

## ASHOVER VILLAGE FILMTIME

Doors open at 7pm for tea/coffee: Film starts 7:30pm  
No need to book Suggested donation £3

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Hidden Figures (PG)

(This film will be shown in Ashover Church)

The true story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who played a vital role in NASA during the early years of the US space programme.

Starring: Taraji P Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae, Kevin Costner. Director: Theodore Melfi

## FOREIGN FILMTIME

Thursday 1st February 2018

### O'Horten (15)

(Venue to be confirmed, Church or Bassett Rooms)

A Norwegian comedy. After 40 years of driving trains, the sudden switch to retirement for Odd Horten is not without incident. In Norwegian with English sub-titles.

## Coffee Shop

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 am - noon

Now being held in Ashover Church  
due to renovation work in the Bassett Rooms



On 5th December £425 was raised  
for the Crisis at Christmas charity - **THANK YOU**

## History & Appreciation of Art

A guide to the understanding and appreciation of art including paintings, sculptures and contemporary art media.

Presentations by local artist and teacher, Sue Lewis-Blake

25th January, Ashover Church, 5.30 - 6.30 pm

### Artists and Influences 1: Velasquez

Velasquez is known as the "painters' painter". Why? An analysis of his work in this context.

£5 per session, no booking, pay at the door  
Contact Mike Steel on 01246 591371

## Tinsel and Tea Towels

Stretton Handley Primary School and St. Mark's Church have been busy in the run up to Christmas. The children organised and ran an Enterprise Christmas coffee afternoon to raise funds for the charity Kolkata and school. They also staged a humorous musical Nativity play called 'Tinsel and Tea Towels', giving a behind the scenes, true to life glance at a school 'doing' the Nativity.

St. Mark's held a festive afternoon tea for school parents; there was a raffle and sale table and it gave them a chance to have a quiet chat and refreshments before pick-up.

The parents, children, church and school community have thoroughly enjoyed Christmas activities and managed to raise funds for good causes as well.

## Uppertown Social Centre

Saturday 3rd February - £8 inc. supper

John Pickering (50's & 60's)



Saturday 24th February - £10 inc. supper

Kick-N-Rush Comedy Skiffle Band

Call Eddie for tickets on 1246 590502 or 07966 154798

You can view this **amber news** on the **amber churches** website and there are free printed copies in churches and local shops. If you would like a copy delivered, please let us know and we will try to oblige. Send news for inclusion in next month's issue to [info@amberchurches.org](mailto:info@amberchurches.org).



## amber news

For the amber churches of  
**Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington**  
*working and playing together, with God, for people*

January 2018

## Church Services in January



### Sunday 7th January

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion

### Sunday 14th January

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Morning Prayer
9.15 am	Wessington Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Family Service
10.45 am	Handley Church	Morning Worship

### Sunday 21st January

9.15 am	Wessington Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion (+ children's activities)
10.45 am	Handley Church	Morning Worship

### Sunday 28th January

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Holy Communion
9.15 am	Wessington Church	Family Service
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion (+ children's activities)
10.45 am	Handley Church	Holy Communion

## January means Panto!

Get your free tickets at Ashover Post Office

## New Year ... New Beginnings

The new year is often a time to reflect on our lives, our work and what we hope to achieve. Perhaps you want to refresh your skills or learn something new.

The School of Formation web pages on the Derby Diocese website contain information on formal training courses but also hundreds of workshops, seminars, quiet days, conferences and pilgrimages - there really is something for everyone. Check this out at:

[www.derby.anglican.org/schoolofformation](http://www.derby.anglican.org/schoolofformation)

## Contact Information

Rector: The Revd Ralph Lawrence 01246 590246  
The Rectory, Narrowleys Lane, Ashover S45 0AU  
All Saints Church Ashover Warden: Sylvia Dyson 01246 861811  
Holy Trinity Brackenfield Warden: Nigel Rogers 01773 836137  
St Mark's Church Handley Warden: Kath Mosely 01246 590720  
Christ Church Wessington Warden: Rita Buckley 01773 835 633

[www.amberchurches.org](http://www.amberchurches.org)

## The Rector Writes ...

Dear Friends,

It will be a few more months before the evenings start to get longer and for the darkness of winter to be pushed back once more. I for one can't wait for the return of better weather and for the signs of new life to appear with the onset of Spring. We know this will happen but until it does we must accept the present pattern and rhythm of nature and wait patiently for its mood to change.

But there are other types of darkness. For example, the sense of loss when someone close to us dies, the loneliness of mental depression which afflicts so many and the feelings of isolation and rejection which most people experience from time to time. But there is a darkness more basic than any of these – which comes from believing life is futile, ugly and evil, that there is no God, that men and women are simply clever animals with a flimsy covering of civilisation and that when this is torn off we quickly fall below the level of beasts.

This is a very sombre view and one I suggest that most of us most of the time do not entertain. Instead we probably stand somewhere in the middle between these two extremes, opting to protect ourselves from the darkness by not looking too deeply or too long at ourselves or others, preferring instead to gather around ourselves a blanket of comfortable half truths.

At the beginning of each year the Church proclaims the season of Epiphany. It is associated with the Wise Men's discovery of the infant Jesus and the revelation that he is the light of the world; that God is with us and can bring us out of darkness into his own marvellous light.

From time to time life can seem bleak and futile. But there is a purpose behind it. This purpose is not remote, cold or inhumane, but for us – on our side, helping us to win through. This purpose has become one with a human personality, and revealed himself through a human life. Christ, who reveals God to be with us, is a light shining in the darkness. And what is more the darkness has not overcome it.

Yours sincerely, Ralph



ALL SAINTS CHURCH ASHOVER

VILLAGE PANTOMIME

ALADDIN  
AND HIS  
WONDERFUL  
LAMP

THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.15PM

FRIDAY 12 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.15PM

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2018 AT 5.30PM

(Parish Party/Family Night followed by Pantomime)

All held in Ashover Parish Hall

FREE TICKET ENTRY  
from Ashover Post Office from  
Monday 11 December 2017

## Brackenfield goes Visiting

Seven members of the Brackenfield and Wessington parishes visited the Jamie Masjid Sultania Mosque in Sneinton Dale, Notts. on 7th November. The invitation followed a visit to Brackenfield by a group of mainly Muslim women who are involved in "equipped-2-succeed", an initiative set up by Beverley Burton to promote greater understanding between faiths.

We received a very warm greeting and were shown into the large, carpeted room where the men pray. Imran, a teacher at the Mosque, talked to us about the routine for prayer and the work done with children after their school day. He was very willing to answer all our questions. Afterwards we were taken upstairs to the smaller prayer room for women. We were given a tasty lunch of vegetable samosas, fish tartlets, pakoras and cakes. Indeed the whole day was an interesting and pleasant experience.

## From the Registers

### ASHOVER

Wedding:

Congratulations to  
James Entwisle and Denise Bradley  
Service held 23rd December 2018

Funeral:

Patrick Marriott Aged 66  
Service held 7th November 2017

### BRACKENFIELD

Baptism:

Max William Steeper  
Service held 10th December 2017



## A Silver Celebration

Congratulations to the Ashover Celebration Choir on their 25th anniversary which they celebrated (with cake) at the Advent Sunday service in Ashover Church. Special thanks go to Ruth Russell for her enthusiastic leadership of the choir from its beginning.

December is always a busy time for the choir as they sing in churches, care homes and other venues. After a well earned break in January, choir practices will start again from Monday 12th February.



## Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Christmas Gift Appeal



December's Amber News mentioned 40 shoeboxes but the final total with last minute arrivals was 87! Well done!