

**The Wirksworth Team Ministry monthly notices**

Serving the communities of Alderwasley, Bonsall, Bradbourne, Brassington, Carsington, Elton, Idridgehay, Kirk Ireton, Middleton & Wirksworth

**Transformed Lives - Growing Church - Building Community**

**Dear friends**

**Much is said, from pulpits, written in earnest letters in parish magazines and plugged by a plethora of people and organisations offering Lenten advice on self-examination. I am not going to add to it! Instead, I am going to suggest another area on which we could usefully meditate. It comes from an unlikely source! Recently, I have come across a Facebook site called St Faithful's, Havnot. It is a record of the goings-on at a fictional parish written by a real-life clergyman - but don't let that put you off! Parody, when well written, is a powerful tool in the armoury of self-examination. St Faithful's has had me roaring with laughter and cringing in embarrassment as the antics of this parish strike close to the bone. The entries cover topics ranging across the whole gamut of church activities. It is a gentle critique of Church of England parish life, written by someone who has clearly wrestled with the peculiarities of parish life for many years and yet, still remains deeply in love with both the hope and the reality. The posts include "a sprinkling of God talk along the way". I am not going to lob in a spoiler by giving you a taste - you can access it for yourself. It is at once delightful and provoking. If we have any self-awareness at all, then this should concern us as to how we are viewed by others.**

**Lent is not a bad time to ponder on how our behaviour and what we say impacts the lives of those around us. What is it about us that attracts and repels others? The same applies to our life in community as a church and more importantly as the body of Christ. Are we seen as an exclusive club or a group with a welcome for all? Our numbers are not growing, so to be blunt, we can't be doing everything right. What might we do or say or how might we behave differently so that we more faithfully reflect the life and teachings of the one we try to love and serve, Jesus Christ?**

**With blessings**

**Rev Rod**

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## **Coffee and Chat - Monday mornings at 10.30am in Waltham House**

A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to join us, just come along for friendly chatter and easy company. We can offer transport, contact Sue & Ian Todd.

## **Bonsall Church - Jimmy's Café**

**is open from 12noon - 3pm from Saturday to Monday**

A wide selection of homemade soups, filled rolls, home-baked cakes and sweet and savoury snacks plus hot and cold drinks to quench your thirst.



**St James Church, Idridgehay - Monthly Coffee Mornings**  
**on the first Wednesday of each month** you are welcome to come and join us  
for our Coffee Morning in the church **from 10.15am to 11.45am.**

## **Elton Church Coffee Mornings**

**every Thursday from 10am - 12noon in the Village Hall**



The weekly coffee mornings are enjoyed by many and all are welcome to attend

## **Souper Surprise on Thursdays - from 12noon to 1pm in The Maltings**

For just £4 - a choice of homemade soups with a roll, plus a hot drink and a slice of cake. Come and join us to meet new people and enjoy good food and company in a warm space.

## **Celtic Evening Worship Service in St Mary's** **on Wednesday 4th March at 7pm**

Rev Rod leads a simple, short service of quiet prayer, music & reflection.

All are very welcome so why not give it a try!



## **World Day of Prayer 2026 service on Friday 6th March at 2pm**

Prepared by the Christian Women of Nigeria.

To be held at the United Reformed Church on Coldwell Street, Wirksworth.

## **UkeWirks concert in aid of Aquabox in The Maltings**

**on Saturday 7th March - doors open at 7pm and concert starts at 7.30pm**

**Entry by donation - card and cash accepted. Bar provided - card and cash accepted.**

**Come and listen and dance to an eclectic mix of songs ....**

## **SACRED SPACE - a time of Taize Song and Silence**

**at the Wirksworth URC church on Sunday 8th March at 6.30pm**

**Chants, candlelight and silence. All are welcome to join us**

## **Sleep-out by Rev Neil on Friday 13th March at St Mary's**

Revd Neil is taking part again in the YMCA Derbyshire Sleep Easy 2026 to raise funds and awareness for people at risk of homelessness, social isolation and poverty.

He will spend the night in St Mary's churchyard and to sponsor him either contact the team office on 01629 824707 or you can click on the online link below:

**Neil Griffiths is fundraising for YMCA Derbyshire**

## **Film night Tuesday 17th March "Saint Patrick's Day" in Bonsall Church**

**The evening will begin with Irish stew and a pudding at 7pm to be followed by the film - it's a 1952 John Wayne Classic set in Ireland with Maureen O'Hara.**

Please bring cushions, blankets, reclining chairs or whatever makes you comfortable.

