



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

March 2025

We are now at the beginning of March and in the 3rd month of 2025 and it seems like this year is already flying by. These early months can be a mixture of hope, anxiety and sometimes quiet struggles can go unspoken. This time of year can bring up many things: new goals, old patterns, the remnant of challenges faced in previous years, or even the pressure to feel “new” and “better”. However, instead of letting the colder, darker months pass us by, sometimes it's about taking small, gentle steps rather than leaps. As we enter the 3rd month of 2025 (not that it has any special significance) it is a great opportunity to invest in our relationship with God and for reflection and renewal.

In these first three months, I encourage you to be kind to yourself or to quote a mentor and friend, “go gently”. The first three months of the year don't have to be a race to success, but rather they can be opportunities to establish a rhythm that supports your well-being and allows space for God to be in the mundane as well as the exciting. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the weight of your good intentioned resolutions, it's okay to simply pause, be present and take stock before carrying on. Remember, progress isn't always achievement – it can look like resting, recalibrating, or seeking help from those we trust and in Him who we trust.

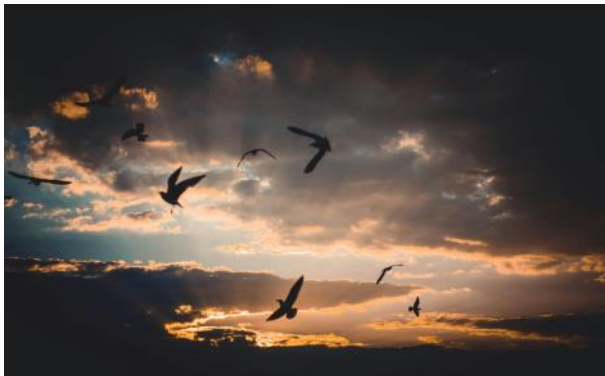


Wherever we are, let us just take this time to pause now as we go into March—a good template. What can ‘go gently’ mean for you as you begin the month of March?

Well for me personally, I am often reminded of the creation story. God created the world and everything in it from light and dark, to sea and land, to animals and fish and bird, but what day did He create humans, those in His image, us? As you know he created us on the 6th day. So, on the 7th day this meant our first full day with God was a day of rest. I do wonder, friends, if that is because God had worked hard and created so many wonderful things but what He wanted from us was not to go, go, go but to stop and rest and enjoy it all with Him. The first thing we did was simply be with our Creator. ‘Go gently’ for me means to simply be with Him who holds everything in the palm of His hands and knows the beginning and the end and so we can trust our; plans, worries, expectations and hopes are safe too.

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Matthew 6:25-27



Let us go into March with intention, compassion and the reminder to 'go gently'. If you are already feeling the push and pull of life whether from work, family or your own expectations and goals, it's important to pause and evaluate what truly matters and be grounded and nourished by knowing the God who created the world wants to spend time with you too.



By Rachel Kennedy

Children's and Youth Leader

2025 Parish Electoral Roll

In 2025, an entirely new church electoral roll must be prepared in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in every parish in the Church of England, under the Church Representation Rules (CRR). So unlike the last few years, the roll is not just updated with any changes but has to be totally re-compiled. Even if someone has had their name entered on the existing electoral roll, they must complete a fresh application form to be included in the new one.

Over the next 2 months leading up to the APCMs (11th May for St Pauls and 18th May for St Nicks) your electoral roll officers will be posting notices, making announcements and contacting you as they carry out this work. Please do contact them if you have any concerns (Lesley at St Pauls and Mike at St Nicks)

Lent Series at St Nicks and St Pauls

During Lent, we have decided to do a short preaching series around topics of discipleship.

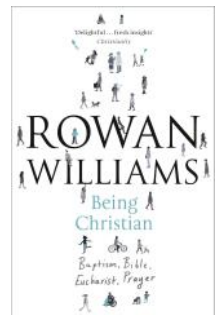
Rowan Williams book, Being Christian (link below) covers the key topics.

9 th March	Baptism	Romans 6:1-11 Luke 3:15-22
16 th March	Bible	2 Timothy 3:10-17 Luke 4:1-15
23 rd March	Eucharist	Acts 2:37-47 Luke 22:7-23
30 th March	Mothering Sunday	Lectionary readings
6 th April	Prayer	Colossians 4:2-6, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28 Luke 11:1-13
13 th April	Palm Sunday	Lectionary readings

I hope to pick up on the theme of discipleship for another series later in the year and I'm looking at a number of resources.

