

Our Diocese Together

August 2021

**Clowne Church says
“Thank You for the Music”**

**God is working his purpose out
... in Hartington**

**Six deacons share the stories
in the Class of 2021**



News

Annual USPG walk raises more than £1,000

The eighth annual Derwent Trek in support of the Anglican mission agency, USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) was held on Monday, 28 June. A Team from Matlock Bank and Tansley set off from Derby Cathedral with a blessing from the dean at around 9.15am and arrived at the doors of All Saints', Matlock Bank by 5.45pm. With a refreshment stop at Bishop's House (gratefully received!), the team made its way up the A6 and the Cromford canal accompanied by seemingly endless rain clouds. The team has raised around £900 plus gift aid towards USPG-supported projects in Sri Lanka and South India.

Richard Reade, Rector of Matlock Bank and Tansley, commented: "At a time when national government is cutting back on the aid budget, it is important that we support people and communities less fortunate than ourselves. The simple, joyful act of walking through our beautiful countryside (despite the rain) can help make a difference in the world with people's support."

There is still time to support the team and make a donation - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richard-reaade7



Everyday Faith - what's your story?

Imagine having to go to someone's house and tell them that a loved one has been killed. Imagine having to deal with drug dealers, cases of abuse, emergency situations and some of the most heinous crimes imaginable.

Phil is a police inspector and he and his colleagues have to deal with these kinds of situations every day.

Can his faith help him through? Phil says it does, every day.

He tells his story of Everyday Faith to Kat Allread, Lay Vocations Officer.

In the Diocese of Derby, we are asking people to share their Everyday stories - we would love to hear stories of people's real lives, the impact that faith has on who they are and what they do and how churches support them as they live out their faith.

We want to hear stories from people of all ages and backgrounds - sharing your story of how your faith helps you in your daily life to inspire and encourage others.

To share your story, drop us a line at ideas@derby.anglican.org

Let's all get talking about our Everyday Faith!



Bishop Malcolm writes...



Discoveries

I am discovering new things here every day.

Stories of new worshipping communities in unexpected places – like on the allotments.

Stories from the children I have been meeting in their schools, who have been nominated for the Bishop's Badge for their wonderful kindness, courage, or love for others.

Stories of lives touched by God – for example the young man who turned up at church, and told me how after a long search for meaning in life he had now encountered God in Christ.

Here we read about our recent ordinands, who have started to pray and to minister among us in churches up and down the diocese. Their stories inspire!

I hope I never get used to all this – or start to take things for granted.

In a striking story last month, archaeologists have discovered a near-complete Anglo Saxon dwelling and oratory (place of prayer) between Foremark and Ingleby near the River Trent. Previously thought to be a Victorian folly, this cave, legend has it, was the home of a ninth-century anchorite or hermit. A 16th-century book says 'at that time St Hardulph had a cell in a cliff a little from the Trent'.

'Hardulph' was King of Northumbria exiled in 806. Leaving his palace in Bamburgh he travelled to see Pope Leo the third in Rome, but returned to live and pray here on the banks of the Trent, until he died around 830, and was buried at Breedon on the Hill, just five miles from the caves. I wish I knew how his life of prayer affected the life of the people here.

For centuries, people have passed these caves unaware of their significance. Like the many who pass our churches, not yet sensing the mystery hidden there, not yet drawn into the life of prayer to which they invite us.

Yes - hidden treasures are all around us, waiting to be discovered - in the astonishing landscape of our diocese, in the people of our villages, towns, cities, and estates - and in each other.

As we respond to the call to be a church of missionary disciples, seeking 'The Kingdom of God – Good News for All' through transformed lives, growing church, and building community, let's watch for the signs of God's presence.

At work, at school, in the factory or the office or on the farm, we are each called to join in what God is doing in the world, in the way we live, in what we do, and, primarily in who we are.

That's why we each need an oratory – perhaps not a cave – but space in our lives for that greatest discovery of all – that we are loved by God without measure, so that we may live out that love for others.