No restrictions on coming and going. The charge for the food will be £10 and there will be a bar. Tickets available from Di, Jane and Kath. 07974 304067.

**'Brahms German Requiem' - a come & sing day plus an informal performance**  
**Workshop is at St Mary's church from 10am to 6pm on Sunday 21st March**

For further info please contact Pamela James: pamelajames5@hotmail.co.uk

**URC Spring Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall, Wirksworth**  
**on Saturday 28th March from 10am to 12noon**

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## Team Services in March 2026

### Sunday 1st      Lent 2

Brassington:	9.30am	Eucharist with Keith Orford
Kirk Ireton:	9.30am	Morning Worship with Janet Turville
Wirksworth:	9.30am	Eucharist with Neil Griffiths
Alderwasley:	11am	Eucharist with Neil Griffiths
Carsington:	11am	Eucharist with Janet Turville
Wirksworth:	6pm	Evensong with Neil Griffiths

### Wednesday 4th

Wirksworth:	7pm	Celtic Worship service with Rod Prince
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### Sunday 8th      Lent 3

Brassington:	9.30am	Morning Worship with Lay team
Elton:	9.30am	Eucharist with Neil Griffiths
Wirksworth:	9.30am	Eucharist with Janet Turville & Keith Orford
Idridgehay	11am	Eucharist with Rod Prince
Middleton:	11am	Eucharist with Janet Turville
Kirk Ireton:	6.30pm	Evening Prayer with Janet Turville
Wirksworth:	6.30pm	Taize service at the URC on Coldwell Street

### Sunday 15th      Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

Bonsall:	9.30am	Eucharist with Janet Turville
Brassington:	9.30am	Eucharist with Rod Prince
Kirk Ireton:	9.30am	Eucharist & Baptism with Neil Griffiths
Wirksworth:	9.30am	Eucharist with Keith Orford
Alderwasley:	11am	Eucharist with Neil Griffiths
Bradbourne:	11am	Eucharist with Rod Prince
Carsington:	11am	Morning Worship with Janet Turville
Wirksworth:	6pm	Evensong with Janet Turville

### Sunday 22nd      Lent 5

Elton:	9.30am	Eucharist with Rod Prince
Wirksworth:	9.30am	Eucharist & Baptism with Neil Griffiths
Elton:	11am	Double Baptism with Rod Prince
Idridgehay:	11am	Eucharist with Neil Griffiths
Middleton:	11am	Eucharist with Janet Turville
Kirk Ireton:	6.30pm	Evening Worship at the Methodist Chapel

### Sunday 29th      Palm Sunday

Bonsall:	9.30am	Eucharist with Janet Turville
Brassington:	9.30am	Eucharist with Rod Prince
Wirksworth:	9.30am	Eucharist with Neil Griffiths
Alderwasley:	11am	Eucharist with Keith Orford
Bradbourne:	11am	Eucharist with Bob Rhodes
Carsington:	11am	Eucharist with Rod Prince
Idridgehay:	11am	Eucharist with Neil Griffiths
Middleton:	11am	Eucharist with Janet Turville
Kirk Ireton:	3pm	Palm Walk with Janet Turville
Elton:	6pm	Evensong with Palms & Passion with Neil Griffiths
Wirksworth:	6pm	Stations of the Cross with Rod Prince

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## To join an online zoom service

Morning Prayer at 9am and Evening Prayer at 5pm from Monday to Friday only

Zoom link for our online services: [https://zoom.us/j/273 224 1372](https://zoom.us/j/2732241372). If you are new to the group please ask the team office for the passcode.

To join using a landline by calling: 0208 080 6591, key in host/meeting number: 273 224 1372# followed by # again, and wait to be connected. If you are new to the group please ask the team office for the passcode.

## The March Calendar

Lent is underway. There is an adjustment to the monthly pattern at Bonsall as Mothering Sunday will be observed on the 15<sup>th</sup> March there will be no service there on the 8<sup>th</sup> March (or the 22<sup>nd</sup> March). The month ends with the start of Holy Week as Palm Sunday falls on the 29<sup>th</sup> March (which is a fifth Sunday) when there will be Services at all of our churches with distribution of Palm crosses. At Kirk Ireton this will be a Palm Walk with a donkey at 3pm starting from the Triangle. At Elton there will be sung Evensong at 6pm. Also at St Mary's Wirksworth in addition to the morning Eucharist - Stations of the Cross at 6pm The new Morning service is becoming well established at 9.30am at Kirk Ireton on the first Sunday in the month (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> March)

Throughout Lent there will be a mid-week Communion Service at Wirksworth on Wednesday's at 10am. Also on - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March - a short Celtic Prayer service at St Mary's Wirksworth starting at 7pm. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March is the World Day of Prayer service at the URC on Coldwell Street, Wirksworth starting at 2pm.

