NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE



DEANERY NEWS

Issue 07 Autumn 2025



WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF THE DEANERY NEWS,

Dear Friends,

It is time for me to say goodbye to NWL Deanery. Looking back there have been lots of exciting things which have happened but of course some difficult times too.

Over the last few years I have been able to visit all your churches and churchyards and prayed for you in those places. Each church is unique with its own way of doing things. Each church is loved and cared for by faithful Christians for the good of their community and for the growth of The Kingdom.

It has been good to work with both clergy and laity in this Deanery and I thank you for your support and hospitality. I cannot say thank you to everyone individually but I want to say a massive thank you to Noreen, your Lay Chair. She has been a constant support and companion along the way, full of wisdom and lots of fun.

I also want to thank Avril, your Deanery Secretary. She has kept me on my toes, reminding me of what is needed, able to find information from the Diocesan Website or C of E Portal, always efficient and a great support.

I leave the next steps to others as Minster Community takes its course.

I am looking forward to the future with a much slower pace of life. Geoff and I are returning to Liverpool and we know that God will have a plan for us as he has for you.

And so I say a fond farewell. My last service will be on the 28th September at Christ Church at 11am. You will be very welcome to attend if you are able to.

God bless,

Gill

NOTICES

DEANERY SYNOD

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be on Tuesday, 16th September at Holy Rood Packington. Please speak to your reps if you would like anything raised at that meeting.

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

A reminder, if you have not already done so, to please send a copy of your completed Parish Contribution form to Noreen Mewies.



It is with great sadness to share with you that The Revd Haydn Williams and Trevelyn Hodson passed away last month. Please remember their families, loved ones and friends in your prayers.

CHRIST CHURCH COALVILLE

Please join us for a service of Holy Communion on **Sunday 28**th **September at 11:00am**. This will be Gill's last service and it would be wonderful to see as many friends in church as possible to say goodbye to her and Geoff.

There will be a lunch of jacket potatoes and "bring & share" puddings after the service. Please email Revd Rhi at rhiorourke@gmail.com if you would like to stay for lunch.



LAITY MEETINGS

We would like to hold some more of these important meetings but we need some venues. If your church would like to host then please do get in touch with Noreen or Avril. *Thank you*.



Congratulations to Revd Steve O'Rourke on his recent appointment as Vicar to the Benefice of Broom Leys.



A FOND FAREWELL FROM THE REVD GEOFF PINNINGTON





A quote from the song 'The Last Goodbye' from Lord of the Rings. 'We came all this way, but now comes the day to bid you farewell.'



Seven years ago Gill and I came from Liverpool to join you in the Benefice of Christ Church Coalville. In some ways I cannot believe that seven years has passed by so quickly.

During that time Gill and I have met many people, visited many new places in Leicestershire, and engaged in lots of different activities within our three churches in the Benefice. We have also been able to play our part in the local community and I have particularly enjoyed working in Woodstone School, Ravenstone and All Saints School in Coalville.

Coming to Coalville was another part of God's calling on my journey of ministry and service. I came as a Reader and I leave as an Ordained Priest. My journey has been testing, trying, difficult sometimes, and full of joy at other times. The Christian path of service never claims to be easy.

Many people have walked alongside me over my time with you, not least the wonderful Sally with whom I led Faith & Fun in Christ Church, Ian who helped to enthrall the children of Woodstone School when they visited St Michael & All Angels Church in Ravenstone and our amazing Open The Book Team of David Cox, Janet Baker, Joan Biggadyke, Sheila Lunn alongside Gill and I that visited the schools to bring Bible stories to life. There are many other people who have supported me with their prayers, love and kindness. People like Kaye who made sure that I never starved by leaving delicious cakes and chocolates on the vicarage doorstep and I will never forget the super cake complete with a Tardis on it, that she made when we celebrated my ordination.

Also Tony and Kath, Linda and Roland who were always on hand to help at Funeral services and made sure everything was just as it should be.

To these people, and to the people that I don't have enough space to mention, those of you who have been my friend, (you know who you are), I deeply and sincerely thank you.

Returning to the song, The Last Goodbye – 'I turn at last to paths that lead home and though where the road then takes me, I cannot tell, we came all this way but now comes the day to bid you farewell.'