Rev'd Sarah W

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Being-Christian-Baptism-Eucharist-Prayer/dp/0281071713/ref=sr_1_1?nsdOptOutParam=true&s=books



Extra Worship opportunities

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

St Edmunds, Allestree have a Communion service 10am 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 services are:

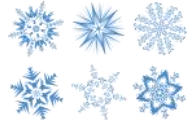
Sunday 2nd	St Matts: Evensong, led by Clive Lemmon
Wednesday 5th	(7.30pm) St Matts: Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	St Eds: Choral Evensong, led by the choir
Sunday 16th	St Matts: Choral Evensong, led by Rachael Brooks
Sunday 23rd	St Ed's: Choral Evensong, led by Rachael Brooks

<https://www.stedsandstmatts.co.uk/diary>—for more information on upcoming services.



Poem

God made you just the way he wanted and thank you for all you do to make our world a better place. Based on Psalm 139: v13-18



You're Special.

In all the world there is nobody like you.

Since the beginning of time, there has never been another person like you.

Nobody has your smile, your eyes, your hands, your hair.

Nobody owns your handwriting, your voice.



Nobody can paint your brushstrokes.

Nobody has your taste for food or music or dance or art.

Nobody in the universe sees things as you do.

There is always someone who is better at one thing or another than you.

But nobody has your combination of talents and feelings.

The need for you to imitate anybody else is absolutely unnecessary.

Please realise God made you for a special purpose.

You're special.

Poem for newsletter sent by Paul Wiggins, author unknown.

March 2025

Archdeacon Karen writes...



What are you noticing at the moment I wonder? Take a moment and think. Take a moment? I'm not sure how easy we find that. The culture, the habits and practices that surround us, the newsfeed, the pace and challenge of life can mean we get to the end of the day without 'taking a moment'.

Maybe as we 'March' out of winter however, we can resolve to do that, to pause, to notice and to be still. How? The created order can encourage us to do that I think as we notice signs of returning and new life, as the days lengthen and we (hopefully) see some blue sky. It can be a time to metaphorically lift our heads, to leave winter behind, to look up, and yes, to be still.

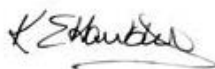
For most of this month we travel through Lent, which starts on March 5th, Ash Wednesday.

'What are you giving up for Lent?' is a question that is often asked amongst church communities (and wider) as we spend time in penitence and self-denial, both a reflection of Jesus' time in the wilderness and a preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

I want to suggest, in addition, that we consider taking something on for Lent, that we resolve to 'Take a Moment', that we choose to deliberately press the pause button, lift our heads to the light and be still.

Why? Because in that place of stillness, God can draw close, we can become aware of His presence and we can breathe deeply of His light, love and hope. As we look up and breathe, the 'things of earth can grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace' (to quote an old chorus) and we can know the transforming work of God's Spirit, helping us to turn away from the sin and mess that we're all caught up in and changing us to be more like Jesus.

What are you taking on for Lent?
Take a moment, press pause and be still ...



The Venerable Karen Hamblin
Archdeacon of East Derbyshire

A SCHEMING MIND

A MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

WITH ROD REPTON

The murder squad will be sworn in and given the facts of the true unsolved murder of Julia Wallace, by the Senior Investigating Officer Rod Repton. They then will decide “Whodunit”, this is an interactive presentation



14th March

Doors open 7pm

£10 a ticket

Tickets on sale via the church office
or using the QR code



CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR ST NICKS CHURCH

Tickets can also be purchased using the give a little machine on the giving station @ St Nicks Church. Once purchased collect your tickets from the giving station.



Concert in celebration of Peter Barham

Derwentio Choir – Conducted by Alexander Binns

St Matthews, Darley Abbey choir

St Edmunds, Allestree choir

St Matthew's Church, Darley Abbey

15th March at 7.30 pm

Admission free, by ticket from

Elizabeth Jack (EAMJack@gmail.com)

Collection in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice

The Miracle of Dunkirk

How many of us have read the book 'How to pray' by Pete Greig? I hadn't but I am reading it now. I have been overwhelmed by the account of an answer to prayer in 'The miracle of Dunkirk'.

In May 1940, thousands of allied soldiers were trapped on the beaches in Dunkirk—German planes and troops were approaching the trapped soldiers. King George VI spoke to the nation and asked for a national day of prayer on Sunday 26th May. Old photos show queues of people going into cathedrals, churches and chapels—an entire nation was involved in praying for national deliverance.

The next day 860 vessels embarked in a desperate attempt to save the besieged allied soldiers. Churchill hoped 10% of the beleaguered army could be rescued. By the time the ships had arrived at Dunkirk, storms were battering the European mainland so violently that Luftwaffe in that region were grounded, unable to attack and Hitler ordered his ground troops to halt—for three days they didn't move. The Dunkirk evacuations were allowed to proceed with less disruption until the Luftwaffe resumed attacks on 29th May.