+ Malcolm Repton

The Rt Revd Malcolm Macnaughton
Bishop of Repton

Class of 2021

We are proud to bring you our final installment of “Class of 2021”.

The new deacons are now serving in their parishes following their ordinations over the weekend of 26 and 27 June 2021.

Let us introduce you to Bex, Chris, Nick, Gill, Mike and James.
Please join us in welcoming them to the diocese as deacons.

Find out more and view photos from the ordination services on our website - www.derby.anglican.org



I'm Bex Allpress.

Following my ordination, I am serving as a curate across four parish churches in Swadlincote, Hartshorne, Newhall and Church Gresley.

During my curacy placement, I will have plenty of opportunities to work with lots of

people, from across all four parish churches, as part of a dynamic ministry team within the minster.

I am excited to be serving and learning within existing and new forms of ministry within the Swadlincote area, sharing my vocational journey alongside others who are realising their own.

Thankfully I am not an entire stranger to the minster having been on placement here over the last two years during my training for ordained ministry with Saint Mellitus College.

During my training I have had the chance to be involved with aspects of ministry across the Swadlincote area which has helped to form a platform on which to grow during my time here as a curate.

Prior to working in ministry, I worked for 15 years in the NHS across a variety of surgical specialities within the operating departments. Despite sounding gruesome, it was a really engaging career where I gained plenty of experience across life matters.

Although I have some fond memories, I felt God was calling me to explore working further within full-time ministry.

My journey in the Christian faith began when I was only three years old attending Sunday school on a regular basis at my local parish church in Derbyshire.

From the age of 14, I then began volunteering as a Sunday school teacher until at 18 years old I left to study at university in Wales.

It was in Wales that I met my husband and after eight years we moved back to Derbyshire.

Only after we moved back did I feel God was drawing me to be more involved once more within the church.

I began helping as a leader within our local church parent and toddler group and when I had to give this up due to changes at work, I first thought that my sense of calling was a call to return back to continue serving this group.

Despite a lengthy discernment process, I realised that God has His timings in hand because the year I was ready to begin formal ordination training was the same year that the new St. Mellitus College opened in Nottingham.

I was super excited to begin my training there and have the privilege of being the first ordinand from Derby to train with them.

My journey is probably one best described as being quite ordinary but filled with extra-ordinary moments.

As for me, I have just this year decided to have a go at growing my own vegetables. It's something that I've never done before so everything is a learning journey to see what takes well and what doesn't.

I recently harvested my first crop of potatoes and, although they were smaller than expected, they still tasted delicious!



I'm Chris Nowak.

Following ordination, I am starting my curacy at St James' and St Luke's, Whitfield, Glossop.

I grew up in Nottingham, attending Sunday school and Children's Church where I happily learnt a lot about God and

Jesus but never really knew what it had to do with me. It was in the very lively Christian Union at senior school where I was encouraged to make a commitment to Jesus and experienced the reality of his love amongst us as we learnt, sang and prayed together. I later found this same encouragement at the Church Youth Fellowship and through confirmation.

I studied Pharmacy at Manchester University, going on to work as a hospital pharmacist at Tameside Hospital for many years, living initially in Glossop then moving to Chinley when I married.

I helped start a Sunday school, although it was difficult with a 2 and 4 year-old of my own present! Through being a Sunday school leader, I gained confidence and was encouraged by the vicar to lead some church services and take on further responsibilities. This, along with comments from others, both inside and outside the church, encouraged me to consider if God was calling me to a more specific role in the Church.

In the course of my discernment, my husband died unexpectedly leaving me to bring up teenage boys alone. As a consequence of my home responsibilities, I felt at that time directed towards Reader ministry.

I trained at All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry and was licensed as a Reader in 2015. Shortly after this, our vicar moved on so I was involved in helping to lead our three churches through a vacancy. In the back of my mind, I think that I always felt the draw to serving God through ordination. This calling became stronger and stronger and with the support of a new vicar and church members I followed the process of discernment and was selected for training.

