



Diocese of Derby

archdeacons' visitation news

'And then there were three!'

You might be forgiven to have blinked at that... we were for a while the 'Trio of Archies' and so it will be again, with a new Archdeacon joining the team.

As I leave to take up a new post leading and inspiring lay ministry, I want to say 'thank you' to you all for being such fabulous wardens and church leaders throughout my five years with you in Derbyshire. What you all do is fundamental to keeping the churches functioning and that's not just about the building, it's also about the impact on those communities, whilst also looking outward. A real highlight for me has been visiting you and your churches as part of the Archdeacons' Visitations. Despite COVID I have managed to visit most churches at least once in my jurisdiction and it has been a joy. This annual round of visits will continue, with the role being shared with area deans, and lay chairs across all the archdeaconries.

With now three archdeaconries, there is an opportunity for intentional resource to be targeted with specific responsibilities for rural/market town, city and estate, and emerging and transitioning industrial and post-industrial communities. It offers a chance to engage creatively with the **Diocesan Vision** and **Transform Lives through Growing Church and Building Community**.

In your work as wardens, you are pivotal in this and in discussion with your Archdeacon can input into decisions for future growth and sustainability. Nationally, we are being encouraged to be

'**Simpler, Bolder and Humbler**' so I want to give you permission to do and be just that.

Simpler in sticking to what you know you can do well. Keep plans uncomplicated and realistic. Through small steps, great impact can be achieved.

Bolder in having the confidence to reach out, make a connection and trust in faith with all you do.

Humbler in recognising that we cannot do it alone. We need to work together, share resources and through our worship offer all we do to God's mercy and grace.

Karen, Matthew and I wish to offer grateful thanks for your partnership over the past year. Please read on to find out about the personal and environmental rewards of local Eco Church, Fresh Expressions and ways of encouraging engagement from the young.

Every blessing, Carol



The Revd Canon Nicky Fenton
Acting Archdeacon of Peak and Dales



The Ven. Carol Coslett
Former Archdeacon of Derbyshire Peak & Dales



The Ven. Karen Hamblin
Archdeacon of East Derbyshire



The Ven. Matthew Trick
Archdeacon of Derby City and South Derbyshire

Supporting Fresh Expressions through Greenhouse

by **Jason Kennedy** former Diocesan Missioner



The phrase 'Fresh Expressions of Church' is quite common today. But what are Fresh Expressions and how do we support them in the Diocese of Derby?

A Fresh Expression is just a new local Christian worshipping community that's going about being church in new ways. Every

Fresh Expression is **missional**, sharing the Good News of Jesus with those outside themselves; **contextual**, shaped and suited for and with the communities they serve; **formational**, helping people to grow in Christian faith; and **ecclesial**, a true expression of church, rather than an additional group or service attached to an existing church or a way to funnel people into 'proper' church.

With ever-changing centres of population, there are many new and existing communities and estates without a local church in them. Even when there is a church, it may not be one that fits the culture of that place. Different sorts of people need different sorts of churches. Fresh Expressions are a great way of reaching these communities.

However, starting new churches in new ways isn't easy. Just like new plants, they are vulnerable, and need a little extra support. So, the Diocese of Derby has joined a national Church of England programme called Greenhouse, which is designed to help nurture and strengthen young Fresh Expressions through supporting their teams of leaders.

We are developing Greenhouses in each deanery, supported by local enablers. Each Greenhouse brings together leaders from local Fresh Expressions to learn and pray together, support and encourage one another. The national Church provides excellent resource material in accessible formats, designed by those with long experience in developing Fresh Expressions.

Think Fresh Expressions aren't for your church? All it takes is two or three people with a heart for a community and a desire to share the love of Jesus with them. You don't need to be an expert or have lots of money and resources. You can even get together with other local churches to start one.

If you're running a Fresh Expression or thinking of doing so, get in touch and we can link you with someone who can help. Simply email greenhouse@derby.anglican.org, telling us where you are and what you're interested in doing, and someone will be in touch.



Growing Faith

A vision for the Church of England in the 2020s is to be 'a Church that is younger and more diverse', seeking to double the numbers of young disciples by 2030.



Growing Faith as a movement exists to **change the culture** of the Church of England, so that everyone **instinctively** puts children, young people and families **at the heart of all the ministry and mission** of the Church. Growing Faith involves churches, schools and households working together to help children and families have life in all its fullness.

