

Three in One



**Jesus at the centre:
Transforming our Community**

**The Magazine of St Peter's,
St Mark's & St Swithun's
Belper**

July 2026 £1

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The Bohemians 30th Anniversary Concert

**At St Peter's
Church,
Belper**

**Saturday
18th July
8.00pm**



Tickets £20/£13

**From
church office
or Ticketsource**

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Beyond the Bubble - Rev Elliot George.

We're on the brink of our Parish Weekend, and I couldn't be more excited! For those able to come, they're such wonderful opportunities to spend time with each other (especially folks from different churches), and to socialise and get to know each other a bit more. They're also great opportunities to think more about God, to pray, read the Bible and deepen our faith together. And they're also helpful opportunities to think about how we do church ministry and mission together; by breaking out of our bubble and retreating to a different location, we can potentially gain a new perspective and, from the outside, think about the way we're engaging with our communities.

I always love reading about the brand new Christian community which springs into life and action after Pentecost, in Acts 2:42-47 through to 4:32-37. It doesn't use the word 'family' in those passages, but all the imagery is there: it says they prayed and ate with each other, spent all their time together, shared all their possessions, and looked after each other. As an introvert, this idea of devotion to communal living is partly inspiring, and partly terrifying! However, just for one weekend, I truly pray that we can get a glimpse of the beauty of the earliest Church as it meets us in our own reality too.

Most importantly, God's grace and power was at work within them as they remained faithful to him (Acts 4:33), but it wasn't confined to just their own bubble. They did everything they could to serve the people around them, and so their numbers continued to increase day-by-day amid their fervent worship (Acts 2:47).

It would be wonderful to recapture some of that fervent worship, oneness of living, and transformation of lives, but we must make sure it doesn't stay contained to our Wydale bubble. We have far more people in our church communities than just those coming to the Parish Weekend, and it's vital that we remain as one, together looking both inward and outward. But we also must ensure it doesn't stay contained to our Parish bubble either! We have work to do, people to serve, and good news to share across our whole town and beyond! The beauty of God's family is that it universally welcomes

anyone and everyone who desires to be part of it – you don't have to be born into it, or marry into it.

So, as Annie leads the weekend – looking into the complexities and nuances around 'family' which we find in the book of Ruth – please pray for her and all those involved in leading worship and activities. And please also pray that, just like the earliest Church, we will *all* be joined together in mutual love, devotion and service, and that God's grace and power will be at work during the weekend and beyond.

We're very grateful to Rev. Annie Naish for leading our Parish Weekend as we explore the theme of Family in the book of Ruth. Annie currently lives and works as a chaplain in an intentional Christian community at Scargill House: a retreat and conference centre in the Yorkshire Dales. She started her ministry working with young people for organisations such as Youth for Christ, and then, after studying for ordination, was a curate in Norfolk with Tony and Helen Ward. Annie has worked in Diocesan Mission posts, with the Lee Abbey Communities and the Mission to Seafarers, and also volunteered with the charity Mercy Ships as a chaplain onboard a hospital ship in Africa. She loves the outdoors and is passionate about walking, sailing and scuba diving.



St Mark's: LOL (Laughing Out Loud) - John Walker

It's good when families laugh together and there is a lot of laughter at St Mark's. Elliot does his best to make us laugh with his corny jokes - and sometimes it works. Some of us have had the pleasure of hearing Andy Kind, a wonderful Christian comedian and teacher. He has said that the best laughs he has enjoyed are not when he's touring professionally with other comedians, but when he's with his family.

There is often laughter at St Mark's when the church family meets on Sundays and at Messy Church, at our Home Groups, on Wednesdays when we pray together, at our Thursday craft group and on many other occasions. We laugh most with people we are comfortable with.

What about laughing in the bible? There were occasions when people laughed at God because he said he would do impossible things. At our family service in June, we thought about Sarah, thousands of years ago, laughing at God because he had promised her and Abraham a child in their very old age. There she is in her tent in the photo. Bethany read the story from the book of Genesis brilliantly as Sophie acted it out with real feeling.