I have really enjoyed training at St Hild College, although rather disappointed at much of the training being online due to the Covid pandemic.

As I begin my curacy, I am looking forward to discovering what serving in a larger and more diverse church and community will be like as I move from small village churches to a town setting.

I am keen to explore the different opportunities for ministry and mission that this will bring. Also, I hope that my experience of coping with bereavement, being a single parent and now a single adult will be useful in empathising with those in similar situations.

I love living in the High Peak and enjoy exploring the hills and moors around, both walking and running.

My holidays are nearly always to mountainous areas, where I enjoy both strenuous physical activity and admiring the beauty of nature. I also enjoy singing and handicrafts.

I'm Nick Parish. I'm starting my curacy at St Peter's & Christ Church with Holy Trinity in Derby.

I was born in England, but moved to Seychelles at 15 months, then to Pakistan when I was four. My dad worked with a Christian radio organisation. We lived in Pakistan until I was 14, then returned to England so that my brother (two years older!) could do his A levels here. After doing my GCSEs and A levels in Worthing, I went to university in Durham and studied Theology.

I returned to Worthing to complete teacher training and worked at our local High School, teaching RE and then involved in running the school's behaviour support provision. In 2003, I married my amazing wife, Anna, who I'd met at university. Our first son, Joshua, was born in 2006.

In 2008 we moved to Repton, when Anna took a job running one of the girls' boarding houses at Repton School. I became a stay-at-home dad to look after Joshua, and then Luke, who arrived in 2011. I also became a Special Constable in this time and was

based in Swadlincote.

In the summer of 2017, a previous vicar of ours said to me, "I think it's about time you started looking into ordination." This was the prod I needed to start down the official 'discernment' process and here I am now!

In 2018, we moved out of the boarding house. Anna is now Pastoral Assistant Head at Repton.

I started ordination training at Queen's in Birmingham in 2018. I really enjoyed it and have learnt a huge amount. I've also got some fantastic new friends out of the process, which is brilliant!

I'm really looking forward to my curacy at St Peter's. I did a placement there at the end of my first year, and was struck by how much was going on. It's going to be an exciting and busy few years!



I'm Gill Ball. I live in Chesterfield. As a deacon, I will be working in the parish of St John's Newbold, as a part-time self-supporting minister (SSM).

I grew up in King's Lynn in Norfolk and started attending church when the Sunday School dwindled to just three and closed when I was about six years old. My parents didn't worship but there have been very few Sundays when I have missed being in church, even on holiday. More recently this has included places where I cannot understand a word of the language, but God is with us, and the feel of liturgy usually provides the connection.

I moved to Derbyshire to teach children with special needs, quickly met my now husband, Tim, through bellringing, which we both continue to take part in, calling people to worship and celebrating life events. I continued to teach in various schools in the area, and it was at the same time voluntary redundancy offers were being made, I felt that God was calling me to ordained ministry.

I took six modules of study for the Certificate in Theology Mission and Ministry over two years, with friends who affectionately call ourselves the Wingerworth four. I almost completed the BA with St. Hild college, on a full-time contextual placement course, attached to St John's Walton. I intend to submit my dissertation this year.

Over the years I have been involved with mission action groups, youth provision, afternoon worship with community tea for the elderly and many of the usual church groups.

At the moment I feel my future will have a strong emphasis on funeral ministry, but that may change. I will never be an incumbent, but this is mainly due to my age, and I welcome being part of a ministry team.

I am a keen gardener, with an allotment to grow fruit and vegetables, and this gives me time to contemplate and reflect while enjoying the physical exercise. I am a traditional cook and make jam, chutney and most meals from raw ingredients, home grown whenever possible.

I have been a volunteer with Girlguiding for too many years to mention. Sadly I had to give this up to allow me to study, but I do continue to help by managing the Chesterfield Guide Headquarters.



I'm Mike Fitzsimmons. I grew up in Birmingham in the 1970s and was brought up in a non-mainstream church, where I learned Bible stories very well and where there was a strong sense of family.