Gill and I are returning to our Liverpool home, and we enter a new phase of life as we embrace retirement. I will no longer be Gill's Curate, I will simply be her husband which I'm sure will drive her round the bend! We are excited about what God might have in store for us in the future, but sad to leave Coalville behind. However, it's the right time to go and so Gill and I bid you all a very fond farewell.

With love and blessings Geoff





An email was sent out to your clergy and churchwardens recently to inform them of an attempted break-in at one of our churches. If you look after our churches and buildings please be extra vigilant especially as the evenings are starting to draw in.



CAR PARKING AT CHRIST CHURCH COALVILLE

If you are planning on visiting our church or hall, please be aware that parts of the car park are currently blocked off due to an unsafe wall. Alternative free parking is across the road in the council car park. There is limited parking in front of the church hall but please leave those spaces free for those less able to walk. Thank you.



Want to
explore how
you can
apply the
Bible to your
daily life?



Join *The Bible Course*.

An 8 week introduction to the Bible starting 18 September.

Thursdays 7-9pm @ St Davids.

RSVP: office@stdavidschurchbroomleys.org.uk

"Come, ye thankful people come",

Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
ere the storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple come;
Raise the song of harvest home!

NEWS FROM ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Give thanks for the residentials that we were able to take young people to over the summer, they were a huge success. Many of those we took grew in their relationship with God, with three young people making a first commitment to follow Jesus. Please pray for these young people as they settle back into schools and colleges.

We are currently looking for volunteers who would enjoy spending time with young people on a Monday or Friday evening. Do you enjoy board games, chatting, serving drinks or listening? If so we would love to hear from you. No prior youth work experience required. Please get in touch if you would like to come along.

Please pray the following over the coming weeks:

- For the Rock Solid year 10s, for wisdom regarding their discipleship and spiritual growth.
- For the provision of volunteers at Skaters and Rock Solid.
- For energy and wisdom for Vernon and Helen.
- For Iona, who spent last year volunteering with us, that she settles into university quickly.
- Give thanks for those who have come to a deeper relationship with God over the summer.

If you would like to get in touch with Ashby Youth for Christ please contact helen.davis@yfc.co.uk

ST DENYS CHURCH, IBSTOCK by Judith Coleman





July 28th/29th – Holiday Club – 'The Wonder Zone' – organised by Judith Coleman and Ibstock Churches Together. This is how it was!

Changing to 2 full days instead of 5 afternoons from this year proved to be popular. 13 children attended on Monday and 11 children on Tuesday, 9 of whom were returnees from the Monday sessions. As scientists, they had lots of fun discovering God's creation of, and love for, the universe and everything in it; and experimenting with litmus paper, fingerprinting and bubbles, as well as making rockets, moons lighthouses, defraction glasses and insect castles. Feedback from parents etc. has been positive – the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The adults also had fun with the drama sketches! Many thanks to all the adults who helped to make this Holiday Club a success.

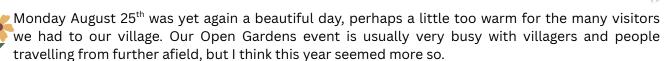
ST ANDREW'S ALLOTMENT THRINGSTONE by Kirsty Savory

As we approach another harvest, we want to take a moment to appreciate the surprising abundance of veg we have managed to grow in our Church allotment. All gardeners will know it's been a trying year with insufficient rainfall and record high temperatures. We are so blessed by God for brilliant soil and year after year of successful yields, with this year being our best yet. We have a congregation and community who are always eager and grateful for fresh produce in particular our famously good potatoes! So thank God for a great harvest and pray this continues for years to come.



HOLY ROOD CHURCH ~ PACKINGTON OPEN GARDENS by The Revd Lesley Birtwistle & Anne Wathes





Ten well attended gardens opened, all very different in design.

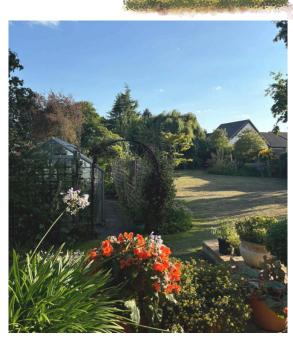
Musicians performed in one, the community choir sang a selection of songs in another. Cream teas and ice creams and plants for sale in others.

The village hall served refreshments as did the Church who also had History displays of the church and village. Books and jigsaws were popular, and Nigel of Temple Bees did a brisk trade selling local honey.

It was a lovely happy afternoon with proceeds from this popular event giving a very welcome boost to our fabric fund.