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March we are all invited to join in Sacred Space at the URC in Wirksworth at 6.30pm. A reflective Taize style service by candlelight with chants and silence.

The details of the arrangement for the rest of Holy Week are as follows:

<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7pm St. Mary's Wirksworth	Compline <i>A short Service of Prayer</i>
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	11am Wellspring Church	Reflective Service of Light to conclude Lent Groups
	7pm All Saints Elton	Sung Compline by candlelight
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	7pm St. Mary's Wirksworth	Compline <i>A short Service of Prayer</i>
<b>Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	8pm St. Mary's Wirksworth	Holy Communion with ceremony of foot washing
<b>Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	10am Wirksworth: Walk of Witness (Churches Together in Wirksworth) - meet at the Cross by the Hope & Anchor car park	
	10am St James Bonsall: Good Friday Family Crafts for Easter	
	1.30pm St. Mary's Wirksworth	<b>The traditional service of the day with reflection, readings, music and prayer before the cross ending at 3pm</b>
	2pm St James Brassington	Stations of the Cross
	7pm St. Mary's Wirksworth	<i>Wirksworth Community Choir performing Excerpts from Haydn's Messiah</i>
<b>Easter Eve 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	12noon St. Mary's Wirksworth An Easter Egg Hunt for children starting in the churchyard	
	8pm Wirksworth Team Churches at St James Bonsall <b>Easter Vigil, lighting of the Easter Fire. Blessing of the Easter Candles</b> <i>All team churches and communities gathered together</i>	
<b>Easter Day</b>	Parish Eucharist: 9.30am at: Bonsall, Brassington, Kirk Ireton and Wirksworth 11am at: Alderwasley, Carsington, Elton, Idridgehay and Middleton 3pm at: Bradbourne	



## **Shrove Tuesday Lunch thanks ...**

Thank you to all who came to the Shrove Tuesday Soup & Pancake Lunch in The Maltings and supported the event in any way. There was a very good turnout, including half-term holiday children, which was lovely.

We raised over £540 for Christian Aid.  
from the Christian Aid Group

## **Churches Together in Wirksworth Lent Course 2026 'Growing Old and Dying Gracefully'**

As is usual in Lent, Anglicans are invited to join with our brothers and sisters from other denominations in a Five Week Course of Learning and Discussion. This year the theme will be: Growing Old and Dying Gracefully.

An experiential course, to help you reflect on your own experience and on the experience of others and learn from them with no right or wrong answers. Death is not a problem to be solved but a mystery to be entered into. We will help each other to enter more deeply into the mystery, respecting confidentiality in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

The course will aim to redress the balance and bring dying and death - including our own - more into focus. Bringing our own mortality and that of those close to us, more sharply into the light will, we believe, enable us to live healthier and more fulfilled lives.

<b>Week beginning:</b>	<b>2 March</b>	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Coping with loss</b>
	<b>9 March</b>	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Letting Go</b>
	<b>16 March</b>	<b>Session 4</b>	<b>A Good Death</b>
	<b>23 March</b>	<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Death and Beyond</b>

**Locations are:**  
**Mondays at 7.30pm - Millers Green homegroup**  
**Tuesdays at 2.30pm - Wellspring Meeting Room**  
**Thursdays at 2.30 pm - URC vestry**

**PLEASE NOTE: The Wednesday Lent Course at The Maltings has been cancelled and the Lent course on Tuesdays and Thursdays will continue.**

**There will be a weekly Eucharist at St Mary's at 10am on Wednesday's during Lent.**

### **Launchpad offers youth work programmes for rural churches**

'Where are all the young people?' is often a cry heard in our churches and it's a good question. Somehow over the years we have lost the contact we had with families and the youth, if they worship anywhere, for the most part, they do so elsewhere.