As an adult I felt that my faith was unsatisfying and eventually I felt God calling me away from that church and into the Church of England. An important feature of my journey was towards embracing the doctrine of God as the Trinity: I had previously thought that this was not the right way of speaking about God, but, despite my resistance and objections, I came to love the understanding of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Trinity helped me see the God of grace and generosity in contrast to the view of God I had before. Then I found that joy, peace and transformation became possible.

I feel that coming to accept and receive the measureless love of God for us is a life's journey, at least for many of us. Part of ordination, for me, is working together with the people of God to make God's love known in the world.

Before ordination, I worked for many years in voluntary sector network organisations,

advising charities on funding, governance and training, as well as more geeky areas, like database and website development.

Immediately before training for ordination I was Warden of a retreat house in Staffordshire for three years where I led retreats and learned a lot about hospitality.

In my spare time I love finding nice places to walk with my dog and enjoy badminton and trying my hand at arty or crafty things.

The ordination weekend was a wonderful culmination of the sense of God's calling and preparing - the retreat for three days beforehand gave us space to step out of the frantic business of moving house and so many changes and be still with God.

For me it was a time partly of feeling unprepared and asking, "Are you sure, God?" And also of being confirmed in God's calling, and that God sometimes calls people who don't feel like the kind of person that God calls into ordained ministry.



Class of 2021



I'm James Lee, I'm married to Bethan and we have four boys – Boaz, Josiah, Samuel and Ezra, which means there's never a dull moment in our house!

I'm starting my curacy in the Benefice of Stanton-by-Dale with Dale Abbey and Risley, which is both exciting and daunting. I'm new to the diocese, having

originally been sent for ordination training from the Diocese of Guildford, so am looking forward to getting to know people here and exploring Derbyshire.

I was brought up in a Christian family, attending church and going to a Christian school, so talk of the Bible and of Christian faith has always been a constant presence in my life. At 12 years old, I started to consider what all of this meant for me personally.

God was at work in lots of different ways in my life over my teenage years, drawing me to Himself, through summer camps and youth weekends, through some difficult family circumstances and a formative trip to Uganda with my church youth group. I was baptised aged 17, which was a significant moment for me in my walk with God.

My years as an undergrad at Warwick served to both stretch and deepen my faith, as I experienced the challenges that came from friends' questions about my faith and also a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Gospel through the university Christian Union. This also gave me my first few steps in getting involved in Christian ministry.

The first seeds of thinking about ordained ministry came when I spent a year at Wycliffe Hall studying Christian apologetics, which was also my first

experience of the Church of England! After a few years (during which I got married, started work in Westminster and moved to Farnborough, Hampshire) those seeds began to grow a bit more as we joined the Anglican church where my wife grew up.

For me, it was a sense of a desire/calling to preach, of people recognising pastoral gifts in me and of ordained ministry being the right 'fit' for us as a family that prompted me into starting the discernment process in late 2012.

Over the following years, this process went along quite slowly as our family grew and I also had opportunity to gain further ministry experience through church and through working for Christians in Parliament in Westminster.

Eventually, however, I felt that God was still leading me towards ordained ministry and I went for my BAP in 2018. Having been accepted for training, we have spent a wonderful three years at Oak Hill College in north London, which was a great place for us as a family and also for me in training me for the ministry God has in store for me.

Being released by my sending diocese could have been quite unsettling, but having seen so much of God's kindness to us, we were able to trust that he knew where he was taking us - and sure enough we found ourselves coming up to Derbyshire to visit the benefice where I am now curate! We knew straight away that this was where we sensed God was calling us and are very excited to have arrived!

The ordination service itself was quite a profound experience – partly the sense of 'this is really happening now' as I sat in my row at the cathedral, and also through the Liturgy of Ordination in the service that sets out so clearly the weightiness of what this means.

My vision of being ordained is that it is both an immense privilege and a weighty responsibility to be counted as an under-shepherd to the Good Shepherd.