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
- St Davids Broom Leys 28th September, 26th
 October & 23rd November -The 6pm Gathering Worship with contemporary songs, prayer and teaching

- 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
- Christ Church Coalville Mondays in the Church Hall 12noon - 2.15pm - tea, cake and chat at Monday Mums Club
- Hastings Hall, The Heritage Centre at St Helen's Ashby We're In Stitches Drop In & Chat - The first Wednesday of every month 2pm - 4pm



Saturday 13th September 9am - 5pm St Denys Ibstock Church open for Ride & Stride Saturday 13th September 11am - 5pm St Denys Ibstock Autumn Fayre Saturday 13th September 10am - 3pm Church Open Day with Ride & Stride at St Matthew's Worthington Sunday 14th September 11am Pet Service at St Denys Ibstock Starting Thursday 18th September 7pm -9pm Christ Church Community Choir Starting 18th September 7pm - 9pm An 8-week Bible Course at St David's Broom Leys Sunday 21st September 10.30am Celebrate Harvest & St Matthew's Day at St Matthew's Worthington Sunday 21st September 4.30pm Harvest Festival at Staunton Harold Church Friday 26th September 10am - 12pm MacMillan Coffee Morning at St Denys Ibstock Sunday 28th September 11am Songs of Praise at St Denys Ibstock Tuesday 30th September 7.30pm Heritage Talks at St Helens Ashby Saturday 4th October 6.30pm Breedon Harvest Supper & Barn Dance Sunday 5th October 11am Harvest Festival Service at St Denys Ibstock Tuesday 7th October 9.30am St Denys Infant School Harvest Festival Service at St Denys Ibstock Saturday 11th October 10am - 12pm Churches Together Coffee Morning at St Denys Ibstock Saturday 18th October 7.30pm Barn Dance at Hugglescote Community Centre Thursday 23rd October - 12pm - 2pm Toastie Thursday at Holy Rood Packington Tuesday 28th October 7.30pm Heritage Talks at St Helens Ashby Saturday 1st November 10am - 12.30pm Christmas Fayre Holy Rood Packington Saturday 22nd November 11am - 2pm Christmas Fayre at St Denys Ibstock Tuesday 25th November 7.30pm Heritage Talks at St Helens Ashby Saturday 29th November 11.00am Christmas Craft Fair at Hugglescote Community Centre



A GOODBYE TO GILL & GEOFF BY NOREEN & AVRIL

One of the things that I least enjoy in life is saying Goodbye's. Having had the experience of moving home many times and leaving people I have got to know really well, I have always found it an emotional and difficult thing to cope with.

This time it isn't me moving, but our Area Dean Gill, who is retiring, and who, along with her husband Geoff is preparing to move back to Liverpool, where I am sure her heart lies.

To say that we will miss Gill is an understatement, since her arrival in Coalville I know that she has worked tirelessly for the Deanery, the community, and for her own group of parishes, she will be greatly missed, and we thank Geoff for all the love and support he has given to Gill, and all of us, over this time.

I have had the pleasure of working with Gill in my role as deanery lay chair, we have agreed, and at times been able to disagree well, it makes for a healthy working relationship which I have enjoyed and which I am really sorry is coming to an end.

I know this has not been an easy decision for Gill to make, a great deal of thought and prayer has gone into making the move at this time, but we accept that the Lord is calling her on to new and possibly different challenges in her life.

We as a deanery are very sorry to see both Gill and Geoff leave us but are so thankful for their excellent leadership and all that has been achieved by, and because of them, over the past few years.

On behalf of us all, I say a very sincere 'Thank You' and wish Gill and Geoff good health and every happiness for the future, in whatever they are called to do next.

With our love and prayers,

Noreen Deanery Lay Chair



This is a tough goodbye for me. Noreen has put things so very beautifully, there is not much more I can add. So here I am, saying a very reluctant goodbye to my vicar, our Area Dean and my friend.

As soon as Gill and Geoff arrived in Coalville they fitted in perfectly and immediately became part of our church family. We have celebrated many joys and experienced lots of sadness and loss during their time here, but they have lead us with grace through the difficult times and tried to make the right decisions for the benefice.