When I was appointed as Team Vicar one of the priorities was to look at how we can engage with the young people of Wirksworth and surrounding areas to bring them the Good News of Jesus and to help them to grow in their own spirituality. Derby Diocese has as a priority Growing Younger and are working with Youthscape on their Launchpad programme which aims to launch new Youth work where there is limited engagement with young people.

As a Team we have been invited to participate and so I attended a briefing at Bishop Malcolm's earlier in February and I have been accepted on the course which starts on the 5th March. This is an opportunity to explore with others in rural parts of Derbyshire how we can engage with teenagers and launch new ministries among the young. I will share with you in a later edition of Team Talk some of the learning I have engaged with.

Discussion will then follow with PCC's as we discern what will be best for our own context. So watch this space!

Rev Janet

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## Humphrey Boam

Humphrey died on 13th January after living with MND for two years.

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and messages of sympathy, flowers and cake! Your love and support has been overwhelming and it has meant such a lot to us all.

Thank you to Revd Rod Prince for his care and ministry to Humphrey also for his kind support to Gillian and the family.  
from Gillian, Jonathan, Laura & Amie

## **‘Open Door’ at the URC on Coldwell Street, Wirksworth will be open from 6.30pm on the last Sunday of each month**

This will not be for an evening service but will offer the following opportunities.

A peaceful space for quiet reflection. A chance to talk over your troubles.

An opportunity to ask spiritual questions (even the difficult ones!). All are welcome.

## Sharing Sunday Worship with Bishop Malcolm

It was wonderful to see a full church in Elton, at our Team Eucharist on Sunday 15th February this year.

Bishop Malcolm was joining us to fulfil a promise made last Summer, when he and Revd. Neil forgot that he was also meeting members of the church community during the week when he cycled around the Wirksworth team and met the children at some of our schools.



He joined us for worship on the day when we remember the Transfiguration of Jesus, and Bishop Malcolm shared with us some thoughts on Saint Peter, discipleship and “mountaintop experiences”.

We were delighted to worship with Bishop Malcolm and we give thanks to God for his ministry and the time he has spent with us over the last year. We also wish him well as he moves towards his much-deserved retirement. As details of Malcolm’s retirement service are announced we will share them in case anyone wants to attend in person.

Rev Neil

## Heroes of our Faith

On 25th January, the day the church celebrates the conversion of Saint Paul, my sermon focussed on people who are heroes in my faith journey and included my two granddads, Ron and Ernie. Born respectively at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th centuries, they were born into church going homes and spent a lifetime as followers of Jesus Christ.

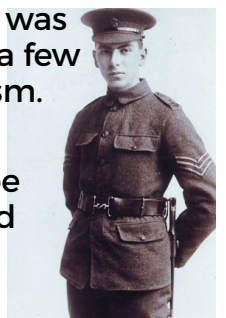
Both also faced serving in a World War, with Ron volunteering to fight and being sent to the Western Front, being injured and volunteering for service in East Africa. Ernie was conscripted into the RAF and served during WW2, both in the UK as well as overseas.

When I was born they were both members of the Methodist Church in the village where they and my parents lived. Ron was the Senior Steward (a bit like a church warden) and Ernie led the Sunday school. Despite the disruption to both of their lives through warfare, both remained faithful disciples and followers, and successfully brought up their children to follow the same path. When it came to my baptism, some 60+ years ago, it was Ernie who wrote and signed my baptism certificate, a fact I was reminded of a few years ago when pursuing ordination and I needed evidence of my own baptism.

I believe that we all have faith heroes in our lives, those we know (friends and family) and those we only know through history books. I think that it would be good to hear who yours are, so maybe write a few words to let us all know and we will publish some in Team Talk.

Revd. Neil.

**Photo is of Ron in his WW1 uniform**



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## Summer 2026 sermon series

Last summer we spent a few weeks looking at the Nicene Creed in our Sunday sermons, 1700 years after it was agreed at the Council of Nicaea. Given how well received this was, this year we will investigate the shape and meaning of the various elements of our normal Sunday morning eucharist service.