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.”

2 Timothy 4:2

Clowne church says “Thank You, Arthur, for the music”



St John the Baptist Parish Church, Clowne, held a special celebration on Sunday, 27 June as part of their Patronal Festival. Arthur Stamper, the church's organist of 60 years (whose father was organist before him) retired. Given that there's been a Stamper playing the Clowne organ for almost 100 years, the church marked this by dedicating the organ as 'The Stamper Organ' and presenting Arthur with a long service medal from the RSCM.

Arthur said "I've been going to church since I was a baby – I was taken in a carry cot to Evensong – so the music of the church is in my blood. I've been there my whole life, now I'm part of the furniture really!"

Rector, Revd Bryony Taylor, said: "Arthur has been a core part of the worshipping life of our church for more than 60 years. He has played at many people's weddings, Christenings and funerals and has seen much change over the years. Although he is retiring from playing regularly, he will always be our organist and we are tremendously grateful for a lifetime of faithful service."

The congregation gathered outside (socially distanced) after the service to celebrate Arthur's ministry and to welcome Revd Mike Fitzsimmons as curate (assistant trainee minister).

65 Glorious Years celebrated

On Sunday, 20 June, St John the Evangelist in Bridge Street, Derby, acknowledged a fantastic achievement by one of its members.

Canon Elaine Jones presented Maurice Walkerdine with a framed accolade from Bishop Malcolm acknowledging 65 years of continuous service on the PCC.

Maurice has served as Church Warden more than once and as a member of the PCC, his particular 'speciality' being the care of the church building, there is probably not any part of it he doesn't know!

Maurice, a lifelong member attended with his mum and two brothers, and then with his wife Hilda, children Suzanne and Martin and now, when possible, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He recently retired from the choir, having sung with them from a very early age. Pictures from the church's archive were added to the framed accolade showing him from aged seven years to a picture of him when he was awarded the Bishop's Badge.

Canon Elaine read the message from Bishop Malcolm and thanked Maurice for his dedication and along with the framed version he received another gift of his favourite tippie, well deserved we think.

He had no idea this was going to happen so was very surprised. He didn't even guess something was going on when his son Martin, grandson Ben and Ben's wife Julie joined him for the service!



Ringling the Ellacombe Chimes in Riddings and Hayfield

Two churches in Derbyshire with unique bell chiming apparatus joined the worldwide celebration to mark the 200th anniversary of their invention, on Saturday, 26 June.

The bells at St Matthew's Church in Hayfield and St James's Church at Riddings were chimed at noon, joining others across four continents, to celebrate the bicentenary of the Ellacombe Chimes, which were invented in 1821 by Revd Henry Thomas Ellacombe at St Mary's Church in Bitton, South Gloucestershire.

The 'Chime around the World' celebration, started in New Zealand and finished in Vancouver in Canada (17 hours later!). Over 100 churches and towers participated. Ellacombe chimes were invented to enable one person to chime all of the bells in a tower instead of a group of trained bell ringers ringing one bell each.

Photo: St James, Riddings. Ten unusual tubular bells hung for chiming. Photo credit – Neil & Anne Westman





St Giles, Hartington *'God is working his purpose out'*

Reinventing church and making it work - with a healthy dose of community togetherness

This article was adapted from original text by Sarah Lacey, parisioner at St Giles, Hartington.

St Giles' Church sits dreaming quietly in the beautiful village of Hartington, and has done so since around 1250 AD. This is not to say that it hasn't had some lively moments, I'm sure it has, but none in my time of some 20 years as a resident. How we have prayed for a change to come, for the Holy Spirit to take notice and 'do' something, anything even, to create life, energy and purpose for God within and without this slumbering church.

Guess what? Something has gradually been changing over the last few years, new shoots have sprouted in the form of new church goers moving into the village. In each we see gifts put to willing use in the service of God, through the Spirit - it's exciting!