As a diocese, we are adopting Growing Faith as the basis for our strategic plans to grow younger and we are looking to develop ministries across the diocese where Growing Faith can and is happening.

Above all else we are encouraging and supporting church communities (not just clergy) to ask what we can do to be good news to young people in our context. What are the opportunities for being good news? What is realistic for us and our church? How can we create spaces where young people, who are often open spiritually, have the opportunity to explore the Christian faith for themselves?

Post-pandemic, many children and families have moved further from the church, but at the same time it feels as though there are more opportunities to share the good news that people are desperate for. Schools across the diocese are increasingly pressurised, and are often open to churches helping them to share the burden. This is particularly evident with the mental health crisis in young people. Churches that offer wellbeing support, either in the form of chaplaincy or courses, are regularly being welcomed in.

Across the diocese, I am inspired regularly by the amazing ministries going on. Smaller churches with volunteer-led initiatives, perhaps starting something like a toddler group for the first time. In other places, the generosity of the congregation has meant they can employ a Youth, Children's and Family Worker of some description. Both examples speak of a Growing Faith culture.

To find out more, please visit our website at:
www.derby.anglican.org/youngpeople

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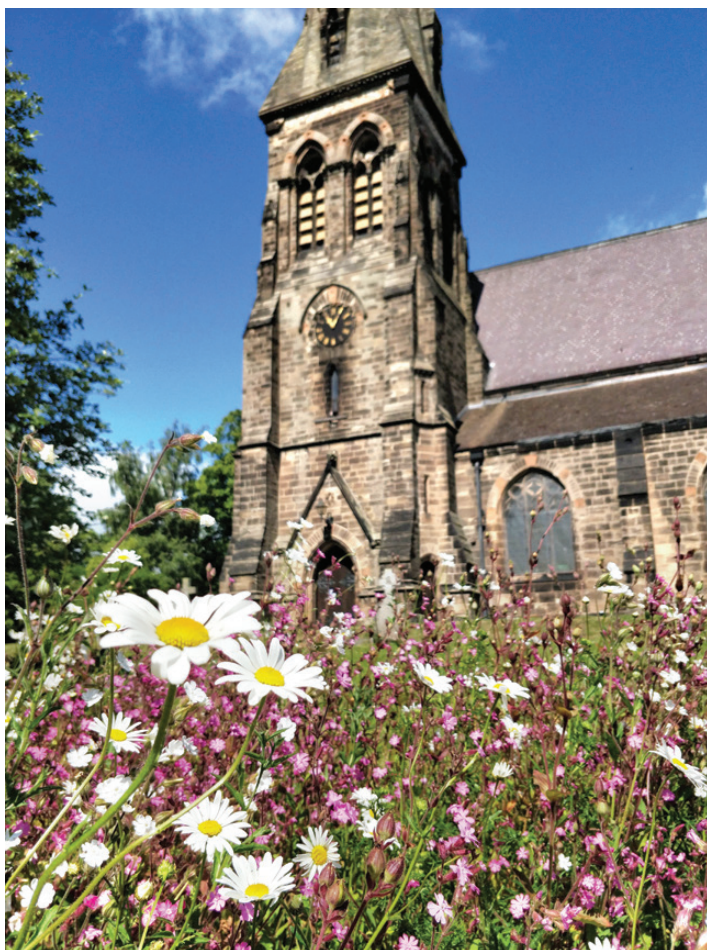
Biodiversity gain

The climate crisis is easy to observe with extreme weather events becoming more frequent worldwide, but the biodiversity crisis may be something you only notice over time, or if you study it.

Where have the insects gone that used to hit the windscreen of the car each summer? Perhaps you miss the birds you saw or heard as a child? Maybe your love of the natural world is via participating in sport as a runner, bird watcher, gardener, or angler, or hiking with a pet dog? This week, I enjoyed the sight of a kingfisher and a fox, astonishingly close by. Do you notice the species in your parish churchyard?

There is this opportunity to join in a citizen science annual week called Churches Count on Nature, where you can learn about biodiversity, try some identification and, if you want to engage your school or community group, join in too. It is running on 3-11 June 2023, and many of our awarded Eco Churches have participated. It is run by Caring for God's Acre, Churches Count on Nature. In 2021 and 22, more than 16,000 people got involved, creating 26,000 biological records – and most participants loved it!! Seven out of ten people were from outside the usual church congregation. Perhaps it is a gentle mission engagement you will consider and enjoy? And this year you could connect it with the People's Plan for Nature.