You can read it in Genesis, chapter 18.

This is a different sort of laughter - a nervous, maybe even scornful, laugh. "Can you really do that God?"

Elliot then encouraged us to believe that God still does amazing things, beyond our wildest dreams. We have to be daring in what we ask and trust that God will do more than we believe possible.

It's great to see more and more people gathering to pray at St Mark's at 10am every Wednesday. There's always room for more to join us. We always pray for one another, sharing our joys and anxieties and remembering

those who are not present or can't be there. We laugh together as we share our pleasure and sometimes we are quite daring in what we ask God.

We pray 'Come Holy Spirit', which may be a dangerous ask because he could come and disturb our lives, like he did with Abraham and Sarah. But they had a fantastic promise - that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky or grains of sand on the seashore.

We are trying to listen to God as we pray, to see what he has in store for us. For some months now, God seems to be challenging us to 'sing a new song', to do something new.

We feel at home at St Mark's as it is a place where we are comfortable, even a sanctuary from the troubles of the world around. But that is a double edged sword - if we become complacent, we may forget that our purpose is one of mission. And, sometimes, that may involve challenging and changing the very things which we think make us comfortable.

What are we waiting for? Time and again, we are reminded in the bible to wait for the Lord.

Remember God's promise to Abraham and Sarah. If we are listening to him and adventuring with him, his love will lead us on to even greater things. And we shall laugh together even more.

(Photos included with permission.)



Ordinations 2026, One morning in Derby Cathedral - Christine McMullen

Having been a member of St Peter's for around two years now, I value the worship I find there and the friendship and social interaction, but yesterday I took time out to visit the Cathedral in Derby so I could witness the ordination of people there and see a wider aspect of Church. I am glad I did! One of the Ordinands was from the Parish where I used to live in Buxton. The family had come in despair to the local church after their teenage son was killed in a car crash one Saturday night and, eventually, his parents found faith there. Another was Anna Oldknow, whose parents are Alan and Carol Price, both ordained and still working hard in our group of churches to keep the gospel alive, together with their other daughter Rachel Whitby and son Ben Price, see beautiful family photograph below.

The Cathedral was packed, the music was both haunting and joyful and the inside shone with light. As the Bishop laid hands on the Ordinands, a small child tip-toed up and stood next to the Dean as the Bishop declared them



ready to share the ministry of Christ as clergy.

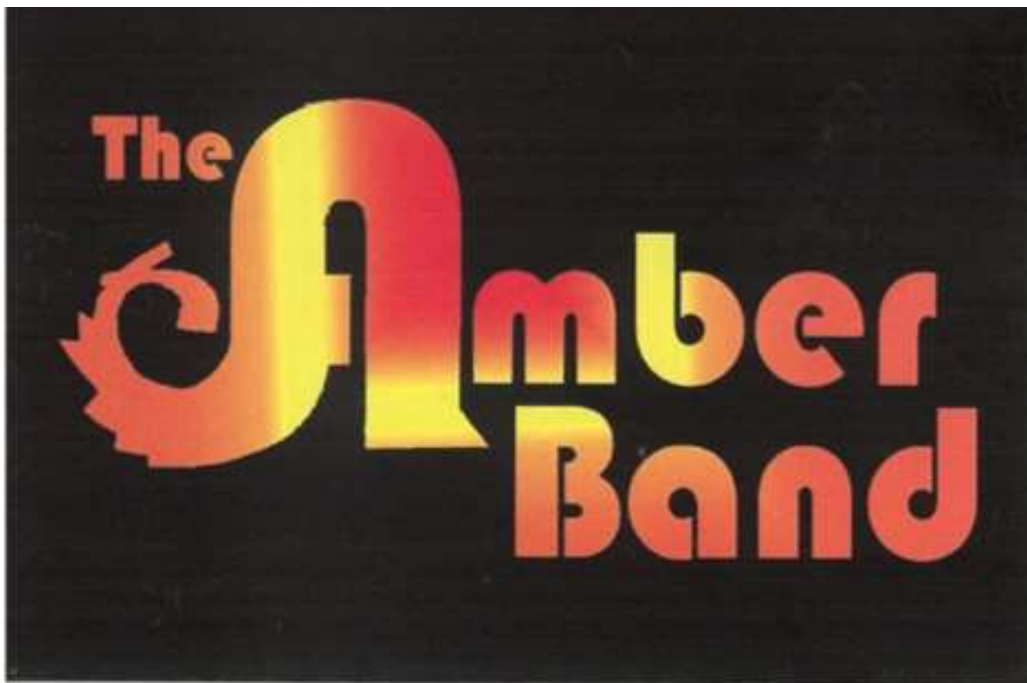
There are times when being a small part of something bigger is uplifting and yesterday I thanked God for both the local Church and the wider expression of it in our Cathedral.