Gill has always seen the potential in people, encouraging those with gifts – may that be leading prayers of intercession, readings, children's work and occasionally leading services. She certainly encouraged me, quickly realising that my ministry is working for the church behind the scenes, and for that I am grateful. Gill is one of the most hard-working people I know, I couldn't possibly list everything she does. The times I valued the most were our meetings at the vicarage, they always seemed to end up being 20% business and 80% tea and putting the world to rights.

I will miss Geoff too, especially on a Sunday evening service, ushering us out so he can have his chicken for tea! I will miss his no-nonsense advice and the sermons that often spoke a little too loudly to me. I can't imagine what Christ Church and the benefice will look like at the end of September. I just know it will be quiet and very different. I know that soon we will be waving goodbye to our Pinningtons, but going back home to Liverpool for a gentler pace of life is where they are being called and I wish them all the love and happiness. Thank you doesn't seem quite enough.

thank you

With love x

Avril
Deanery Secretary

Gracious and Loving God,

As we stand on the threshold of a new school year, we pause to seek your presence and your blessing. With hearts filled with hope and a touch of anticipation, we lift up all students, teachers, and families embarking on this journey of growth and discovery.

For Students

Grant each student courage as they step into new classrooms, ready to learn, to try, and to grow. Fill their minds with curiosity, their hearts with kindness, and their spirits with perseverance. May they find joy in learning, support in friendship, and comfort in challenge.

For Teachers and Staff

Bless teachers, mentors, and all who guide the way. Grant them wisdom to inspire, patience to nurture, and creativity to spark imaginations. May they be sustained by moments of success and find strength in times of difficulty.

For Families

Be near to every parent, guardian, and caregiver. Give them peace as they encourage their children, resilience as they adjust to routines, and grace as they offer support and love.

For the School Community

May your spirit of unity and respect dwell in every classroom, hallway, and playground. Keep all safe from harm. Help us to celebrate our differences and draw strength from working together.

As we take on this new year, may we walk with open minds, open hearts, and open hands—eager to receive, to give, and to learn.

In hope and gratitude, we begin again.

Amen.



PRAYER

by the Revd Rhi O'Rourke

A Prayer for Our Church and Community

Gracious God,

You have called us to be your people in this place.

Bless our church, our neighbours, and all who seek Your peace.

In times of change, keep us steady in faith and hopeful for what is to come.

Strengthen us to serve with joy, speak with kindness, and live in hope.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





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, the Winter/Christmas newsletter, will be coming out in mid November.

Avril
Deanery Secretary











WORSHIP, TEACHING AND PRAYER

AUTUMN DATES 28TH SEPT 26TH OCT 28T 23RD NOV

6PM AT ST DAVID'S CHURCH, BROOM LEYS

OPEN TO ALL



ST DAVID'S CHURCH, MEADOW LANE, COALVILLE LE67 4RL







collection, any dietary requirements you may have. Payment, however, will need to be in cash on ticket collection as we have no way of offering online payments. Parking is available at the Parish Hall or on The Green.







Plus many prizes to be won Lots of Christmas music Tea/Coffee and Cakes Ploughman's lunches with cake - only £10

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WORTHINGTON



13th SEPTEMBER 2025

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please join us as we celebrate our Heritage Discover more of the Heritage of Worthington and Newbold from the exhibits in Church.

"CHURCH OPEN DAY"

Tea and Coffee and toilet available here.

"RIDE AND STRIDE" cyclists welcome. All visitors with or without dogs are welcome.

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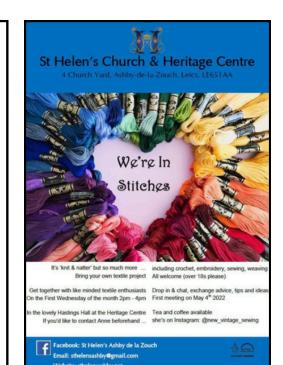
ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WORTHINGTON



21st SEPTEMBER 2025

Please join us as we celebrate
HARVEST and
ST. MATTHEW'S DAY
at our special service here in this Church followed by a picnic lunch (Bring your own)
10:30 a.m.

Money or items will be collected for Ashby Foodbank.



Christmas

Fayre

AND COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 1st November 10am - 12.30pm

Help us raise funds towards a Disability Swing for the village Recreation Ground

A variety of Craft Stalls

Cakes and Pickles

Raffle

Refreshments

£1 Entry - children free

Holy Rood Church Packington

Toastie Thursday

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

Thursday October 23rd

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 summer activities

Open for all ages!

For more info please contact Anne on 01530 414621