

News from Ashbourne Group of Churches

December 2023



ASHBOURNE GROUP OF CHURCHES



Church Services in the Ashbourne Group

Sunday 3rd December

- 9.15 - St John's, Buxton Hill – Holy Communion
- 9.15 - St Peter's, Snelston – Holy Communion
- 10.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne – Holy Communion
- 11.00 - St Mary & St Barlok, Norbury – Holy Communion
- 18.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne – No Service

Sunday 10th December

- 9.00 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne - Breakfast Church
- 9.15 - St Mary, Mappleton – Holy Communion
- 10.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne – Holy Communion
- 14.00 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne – Pet Service
- 18.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne – Advent Carol Service – From Darkness into Light

Saturday 16th December

- 17.00 - St Mary, Mappleton – Carol Service

Sunday 17th December

- 10.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne - Holy Communion
- 11.00 - St Mary & St Barlok, Norbury – Nine Lessons and Carols
- 16.00 - St Peter's, Snelston – Crib / Carol Service
- 18.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne – Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24th December

- 9.15 - St John's, Buxton Hill – Carol Service
- 9.15 - St Peter's, Snelston – Holy Communion
- 10.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne - Holy Communion
- 16.00 - Holy Trinity, Clifton – Carol Service
- 16.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne – Crib Service
- 23.30 - St Oswald's, Ashbourne – Midnight Mass

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Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

- 8.00 – St Oswald’s, Ashbourne – Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.15 - St Mary, Mappleton – Holy Communion
- 10.30 - St Oswald’s, Ashbourne – Family Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December

- 10.30 - St Oswald’s, Ashbourne - Holy Communion

Readings at St Oswald’s Services in December 2023

Date	Service	1 st Lesson	Gospel
3 rd December	10:30	Isaiah 64:1-9	Mark 13:24-37
10 th December	10:30	Isaiah 40:1-11	Mark 1:1-8
10 th December	18:30	1 Kings 22:1-28	Romans 15:4-13
17 th December	10:30	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	John 1:6-8, 19-28
24 th December	10:30	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16	Luke 1:26-38
24 th December	23:30	Isaiah 52:7-10	John 1:1-14
25 th December	08:00	Isaiah 52:7-10	John 1:1-14
25 th December	10:30	Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-14
31 st December	10:30	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Luke 2:15-21

Music in St Oswald’s

Sunday 3rd December - Advent Sunday

10:30 Holy Communion

- 29 Hills of the north rejoice
- 24 Come thou long expected Jesus
- 32 O come O come Emmanuel

People look east/J.Stainer

308 Just as I am

- 31 Lo he comes with clouds descending

Sunday 10th December - 2nd Sunday in Advent

10:30 Holy Communion

- 87 Hail to the Lord's anointed omit vs 4
- 26 Hark a thrilling voice is sounding
- 608 Thy kingdom come on bended knee

Lo how a rose e'er blooming

27 Hark the glad sound

- 28 Hark what a sound

18:30 Advent Carol Service

- O come O come Emmanuel
- Come thou redeemer of the earth
- Come thou long..
- Lo he comes
- My God how wonderful thou art
- Christ be our light

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Sunday 17th December - 3rd Sunday in Advent

10:30 Holy Communion

- 455 Guide me O thou great Redeemer
- 34 On Jordan's bank
- 444 God is working his purpose out

How beautiful upon the mountains/Stainer

27 Hark the glad sound

- 29 Hills of the north rejoice

18:30 Nine Lessons and Carols

- Once in royal David's city
- Of the Father's love
- O come all ye faithful
- Hark the herald angels sing
- Every star shall sing a carol
- Silent Night

Sunday 24th December - 4th Sunday in Advent

10:30 Holy Communion

- 362 Tell out my soul
- 24 Come thou long expected Jesus
- 58 Long ago prophets knew

The Angel Gabriel

Born in the night(sheet)

- 31 Lo he comes with clouds descending

23:30 Midnight Mass

- 3 O little town of Bethlehem
- 1 Unto us a Son is born
- 25 It came upon the midnight clear
(Carols at the communion)
- 13 O come all ye faithful...
- 14 Glory to thee my God this night