Oceans, where feet may fail - Anna Oldknow.

When you are ordained Deacon in the Church of England, you have to have a white stole/scarf thing. There are many talented professional stole makers from whom you can order your bespoke stole. My Muma made mine. It speaks to me in many different ways, not only of parental legacy and spiritual inheritance, but the theme of water throughout scripture, baptism and renewal, being a 'fisher' of people, God's spirit hovering over the waters, I could go on! Suffice to say, I love it and will be beyond proud to wear it this Sunday and after. Thank you so much **Carol Price** words are not enough. Also thank you **Alan J Price (& Shirley)** for being design support.

**Front Cover: Hymns and Pimm's, Belper Meadows Sports Ground.
Jane Harlow.**



Irish Folk Band in Concert

St Swithun's Church,

Holbrook Road, Belper

Thurs 23rd July 2026

7pm-9.30pm

Bar & refreshments available



Messy
Church

Picnic!



11th July
St Peter's
Churchyard
4-6pm

Bring your
own picnic

Going Green Another Perspective - David Skelton

First, I want to say that these views are entirely mine and not that of the Parish.

There is a lot of pressure on us from all around us to be greener.

However, it is very difficult; first of all my weekly shop - I want to go to one shop, I haven't got the time or the energy to go to 6 different shops. Most of the things that we get from the supermarket come in plastic, even fruit & veg now is wrapped in plastic bags. I don't think they would be happy if I took everything out of them before I took them to the checkout! It is becoming more difficult to buy certain things in glass bottles like tomato ketchup, and golden syrup (you can but have to pay a premium). All bread comes in plastic bags.

Don't get me wrong, I appreciate climate change is taking place, and we do need to take steps to stop it.

I do my bit; we have solar panels on our roof and our house is insulated to the hills, to coin a phrase. These new food waste bins won't get hardly anything in it from us, we compost all our peelings and waste hardly any food, probably the odd bone from a chop.

However, plastic can be reused. Did you know that carpets can be made from recycled plastic bottles along with many other things, like new food packaging and polyester, clothing, to durable construction materials and outdoor furniture.

One of the biggest problems is which bin do they go in? It says recyclable on the label, but on further reading you find out not at the kerbside.

The C of E has set a net zero policy for 2030; did you know the Diocese has a whole department dedicated to it?

A fellow church warden from Oxfordshire wrote a very good letter to the Church Times about it which I wholly agree with. (I can't publish it here as I haven't had time to ask his permission, if you are interested ask me and I will share it with you privately.

Basically, he was saying how do you expect a parish with a beautiful 16th century church to block up every little hole and install very expensive heating systems. They estimate the cost is going to be £30 million over the next three years and £190 million over the following nine years and where is this money coming from? They suggest "A large amount will come from local fundraising" so as well as the parish share, they expect us to raise this exorbitant sum as well maintain our wonderful buildings.

Rant over!

Outcomes from PCC meeting 16th June

- New communication policies have been approved; and our new website, social media, noticeboards and branding are all on the way (following the launch of our new logo last month)!
- We're looking to put together a small Magazine Team to help John, and to be more strategic with the Magazine's content moving forward. Please have a chat with me if you (or someone you know) are interested in joining the team.