There is a problem, (isn't there always?!), we don't have a vicar, we are in 'vacancy', and have been

for some time. In fact, for me, it is the fourth time of being without the person in a dog collar, the visible presence of God's servant within the community that everyone wants to see and take tea with.



Does it matter? Yes, of course it does, but you can, we have learnt over the years, manage very well if you have someone to share the load with, and this time there is a team of 'someones' who are willing and able to step up and become a committed group of lay people, prepared to help and enable us to grow.

As Paul said in his letter to the Romans (12:6): *'We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us.'*

The team committed to offering a regular time of worship on a Sunday. Between us we deliver two family type services every month, and we plague other vicars and retired clergy (PTOs) to undertake the other two Sundays, one to offer Holy Communion, which recharges our spiritual batteries beautifully, the other to bring some variety and friendly support, for which we say a big 'thank you' to the priest concerned.

We dug out our 2011 version of MAP (Mission Action Plan) and updated it with realistic challenges and plans, having first canvassed as many people as possible for their opinions, which we listened to. We established a rota, we bulked up our PCC with some new blood and we established a pastoral team.

The pandemic has shown on numerous occasions how important regular outreach is, especially in our rural farming community. There is a great deal of isolation and loneliness, masked by pride and the words, 'I don't want to be a nuisance / burden / trouble to anyone,' if we do but take time to be that good neighbour Jesus calls us to be and take notice. We held a thoroughly enjoyable Rogation service last month, 40 people joined us on our 'worship walkabout' (see photo below), and the farmer, at whose farm we stopped to read scripture and pray, is still talking about it... in a good way!

St Giles is a pilgrim church, on the pilgrim way from Ilam to Eyam, many people pre-pandemic, visited the church to get their little books stamped, we always welcomed them and look forward to doing so again soon. It seems wrong not to have the door to God's house open every day, as was our custom, but that is how it is just now. Strange times!

However, we are not wasting time, there is much to do, a new heating system for one thing, followed by a kitchen (we are known for our cakes after services with a cup of 'proper' coffee and lots of chat, which we miss very much!) and loos MUST happen, they really must.

This leads neatly on to the essential people we are blessed to have, those who are good with money, our treasurer is one, every PCC needs one of those! Other skills recently discovered include, skilled engineers, singers, readers, fundraisers, trained safeguarding officer, artists and multi-taskers and planners - one of whom supplied this quote when asked where they see God at work: *'Right here - encouraging and building up our Church family, both in numbers and faith, so that we can serve the community that we are in, being both light and salt.'* Another: *'By showing God's love in action we are building new confidence in God.'*

We want to be good listeners, who are rooted within the community, visible and active, carrying out jobs for God, with love, humour and compassion. None of these require a vicar, but it will be good to have one somewhere, sometime soon, please God, to teach, nourish, support and lead us, someone to share things with, someone we can grow with, oh, and someone who can take the weddings and baptisms, because much as we would like to, we are not allowed to!

We have learnt to think outside our boxes, to listen to others, to try to create a sense of belonging within our growing congregation, to believe that if God wants us to do something He will show us how, and He does, thank you Lord. Our story continues...



We are creating a 'Walk of Words' around our church yard, an idea first developed at St Oswald's, Ashbourne, which we are gratefully adapting as something creative for the many visitors that come to the village, to read and perhaps encounter Christ, as they do so, alongside the many wild flowers and far-reaching views that our church yard offers them.



Learn more about St Giles Hartington at:
www.hartingtonchurch.org



Will you stand for the Church of England General Synod Elections?

Standing for General Synod, the legislative body of the Church of England, is an opportunity to represent the concerns of your community and your diocese at a national level. As an elected member of Synod, you will have a say in national legislation that affects all parts of the Church of England. Together with Westminster Parliament, it is the only body in the land which is entitled to make national law for England. In addition to legislation, you can also raise issues and contribute to debates on a wide range of social and policy matters – of national and international significance.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

General Synod is made up of three Houses: Bishops, Clergy, and Laity. For more information about how you can stand for the Synod Elections, please visit:

www.churchofengland.org/synodelections