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

10:30 Holy Communion

- 13 O come all ye faithful
- 18 Ding dong merrily on high
- 3 O little town of Bethlehem

And the glory/Handel

Hallelujah Chorus/Handel

- 12 Hark the herald angels sing

Sunday 31st December - First Sunday of Christmas

10:30 Holy Communion

- 48 Christians awake. vs 1,2,5+6
- 55 In the bleak mid winter
- 69 Silent night (version 1)
- 81 Lord for the years

Stamps for USPG

As Christmas approaches and cards begin to arrive, my thanks again to those of you who collect stamps for USPG and leave them in the labelled box in St. Oswald's. This year, UPG has been supporting projects to help children in Sri Lanka to enjoy the standard of education they deserve and is their right. Adults and children in Malawi have been given the chance to go to clinics where they are armed with vaccinations against malaria. Your help is much appreciated by all those who receive the help and those who work to distribute it.

I continue to check all the stamps carefully to make sure they fulfil the dealers' requirements: they want about 1 centimetre of paper round each stamp, no heavily postmarked stamps and advise that stamps from pre 2008 are seldom worth much. If in doubt, include stamps you may not be sure about - I'll make the decision for you!

Thank you again, and a joyful Christmas to you all.

Deirdre Wilmore

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MUSIC IS TO THE SOUL WHAT WORDS ARE TO THE MIND.

I think it is fair to say that in December, more music is sung than at any other time of year. Over the next five weeks the choir prepare 27 different anthems, countless descants and over 50 hymns and carols just for services at St Oswald's church. Then there are visits to residents in homes and the hospital, Haddon Hall and Callow Hall. Music makes a big difference in our lives.

We start on Sunday 10th December at 6.30 p.m. with our Advent Carol Service which is entitled From Darkness into Light. In the Middle Ages, the Church kept Advent as a season of great solemnity, a time in which to meditate upon the ultimate issues of death, judgement, hell and heaven. It was also a time of great rejoicing for Christ would come, not only as judge, but also as Saviour, ushering in the Kingdom of God. It was a time of vivid preparation.

The service begins in darkness with the Advent Responsory in which Christ's coming is announced 'from afar'. The Blessing of the Light then follows as music, readings and hymns create the right atmosphere. What better way to start our season of Advent.

The differences between what constitutes a carol, a hymn or a song are blurred.

Carols are songs, characteristically of religious joy, associated with a given season, especially Christmas; more strictly, a late medieval English song on any subject, in which uniform stanzas, or verses (V), alternate with a refrain, or burden (B), in the pattern B, V₁, B, V₂ . . . B. You will realise that many of our hymns follow this same pattern, i.e. verses with a chorus after each verse. Hymns and carols as we understand them are closely related.

During the golden age of the English carol (c. 1350–1550), most carols could be defined by the burden-verse form. In addition, the carol seems to have crystallized in the early 14th century essentially as a popular religious song.

A handful of carol tunes and about 500 texts survive from the period. Most refer to the Virgin Mary, the Christ child, or the saints whose feasts follow Christmas; there are also a few carols for other times of the year.

The carol disappeared swiftly and almost completely with the Reformation. It was largely supplanted by the metrical psalm. A carol revival began in the second half of the 18th century. The best Christmas hymns of the era, e.g., Charles Wesley's 'Hark, the herald angels sing,' still lack the distinctive carol touch. The revival continues through the Victorian age. During the last one hundred years, collections of carols have been put together, initially as the words and music but more latterly in arrangements by many of our well-known composers.

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Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be at 6.30p.m on Sunday 17th December. As always it will be a very special time as we develop the theme of the birth of Jesus Christ being the answer to our hopes and prayers. The message remains the same but only we can make it happen. The format of the service was first used in Truro Cathedral but simplified and modified for use in King's College, Cambridge in 1918; obviously it has stood the test of time.

Our third carol service is on Sunday 7th January at 6.30 celebrating Epiphany. There will be more about this next month.