One thing we noticed last year was that many people who worship in our village churches and have services fortnightly struggled to hear talks on all the sections. To correct this we have developed a different schedule as below:

Sunday	Villages focus	St. Mary's Focus
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Introduction (5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Team Service)	
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Confession	Confession
14 <sup>th</sup> June		Lectionary
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Gloria	Gloria
28 <sup>th</sup> June		Lectionary
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Creed	Creed
12 <sup>th</sup> July		Lectionary
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Eucharistic Prayer – variety	Eucharistic Prayer – variety
26 <sup>th</sup> July		Lectionary
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Eucharistic Prayer – meaning	Eucharistic Prayer – meaning
9 <sup>th</sup> August		Lectionary
16 <sup>th</sup> August	Dismissal	Dismissal
23 <sup>rd</sup> August		Lectionary

We hope this series works as well as last years did.  
Wirksworth Team Clergy

## Safeguarding Update

Lent falls mainly in the month of March in 2026. The CofE's theme for Lent this year is 'Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent' which encourages the cultivation of daily practices both spiritual and practical through elements such as prayer and offering service. This can be related to the continuing practice of safeguarding in the WTM parishes that we continue to pray for all those who are involved with safeguarding that they may have the strength to continue their work and to support them where we can.

For any safeguarding concerns the following should be of use: If a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention, you must dial 999. Please note the Diocesan Team will respond to all concerns reported in the strictest confidence. To report a concern or request advice regarding a safeguarding issue, please use the form on the Diocesan Safeguarding 'Report a safeguarding concern here' web page as it will alert the safeguarding team to their inbox. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team will respond to all contacts as a matter of priority, at the latest on the next working day. If you are unable to complete this form, call 01332 388678 and ask to speak to a Safeguarding Officer. Office hours are Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm. If your concern escalates and someone is in danger, call 999. You can also report any concerns to Police or Social Care.

Derby City: Children 01332 641172 Adults 01332 642855 & out of hours: Careline 01332 956606. Derbyshire (Adults & Children): Call: 01629 533190 & out of hours: 01629 532600.  
Louise Oram, WTM Parish Safeguarding Officer

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## The Registers for February 2026

### Holy Burials & Ashes

Thur 5th	HAYDN SAMUEL GRUNDY (Sam)	69	Carsington
Fri 20th	HUMPHREY MARCUS BOAM	80	Wirksworth
Mon 23rd	OLIVE GRINDEY	90	Longnor, Staffs
Tue 24th	LINDA MARY HUMPHREY	78	Wirksworth

### Light the Way Sunset Walk – Saturday 14th March 4.45pm - 6.30pm

Organised by Mental Health Initiative, all are invited to join an evening walk from The Stone Centre and over Middleton Moor, raising awareness of mental health issues.

Entry is free with donations invited, but please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mhi-light-the-way-sunset-walk-march-14th-tickets-1983244728370?aff=oddtcreator>

### Any spare Knitting Wool needed for Ukraine

There is a need for wool to knit warm socks for soldiers on the front line in Ukraine. A Ukrainian lady in Ashbourne has contacts regularly making the journey across Europe to Ukraine & they take parcels. In Ukraine there are many people busily knitting but they need more supplies of wool. Please drop any spare wool off at the Team Office.

### Jigsaw Foodbank in Matlock are currently on need of:

Tinned soup & tinned meat (hot dogs, meatballs, luncheon meat, corned beef, stewing steak, curry etc). UHT Milk, Jars of pasta sauce, Hot Chocolate, Cup-a-Soups, Strawberry Jam, Orange Marmalade, Peanut Butter, Rice (microwave packs), Pot Noodles, Super Noodles, Tinned potatoes, tinned sweetcorn, toiletries.

**NO need for** baked beans, tinned tuna / tinned fish as they have adequate supplies.

Items can be left in the box in St Mary's by the North door & at some team churches.

**We pray for the beginning of Passiontide, for a faithful keeping of these days remembering Christ's saving acts and giving thanks for the Victory of the Cross.**

### Wirksworth Team Contacts

**Team Rector: Rev Neil Griffiths Tel: 01629 823092**

**email: neilgriffiths01@btinternet.com**

**Team Vicar: Rev Janet Turville Tel: 01629 701334**

**email: vicarjanetturville@hotmail.com**

**Team Office Address:** St Mary's Gate, off St John's Street, Wirksworth, DE4 4DQ

**Tel:** 01629 824707 **Email:** teamoffice@wirksworthteamministry.co.uk

**Open hours:** 9.30am - 2.30pm, Monday to Thursday & 9.30am - 12.30pm on Friday.

**Website:** www.wirksworthteamministry.co.uk

For details of our clergy team, Church Wardens and other parish contacts please contact the Team Office (824707) or go to the Wirksworth Team Ministry website.

### Deadline for the April issue of Team Talk is Monday 23rd March

Please forward any articles and photos to the Team Office,

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