We need to work in partnership to restore and protect nature. Our urban spaces, our churchyards, may be rare green spaces accessible to people who are otherwise excluded from enjoying the outdoors safely and locally.



We have plenty of support on this from the national Church too. Biodiversity net gain and more guidance will follow as it comes on the agenda at General Synod later in the year.

Things you can do:

Connect with RSPB, Winterwatch, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Make contact with and team up with other Eco Church parish champions.

Engage with your local school, food business, farmer, bird watching club, football or golf club, café or workplace.

Stella Collishaw
Former Community Action Officer

Diocese of Derby Churchwardens' Network Events

Each year, the Diocese of Derby, with Ecclesiastical Insurance, puts on network events for all our Churchwardens.

These days are a chance to get together with your fellow wardens, share a nice lunch and, most important of all, share your wisdom and experience.

We try to choose venues in different deaneries around the diocese and are always open to suggestions of topics that you would find helpful. Previous subjects covered have included such things as Archdeacons' Church Visits and Net Zero Carbon. We'd love to see you at one of our next events, so please come along.



Eco Church – St Matthew's, Darley Abbey



St Matthew's registered at Eco Church with tremendous support from Ann Clark at St Peter's Belper and Stella Collishaw at Church House. We are now applying for a Bronze Award. I am nothing like an expert, but like others at church I am keen and understand the imperative. The Bronze Award is a

milestone but, more importantly, the church has a practical and spiritual focus and, excitingly, opportunities to work with people around us who do have the expertise.

The Eco Church scheme directs churches to look at key areas of church life, including building, land and community engagement .

So, LED lighting and a new boiler reduce our carbon footprint and running costs, whilst making the building brighter, warmer and more welcoming.

Church land includes churchyards. They are amazing places. and we are privileged to be the present custodians. They have great historical significance and are places for commemoration, remembrance and reflection. They are also valuable open green spaces for people and for wildlife.

We have established a wildflower meadow at the bottom of our churchyard. A big step for us. Jo and Peter from our local nature reserve and staff and students from Derby University were an immense help. This is an ongoing project with further wildflower planting and is appreciated by neighbours and visitors.

Churchyards need lots of upkeep. We have our own dedicated working party. It is hard work but enjoyable and we have had plenty of help. For example, our local councillor, Alison Martin, signposted grant funding and hands-on help from the city council. In the churchyard, we had the enormous pleasure of coming together with 'Good Gym Derby', a community of runners, walkers and cyclists who combine getting fit with community work. They actively travel (walking, running or cycling where possible), to support community projects and charities that need people power.

In 2022, we hosted two community eco events:

- The first was a 'Green Afternoon' after church one day in early summer, which showcased various local eco projects. This included activities from Walter Evans School, Derby University and Derby City Council, plus talks on 'Holistic Restoration, Darley and Nutwood Nature Reserve' and 'Heading for Extinction : What we can do?' from Extinction Rebellion.
- The Great Big Green Week in September (organised by the Climate Coalition) celebrated community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. We again showcased those around us working with an eco-agenda. Our church hall was open all week with flyers, displays and leaflets for people to browse and take away. There was a map of recycling sites in Derby City and north-west Derby produced by the Allestree Churches Eco Group, which includes us plus our local ecumenical partners (Broadway Baptists, Almund's and St John's Methodist Church). The map signposts sites to recycle soft plastics, batteries, clothes, shoes, toys, make-up, pens, some ink cartridges, medicine blister packs, contact lenses, even toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes. There are details of eco-friendly shops. Refills on the Road, a plastic-free mobile shop has a monthly spot on the church car park.

Other things we have tried – Stella at Church House suggested a seed swap. You bring and swap spare seeds. This did good business and extended to a second day. There was a Derby City Council recycling workshop about getting the right things in the right bin. This was also well attended, with a bespoke session for the Walter Evans School Eco Group.

We cannot claim to be a shining beacon for eco work or even a leading light. Nor can we say we are the heartbeat of the local community. But through Eco Church, those around us know there is more to church than Sundays. It is a privilege to meet and welcome people of faith and no faith with common interests and ambitions and they have helped us to demonstrate care for God's earth.

David Brierley

Churchwarden at St Matthew's

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Kevin Douglas: recycling@derby.gov.uk

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