On Christmas Day at 10.30, we shall be singing 'And the glory of the Lord' and the 'Hallelujah Chorus' by G F Handel. If you know these, please feel welcome to sing with the choir at the Communion; music will be provided; it will make your Christmas Day even more special. Let me know if you are interested.

Please support and encourage your choir; they are without doubt a gem that many more people in Ashbourne should know about. A wonderful Advent and a Happy Christmas to you all.

Director of Music Michael Halls 01335 372064 07976 708449



CAROL SINGING IN THE COMMUNITY

It's never too early to be thinking about Carol Singing!!!!

Some dates for your diaries – do so hope some of you will be able to join us.

Sign up sheets are available in St Oswald's Church.

Tuesday 19th December **Dove House @ 1.15pm** then onto **Ashbourne Lodge for 3.00pm**

Thursday 21st December **The Leys @ 2.30pm** later **St Oswald's Hospital @ 6.00pm**

Lindsay Walker – 07971802671

Email: Lindsay.walker@hotmail.co.uk

**News from Ashbourne Group of Churches
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**Breakfast Church
at St. Oswald's**



Breakfast church next meets in the church hall at **9.00am on Sunday December 10th**. You can expect a warm welcome and a lovely breakfast (which includes cereals, toast, tea, coffee and fruit juice, bacon or sausage butties and pancakes). There is no charge, but donations welcome. Breakfast is served at 9.00am and followed by family-friendly worship from 9.20am to 9.45am.

Our worship includes songs, activities, and prayers.

Do come along and join in on the 10th December
We would be delighted to welcome you.

St Oswald's Ramblers and Walking Group.

The November walk for the ramblers group saw 6 people and Jet heading off on a dry and sunny morning following a wet weekend.

From the church car park the route followed the Bonnie Prince Charlie way, up through the Dockey fields and onto Wyaston road where we passed under the by-pass and headed towards Wyaston. We took the footpath to the left and headed towards Osmaston. The fields were wet and muddy and careful steps were taken to avoid the worst of the mud. The path passes several old wartime structures in the fields before heading slightly uphill towards Osmaston village hall. Once in the village we used the church porch for our coffee break where we noticed a rather magnificent wooden church door with a hole for what must be a massive key.

We then proceeded back towards Ashbourne taking the path to the left of the road and heading towards Osmaston Gateway caravan park. We passed through a small wood where there is usually a windy gravel path in the trees but on this occasion it was running like a river. We crossed the caravan park and then the bypass before heading back down the Old Derby Road and back to the church car park just before the rain started. A great walk of 5 miles.

The next ramblers walk will be on Monday December 11th starting at 10.00 from Froghall Wharf – Grid Reference SK 027 476.

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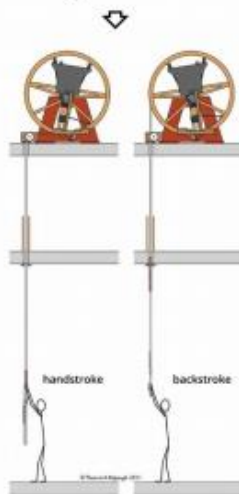
St Oswald's Bell Ringers

The St Oswald's bell ringers continue to practise on a Wednesday evening and to ring for morning and evening services. The ringers continue to try new methods including plain bob triples, grandsire triples and Cambridge also to improve on their striking. A triples method is one where 7 bells are ringing the method and the 8th is covering at the back. If there are 5 bells in the method this is a doubles method and six bells makes it a minor method. Have a listen and let us know what you think!

The ringers have also been busy crafting and so look upwards in December and look for the new Christmas angels flying above the crossing.