Derby University students for Mental Health Counselling and Occupational Therapy are exploring a partnership with the Parish to help members of our congregations and communities receive the help they need.



Green Spaces are Good for our Health - Anne Clark

Sunlight delivers distinct types of energy in the electromagnetic spectrum: **visible light** (which allows us to see colours and our surroundings) and **invisible radiation** (such as infrared and ultraviolet rays). UV is responsible for causing sunburn and stimulating our bodies to produce Vitamin D and we perceive infrared radiation as heat. IR warms the Earth's surface, regulates our climate, and maintains our planet's temperature.

Green spaces naturally emit high levels of near-infrared (NIR) light because chlorophyll, (plants green pigment) reflects it. Spending time outdoors in these areas exposes you to more infrared light, which can help stimulate mitochondrial function, cellular energy production, and overall well-being.

Plants absorb most of the visible light spectrum (like blue and red) to fuel photosynthesis. However, they strongly reflect NIR light, acting as a natural



amplifier of this invisible wavelength. Because leaves reflect NIR rather than absorbing it as heat, you remain cooler when sitting under a tree. Researchers suggest that modern indoor lifestyles - where we lack this natural, green-reflected infrared - can lead to poor health outcomes.

Studies in physical health and psychology confirm that time spent in green spaces reduces cortisol levels, blood pressure, and the risk of chronic diseases. It also boosts positive emotions and overall well-being. In colour psychology, colours made up of long wavelengths are considered arousing or warm, whereas colours such as green that have shorter wavelengths, are relaxing or cool. The colour green can positively affect thinking, relationships, and physical health. Green is also thought to relieve stress and help healing.

Trees help people and nature thrive. The Woodland Trust says getting more trees in the ground will give us all a greener, healthier future, consequently they are giving away thousands to schools, councils, clubs and community groups to help make that happen. St Peter's Churchyard has many trees and areas of grass, a beautiful, green space near the centre of Belper.



Acorn Recreation Ground - Jane Harlow

Acorn Recreation Ground is another green space that has seen quite a few changes this Spring. The Children's Recreation Area has received a major revamp and now has equipment installed for older children. As a result there has been a considerable increase in usage justifying the not inconsiderable expenditure!

For several years, following contact with Amber Valley Council, they have not mowed right up to the fence/wall. Only in the Autumn has the area been completely mown. Groups of locals have come together to clear away some of the nettles and brambles but not all. There will be some blackberries later and the remaining nettles have provided sustenance for the black caterpillars of Britain's favorite butterfly: The Peacock. Red Valerian has taken up much of the space previously covered by brambles and nettles and certainly add a splash of colour! A few photos of the wildlife boarder as it is this year.





THE BIG BELPER RAFFLE

DRAWING ON THE 26TH JULY,
LOVE BELPER TOWN FESTIVAL DAY!

**£1 FOR EACH
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PRIZES INCLUDE PEAK RAIL STEAM
TRAIN RIDE, CARSINGTON ALPACA WALK,
PIZZAS AT THE LION HOTEL AND LOTS
MORE



Photos by Sian Kellog

It's Wydale Time Again

What will be your special memory?

When you get back send your
photos, paintings and words to:

editor@stpetersparishbelper.org.uk

by **Thursday 16th July** for the August
Magazine.





