “good things” as well, with various events planned – and everyone is still very welcome to visit us, although probably an extra layer of clothing might not come amiss!

The Revd Lesley Birtwistle



David A Smith 1956-2024

Many of you will know that David Smith sadly passed away last year. David was a well-known face in the life of Christ Church in Coalville and was also involved with work in the Deanery and Diocese. David was a devoted Christian with a strong faith. He loved to help and give what he could.

Earlier this year David was honoured by NWLDC with a Legacy Award for his untiring work helping with the annual Remembrance Day Parades in Coalville. The parade would always start from Christ Church on London Road and would march down to the Clock Tower at Memorial Square. Everyone who was part of the parade had a place to be, and David always made sure that everybody would be in their place for the start of the parade. David was very regimental in making sure that the parade left on time, and that it all went off efficiently and smoothly. You knew it was in safe hands when David was at the helm.

David was Churchwarden at Christ Church for many years overseeing many events held at church. From normal Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, funerals and many more one off events, David would be there organising and helping. David’s knowledge of church procedure and regulations was second to none, and David would be the first port of call for many people if they needed some advice on church matters. David stood down as Church Warden in 2014.

David was invited numerous times to attend special services at Leicester Cathedral including The Richard III Service of Compline in 2015. He was invited to give his thoughts and opinions on appointing new Bishops and attended several meetings at Church House on different topics. Obviously David’s input was highly respected by many.

David started as Lay Chair in the Coalville Akeley District way back in the mid 80’s, they later joined the Ashby area and became NWL Deanery. After many years of dedicated service, he finally retired from the position of Lay Chair and passed the role onto new hands. Before doing so, David, along with three other Lay Chairs campaigned against the closure of our Leicestershire retreat, Launde Abbey, and helped save it. They were known by The Bishop as the “naughty boys”. He was also part of the team creating “Shaped by God”.

After retiring from his employment, David certainly didn't sit back and relax and could be found most weeks down in the beautiful gardens at Christ Church helping to keep the grounds looking their best and was always on hand to give some advice when asked.

David, and his devoted wife Mary, very kindly gave some money to Christ Church after he passed away. The money, with Mary's kind agreement, was spent on much needed repairs to the church notice board which stands in the front grounds on London Road. A plaque has been mounted on the notice board in recognition of all the work that David did for the church, the benefice, the Deanery, and the people of Coalville.



PRAYER

Written by The Revd Geoff Pinnington,
Benefice of Christ Church Coalville

Almighty God, we pray for the church and ask you to remind us of what is important and what is not, of when we are wandering away from you and what we need to change.

We pray for the world's misery and pain and for a desperate need of healing.

We pray that the damage that we have caused through war, selfishness and greed will be repaired, and that through a united approach as world countries, we will achieve a new potential and hope that secures long lasting peace.

We give you thanks and praise, heavenly Father for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come.

Amen.



CONTACT US

The Revd Canon Gill Pinnington, Area Dean :
areadean@nwldeanery.org.uk

Noreen Mewies, Lay Chair :
laychair@nwldeanery.org.uk

Avril Roberts, Deanery Secretary :
secretary@nwldeanery.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who has sent in content this time. The next edition, which will be the Summer newsletter, will be coming out at the end of June, so please do share your church news, summer events and open days etc. Recent feedback is that people have been going along to other churches events which is encouraging.

Avril
Deanery Secretary

thank
you

OASIS

Bereavement Support Group

2025

Fridays 1.30-3.30pm

24th January

21st February

28th March

25th April

23rd May

27th June

The Oasis, 67 Central Road, Hugglescote, LE67 2FJ

We offer a safe and comforting environment for anyone who has experienced bereavement and anyone who wants to join us is welcome.

Enquiries Tel Oasis Café 01530 456864 or Sue 07985 110592

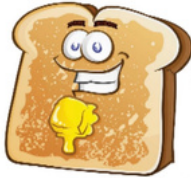


Toastie Thursday

Come along to Holy Rood Church, Packington
12noon - 2pm

Thursday 17th April

Join us in our local Church for ...



Cheese Toasties
Toast & Spreads
and Cake

Don't Be Bored
on Toastie Thursday

Come along, meet friends, and try out our Easter activities, cakes and biscuits to decorate plus much more!

Open for all ages!

For more info please contact Anne on 01530 414621

St Helen's Church Ashby-de-la-Zouch Sunday Soirée

6pm - 8 pm

Choral Evensong sung by St Helen's choir followed by refreshments then a short recital by

April 6th Hannah Matthews (trumpet) and Catherine Matthews (piano)

May 4th Capriccio Ensemble - Clare Pitchford (violin), Richard Roper (viola), John Bean (cello), and Jeremy Kimber (piano)

June 1st Organ recital - Andrew Chapman

July 6th Music for two voices - Caroline Essex and Caroline Summers

Sept 7th Music for two pianos - Jeremy Kimber and Sue Field

Oct 5th Loca - a wind quintet.



Easter Eggstravaganza

Wednesday 16th April

10:00am - 1:00pm

St Peter's Church, Bardon Hill

Free fun for all the family

Easter egg hunt

Easter crafts

Lego and Duplo play area

Bring your lunch/picnic

Free refreshments



Find us on Facebook and 'a church near you' website

St Helen's Church

Embroidery Exhibition: 'Crying in the Silicon Wilderness'

by artist Rev Dr Romola Parish
Saturday 3rd May - Monday 5th May



For more information visit the What's Coming Up page of our website - www.sthelensashby.net

Lower Church Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AB
Facebook - St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
Instagram - sthelensashby



Experience Easter
A Flagstaff Family Event

Saturday 19th April

FREE EVENT AND EVERYONE WELCOME



Fun activities for all the family between 2 - 4pm



Find us on Social
Breedon Heritage

www.breedonpriorychurch.org
email: breedon@flagstaff.org.uk



Healing Day

Healing days offered by Flame International: an exciting opportunity to receive healing and experience more of Jesus' love and wholeness.

Biblical teaching brought by Flame International includes:
• Foundations of Faith • Freedom from Fear
• Healing Damaged Emotions • Forgiveness
• Healing Damaged Relationships

Date: Saturday, 5th April 2025

Time: Start 9.30am to 4pm. Registration from 9.15am

Venue: St David's Church, Broom Leys, Meadow Ln, Coalville, LE67 4DL

To register for your free place - email: office@stdavidchurchbroomleys.org.uk



There will be an opportunity to give to the work of Flame. Flame International is a UK charity that takes teams of volunteers to share God's love and healing with people traumatised by war, genocide, and oppression. www.flameinternational.org



St Matthews Worthington

Sunday 13th April from 10.30am St Matthews will be welcoming 1st Worthington Brownies to their morning service. They will be singing Palm Sunday songs, listening to a Bible reading and praying with each other. They will tell the Good News of Easter, sharing activities and creating a craft item to take home.



Thursday 8th May from 10.00am the weekly Cafe Church will be observing the 2 Minutes Silence at 11.00am to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, followed by a time of remembrance until 11.15am.

Sunday 10th May from 10.30am the morning service will also reflect on the 80th Anniversary of VE Day followed by a picnic lunch.

All visitors are welcome to these special events or if passing, join us any Thursday for Cafe Church 10.00am - 11.15am.

Prayer & Share Lunch

Sunday 6th April 12.30pm - 2.30pm
Christ Church Hall

All churches in Group 2B are invited to share lunch together and to worship and pray for our Minster Community.

Lunch will start at 1pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend, please bring some food to share.

Christ Church, London Road, Coalville LE67 3JA