How Bells are Rung

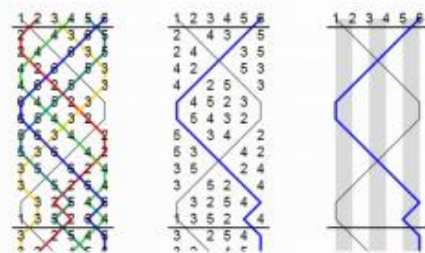
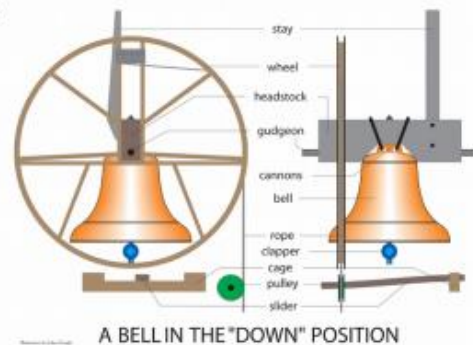
Bells are rung **full-circle** from the 'UP' position (upside-down) with a rope round a wheel ↻ This allows ringers to vary ringing speed to change the order in which the bells ring



Learn at your own pace in stages:

1. **Bell handling**
↻ (pulling the rope)
2. **Rounds** (ringing in time with others)
3. **Change ringing**
(methods) ↻

There are about 40,000 ringers in over 6,000 towers!



Discover more about Ringing ...



At bellringing.org
and ccbr.org.uk

for more information and great videos of what ringing is about, with **contacts** for **learning to ring** near to where you live

And at universityringing.org if you're at uni

Would YOU like to give it a try?

An experienced ringer will be happy to teach you and there's no obligation to continue if it's not for you



Most towers welcome new ringers of all ages and many have young people who enjoy ringing

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Christmas Tree Festival
10th December – 6th January

St Oswald's Church
Ashbourne

The
Christmas
trees have been
beautifully decorated by
local people & groups in our
community

How many trees are there?
Church open from 10am – 5pm



Ossie's Potters get ready for Christmas.....



Members of the group have tidied up the rose bed at the West Door and also been busy making decorations for a tree as part of the Christmas Tree Festival in church.

Decorating the Ossie's Potters Christmas tree will take place on MONDAY 5th December 10.30am onwards. If you would like to join us, do pop along.... There will be coffee and mince pies too!

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Badapple Theatre returns to All Saints', Bradbourne on 7th December at 7.30pm, celebrating 25 years of rural touring with a comedy slant on Charles Dickens' classic Christmas story.

This festive family treat full of local stories, carols, puppets, mayhem, original songs and plenty of seasonal bonhomie is a winter warmer guaranteed to put a smile on your face this Christmas.

Have a good chuckle while the blustering, skin-flint farmer Ebenezer Scrooge gets his comeuppance and is forced to see the error of his penny-pinching ways.

Suitable for ages 5–105

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BRADBOURNE (DE6 1PA)

Thursday 7 December, 7:30pm

£13.00 (Standard)

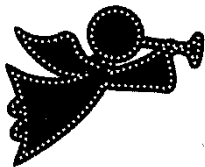
BOOK NOW: bradbourneboxoffice@btinternet.com or 01335 390080

liveandlocal.org.uk



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& LOCAL**

ASHBOURNE



CHRISTMAS ANGELS 2023

Mondays 4 & 11 December: Angel Tagging

at Craft & Chat at Cornerstone from 2pm-4pm.

Each angel needs a gift tag to allow it to find a new owner.

Thursday 14 December: Angel Deadline Day

All Angels (tagged & untagged) to Cornerstone, or to Clare by today please.

Friday 15 December: Angel Blessing Service

At 10.30am at Ashbourne Methodist Church.

A short service followed by refreshments.

Everyone welcome - you don't need to have made any Angels to come!

Angel Yarn Bombing

Date and time to be confirmed (depending on the weather).

If you would like to help our heavenly host descend on Ashbourne, please contact Clare so that you can find out when and where to meet. Thank you.

*Any queries or offers of help please contact
Clare Sales 07814 192924, gatefarm10@btinternet.com*

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St Oswald's and St Mary's churches are open every day of the week. If you would like to make a donation to the work of St Oswald's or St Mary's you can do so by scanning the following relevant QR Code below and making a donation:



St Oswald's Church



St Mary's Church



If you would like to set up a regular payment to St Oswald's or St Mary's Church then you can do so through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

You can find out more information on the PGS website at:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/>

where you can also set up a regular payment.

Alternatively you can telephone the Parish Giving Scheme on **0333 002 1260**

The PGS code for St Oswald's Church is **120612186**