Holiday at Home

August 3rd *at St Peter's*
August 5th Out and About



Booking forms from
St Mark's, St Peter's
or St Swithun's

Hymns & Pimm's Sunday 21st June - David Skelton

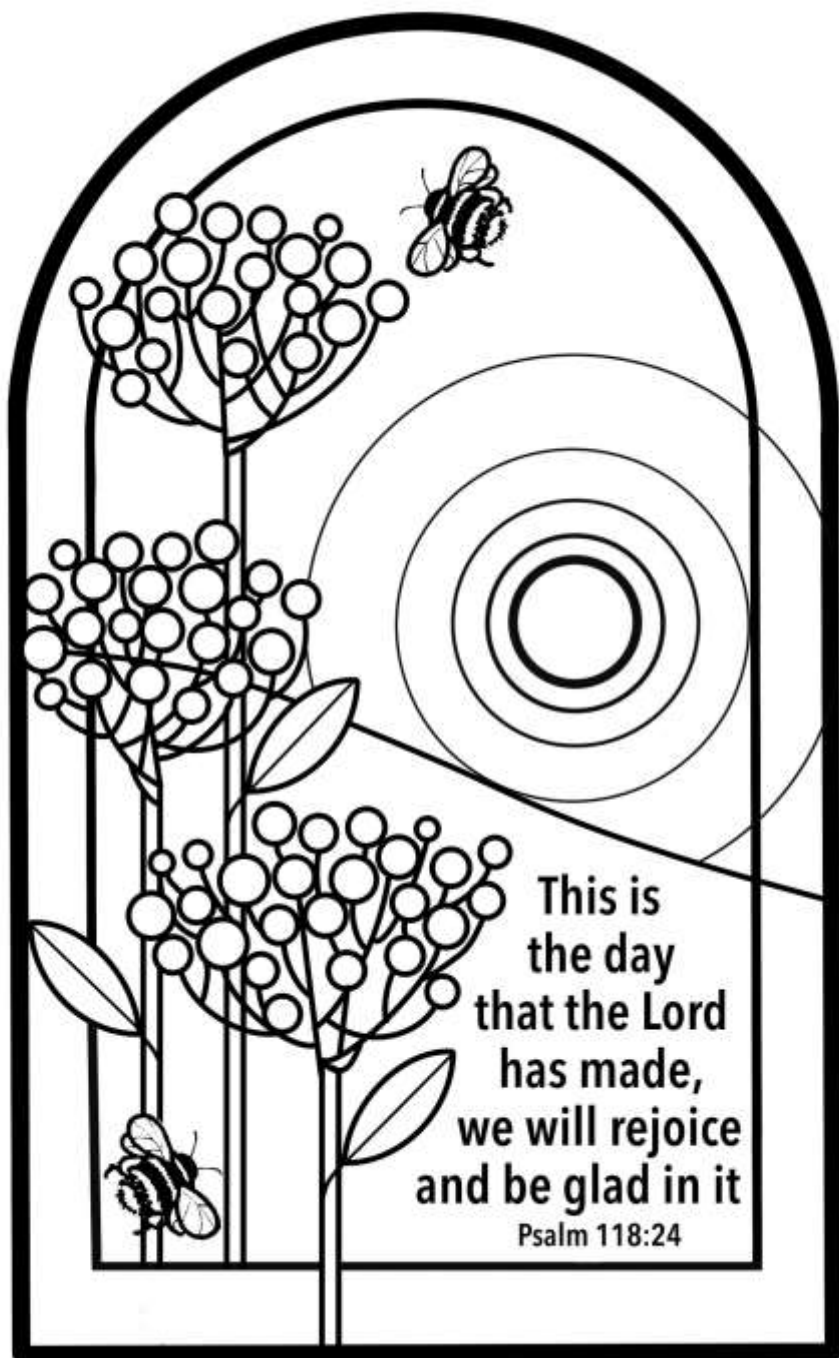
On a hot Sunday afternoon, people from across Belper came together for a lovely afternoon of traditional modern hymns played expertly by Belper's own Derwent Brass Ensemble, under the careful batten of Chris Leonard.

There was a mixed selection, including 'O Jesus I have promised', 'Onward Christian Soldiers', 'Immortal Invisible God only wise', 'Give me oil in my lamp', and 'Lord of the Dance' to name but a few.

In the interval people had a chance to lubricate their voices with a glass of something refreshing!



Jane Harlow



CHEVIN SINGERS

Calling All Basses, Baritones & Tenors!

Love to sing? Want to sing better?

Join our friendly Tuesday-morning choir in Belper.