Three days after the national day of prayer an extraordinary clam descended upon the English channel, precisely what the boats overloaded with men needed to return safely to England. By the time the Germans started attacking over 338,000 men had been rescued, ten times the expected number.

In his famous speech to parliament on 4th June, 1940 Churchill heralded a miracle of deliverance. A second day of prayer was called, two weeks after the first one, to thank God for delivering a third of a million lives, confounding the plans of the enemy and redirecting the entire trajectory of the second world war. Four years later, troops were crossing the channel to liberate Europe.

King George VI wrote in every British newspaper;

'I desire solemnly to call my people to prayer. If from every place of worship, from every home and factory, men and women of all ages and many races and occupations, prayers and intercessions rise, then please God..... the predictions of an ancient Psalm may be fulfilled—The Lord will give strength to his people, the Lord will give his people the blessing of peace.'

Prayer works, keep on praying - alleluia!

By Daphne H



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.

Large car park on site

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



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>



Play n Praise

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.

Thank you.



Notification of Funeral

The family of the late Beryl Arnot, a beloved member of St Nick's congregation would like to let you all know her funeral service will be held at The Markeaton Crematorium, 11th March, in the Round Chapel at 1pm. Rev'd Lee Martin will be leading the service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who knew and loved Beryl.



The Children's Society

Result of emptying the collection Boxes this year is £890-56

Thank you to everyone who is still putting coins in their boxes and making generous contributions to help the important work with children and young people.



COOP support

Coop Allestree have selected St Nicks Community Cafe as one of their community groups which their members can select to raise money for as they shop. If you are a member of Coop (Park Farm) please select St Nicks as your chosen group to support as every supporter helps. It only takes a moment if you have the app and are a member.

Alternatively, search Coop membership to join (Blue Coop).

If you would like to become a new member of the Coop and help raise funds for St Nicks please be aware it costs £1 to join.

Mothering Sunday

Help is needed on Saturday March 29th to help to prepare the posies. If you are able to help please meet at 9.30am in the church room. It should not take long!

Also, can I ask for volunteers to distribute the flowers to ladies who are unable to come to church that morning.?

Thank you

Helen Illingworth



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 in the Chapel or on Zoom depending on the weather on:

26th March 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 set up. For those unfamiliar with the practice, it is simply a circle of people who are committed to phone along a chain when people request prayer, or a situation arises that needs communicating and praying for. You can rest assured that you are being covered in prayer when you approach someone who is on the prayer circle.

***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 Safe Guarding Training.



Prayer Requests:

Please pray for:-

- For those that are unwell and unable to get out at this time.
- Church vision and the plans for the church café.
- Beryl's family at this sad time.

Coffee & Chat @ St Nick's

A reminder that Coffee & Chat takes place every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, in the Church Room, 10:30am -12noon. All are welcome to join in and enjoy this lovely social, which is much appreciated after a time of not being able to gather.



St Nick's Pub Lunches

Join us after church for a pub lunch social once a month.

12 noon @ The Markeaton pub.

Future date:

16th March

Please speak to Christine Penny for more info.

All are welcome!



Knit & Natter @ St Nick's

Meetings are held in the 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.

Please get in touch if you'd like to organise a Baptism at St Nick's or St Paul's, or would like to get married or celebrate a special anniversary with the renewal of wedding vows.

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.

Children's and Youth Leader: Rachel Kennedy

Email: stnicksCYL@outlook.com

Mobile : 07407797405

Office Email: stnicksallestree@outlook.com

Websites: www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Paul-Quarndon
www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Nicholas-Allestree.

www.stnicksallestree.uk

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



Handy Contacts for both churches:

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

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



Upcoming Services — March

Priest in Charge: Reverend Sarah Watson and Associate Priest
Reverend Rachael Brooks. Curate: Reverend Cathie Watson

Dates/Services	Readings
Sunday 2nd March St Nicks: 10am Informal Worship St Pauls: 10am Informal Holy Communion	Lent series Exodus 34:29-end Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]
Wednesday 5th March St Nicks: 12 Noon Ash Wednesday	Psalm 51:1-18 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Sunday 9th March St Nicks: 10am Together @ the Table St Pauls: 10am Morning Prayer	Lent Series Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Luke 4:1-13
Sunday 16th March St Nicks: 10am Morning Praise St Pauls: 10am Holy Communion	Lent Series Psalm 27 Luke 13:31-end
Sunday 23rd March St Nicks: 10am Bible Study 3pm Holy Communion St Pauls: 10am Morning Praise	Lent Series Isaiah 55:1-9 Luke 13:1-9
Sunday 30th March St Nicks: 10am Mothering Service St Pauls: 10am Mothering Service	Exodus 2:1-10 Luke 2:33-35

Nb. Lent Series information found on p.4 (St Nicks only).