Whether you're a confident sight-reader with perfect pitch or someone who simply enjoyed singing at school and never quite made the leap — **we'd love to meet you.**

What we offer: • A warm, welcoming choir with no auditions • An excellent director who teaches by ear with rigour and humour • Music-reading helpful but not essential • A chance to stretch your singing skills • Christmas and summer concerts each year with occasional extra performances

When & Where: • Tuesday mornings • Doors open 10:00am, singing starts 10:30am, finishes 12 noon • Room 107, Strutts Community Centre, Derby Road, Belper, DE56 1UU

Try us for free! Your first taster session is on us. After that, membership is **£5 a session or £35 every two months.** We break for the main school holidays.

For further information please contact Alex on

Text: 07881 611963

Email: alexknight318@gmail.com

Website: www.chevinsingers.weebly.com

Monthly Mid-Week Communion



A mid-week service of Holy Communion takes place on the first Wednesday of each month at St Swithun's.

It begins at 9.30am just before the usual Coffee Morning at 10.15am.

Please do join us if you are able.



Churches who pray together grow together. If you can, please take the opportunity to pray, both individually or with others at one of these weekly meetings:

St Peter's: Tuesdays at 11.30am

St Mark's: Wednesdays at 10am

St Swithun's: Thursdays at 11am

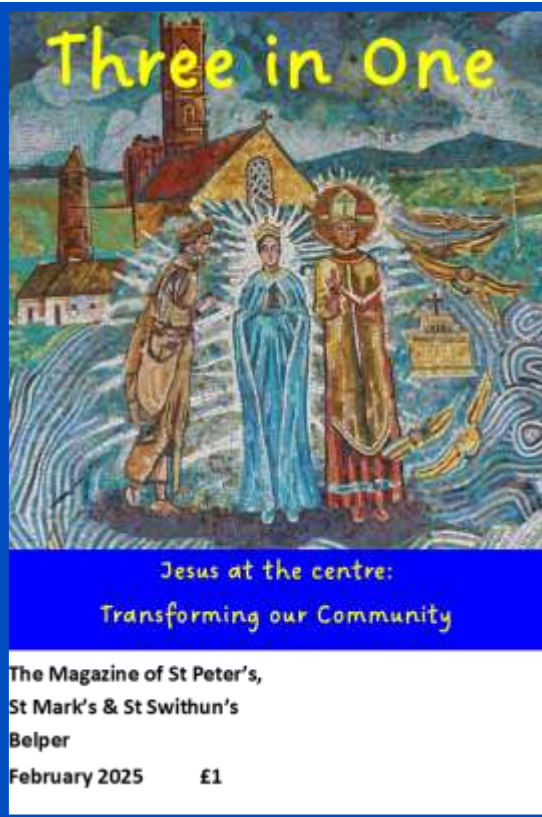
Zoom: Wednesdays at 7pm



Calling all parents, grandparents & childminders!

Join Jack for **Little Church** on Wednesdays in term-time from 10am to 12pm at St Peter's. Come and join us!

April Tompkins



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12 months

11 copies

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**Please pay
Parish Office
at St Peters**



Meets 2nd Thursday of the Month at
the Grapes.

Please scan QR Code for details.

**Copy date for August 3 in 1 :
Thursday 16th July**

Parish Online Prayer Chain

This is a way of sharing Prayer Requests for those we know and love.

If you would like to be part of this or have something you would like others to be praying for, please email the moderator:

prayerchain@stpetersparishbelper.org.uk

Prayer



Do you shop online?

Turn your online shopping into donations!

Do you shop online? Did you know that every time you buy something you could be raising money for St Peter's Parish, Belper?

Over 2,700 well known retailers, including John Lewis, eBay and Tesco will donate a small percentage of what you spend to St Peter's Parish, Belper to say thank you for shopping with them.

Just visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpetersparishbelper> and follow the simple steps to sign up.

Thank you.



Coffee Morning

First Tuesday of the month
at St Peter's
Next: 7th July 10.30am

food & community hub

SHAMPOO/
SHOWER GEL

BISCUITS

BABY WIPES

CORNEB BEEF/
HAM

PASTA SAUCE

POT NOODLES/
SUPER NOODLES

SUGAR

HOT DOGS

DEODORANT

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RICE PUDDING/
CUSTARD

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TINNED FISH

TINS OF:
CURRY/CHILLI/STEWED
STEAK/MINCED BEEF/
CHICKEN IN WHITE SAUCE

SPONGE PUDDINGS

COFFEE

UHT MILK

MASH/
TINNED POTATOES

Could you help prepare families for Baptism or Thanksgiving?

Sessions are 3rd Sunday (generally) at 2.30pm – 4pm in St Peter's.



Family Occasions

Baptisms



St Peter's
7th June

Sharni Beeston
Jack Beeston
Lily Teece
Elodie Sutton

Thanksgiving

7th June

Emily Parlett

Weddings



St Peter's
6th June

George Rains-Stevens &
Rebecca Edwards

20th June

Ross Pearson and Claire Newby

Funerals



St Swithun's
19th May

Anne Slaney (76) of Ashfield Care Home,
Heanor

13th April

Graeme Hughes (88) of Thorpe Way, Belper

St Mark's

21st May

Graham Hutchinson (85) of Marlborough
Rd, Belper



"I am delighted to present Virtual St. Peter's, a virtual learning experience to coincide with the bicentenary at St. Peter's Church. This is a great example of how 3D scanning technology can be used. My business, METABEAR.UK, can scan the interior of any space. It's a brilliant marketing tool, even more so with Google Street View integration, and we have much more to offer! Please visit our website for more information and if you have a project, please contact me."

james@metabear.uk | www.metabear.uk



To access the virtual tour, go to the website and select the drop down menu under the St Peter's tab.

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed by individual contributors are their own and not necessarily those of the Editorial team.



Services in July

	St Peter's	St Mark's	St Swithun's
Sunday 5th	(Parish Weekend Away)	10am Parish Holy Communion	(Parish Weekend Away)
Sunday 12th	10am Holy Communion	10am Family Worship Service	11am Patronal Morning Worship
Sunday 19th	10am Relaxed Worship	10am Morning Worship	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	10am Holy Communion	10am Morning Worship	11am Morning Worship

July themes and readings

Sunday 5th Fifth after Trinity	Genesis 24: 54 - 67	Matthew 11: 16 - 30
Sunday 12th Sixth after Trinity	Genesis 25: 19 - 34	Matthew 13: 1 - 23
Sunday 19th Seventh after Trinity	Genesis 28: 10 - 19	Matthew 13: 24 - 43
Sunday 26th Eighth after Trinity	Genesis 29: 15 - 28	Matthew 13: 44 - 52

Derwent Valley Open the Bible Assemblies (Formerly Open the Book)



We are currently looking for one or two people to join our team for the 'Open the Bible' assemblies at St John's School in Belper on a Thursday afternoon, once a month, at 2.15pm-3.20pm.

Full training given...

If you are interested, please call or email Tracy in the office, 01773 828772 / office@stpetersparishbelper.org.uk

Thank you !

St. Mark's Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Stall



Saturday July 18th

10.30-12.00

All very welcome to come along and enjoy a drink, homemade cakes and a chat.

There will be no coffee morning in August but back again in September for coffee and a chat.

Dates for your diary in July

Mondays	Craft Group at St Peter's	6.30 - 9pm
Thurs 2nd	'Cobbles' knitting group at St Peter's 'The Chosen' at St Swithun's	1 - 3pm 7 - 8pm
Fri 3rd	Parish Weekend Away	6pm ->
Mon 6th	Lydia Group Prayer Meeting @St Peter's	11am
Tues 7th	Coffee Morning at St Peter's Prayer Group Archdeacon's Licensing of Wardens at St Peter's St Mark's TLC	10.30 - 12pm 11.30 - 12pm 6.00pm 7.30pm
Thurs 9th	Widow's Might... group at St Peter's 'The Chosen' at St Peter's	10 - 12pm 2.30 - 3.30pm
Sat 11th	Messy Church Picnic @ St Peter's	4 - 6pm
Mon 13th	Woolen Woods instillation in St Peter's Churchyard Games Afternoon at St Peter's	2 - 4pm
Tue 14th	Woolen Woods instillation in St Peter's Churchyard Tuesdays @ 10 Bible Study at St Peter's Prayer Group at St Peter's St Swithun's TLC	10 - 11.30am 11.30 - 12pm 2.30pm
Sat 18th	Coffee Morning at St Mark's Bohemian's 30th Anniversary Concert at St Peter's	10 - 12.00pm 7.30pm
Tues 21st	Tuesdays @ 10 Bible Study at St Peter's Prayer Group at St Peter's St Peter's TLC	10 - 11.30am 11.30 - 12pm 7.30pm
Thu 23rd	Widow's Might... group at St Peter's The Chosen Screening at St Peter's Amber Band at St Swithun's	10 - 12pm 2.30pm 7.00pm
Sat 25th	Belper 250 Abba Concert at St Peter's	7.30pm
Mon 27th	Lydia Group Prayer Meeting @St Peter's	11.00am
Tues 30th	Tuesdays @ 10 Bible Study at St Peter's Prayer Group at St Peter's	10 - 11.30am 11.30 - 12pm

Parish Pray Diary for July

1st Sporting events	11th Messy Church	21st Clergy and Readers
2nd Creativity	12th Pastoral Prayer/ Care	22nd Immigrants and Refugees
3rd Parish Weekend	13th Population Concerns	23rd Commonwealth Games
4th Wellbeing	14th Animal Conservation	24th Mexico
5th Laos	15th St Swithun's	25th Government
6th Food Hub	16th Children's work across the parish	26th The lonely and isolated
7th Those who need our prayers	17th School Holidays	27th St Crispin's, India
8th Ukraine	18th Democratic Republic of Congo	28th Tunisia
9th Smiles, Romania	19th Diocesan Staff	29th Items in the news today
10th YPF	20th Human Trafficking	30th Friendship
31st Churches Together in Belper		

Regular Groups

Mondays

Games Afternoon	2-4 pm on the 2nd Monday at St Peter's (excl August)
Craft Group	6.30 - 9 pm (except Bank Holidays) at St Peter's
2nd Belper (St Peter's)	
Guides	Contact Donna Roberts for details: stpeterguide@btinternet.com

Tuesdays

Coffee Morning	10.30am on the 1st Tuesday at St Peter's
Bible Study	10 am weekly except the 1st Tuesday at St Peter's
Prayer Group	11.30am St Peter's (except the first Tuesday of the month)

Wednesdays

Holy Communion	9.30am on the 1st Wednesday at St Swithun's
Prayers at St Mark's	10am every Wednesday at St Mark's
Coffee Break	10 am on the 1st Wednesday at St Swithun's
Little Church	10am - 12pm in term time at St Peter's
Community Gardening	2 - 4.30pm at St Peter's
Bellringers	6.30 pm weekly (Gill Hughes 823115) at St Peter's
Prayer Group	7.30pm @ 'Fourways' Anne and Andrew Hardy's

Thursdays

Prams and First Shoes	9.30 - 11.30am in term time at St Mark's
Widows Might ...	10 - 11.30am on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at St Peter's
Craft for Charity Group	2pm on the 2nd Thursday at St Mark's
Music Team	7.30pm every week at St Peter's

Fridays

Young People's	
Fellowship (YPF)	7.15pm every week in term time at St Peter's

Saturdays

Messy Church	4 - 6pm on the 2nd Saturday at St Swithun's
	and 4 - 6pm on the 4th Saturday at St Mark's

Sundays

5 - 6pm Contemplative Prayer Group - Meadow Court Resident's Lounge (behind Riversdale)

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WHO TO CONTACT

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