

Sunday 2nd May - 10.30 am

SEED AND SEEDLING SWAP SHOP

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO ASHGATE HOSPICE



BRING YOUR SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS TO
LIME TREE ORCHARD, ASHOVER
TO SWAP AND BUY

Stations Tell a Story

Thanks to Anna, Ruth and helpers for bringing a meaningful, modern and interactive Stations of the Cross trail to Ashover Churchyard over the schools' Easter holidays. Everyone appreciated this powerful retelling of the Easter story and children were pleased to get a reward at the Tuck Shop for completing the course.

Cowslip Survey

On the many walks we took around our area last Spring and Summer, I remember the banks of cowslips and emerging bluebells that we enjoyed along Demonsdale footpath above the River Amber. Cowslips can reveal the health of the grasslands in which they grow and the charity Plantlife is using them in a survey to monitor this.



If you have a spare half hour or hour you could take part in this survey by going to their website www.plantlife.org.uk/uk and downloading an app to record details of the two different types of cowslips. These should grow in a 50:50 ratio but an imbalance in this ratio can indicate a declining population of cowslips and loss of habitat.

No Mow May

Plantlife are also an advocate of #NoMowMay when you leave your lawn, or part of it, unmown for the whole month of May to encourage pollinators who feed on the nectar of wildflowers. May might be long enough for you to look out on a rewilding garden but you could also go for #LetItBloomJune and #KneeHighJuly.

Ding Dong Bell

From May the bell ringers are able to strike one bell in Ashover as a calling bell before church services. When restrictions change from 17th May it is hoped they may be able to have 6 distanced ringers in Ashover bell tower at once so change ringing will make a comeback - but again just as a call to services. Unfortunately, the ropes in Brackenfield church are too close together to allow this.

If restrictions are lifted as planned, normal ringing for services and practices should recommence in both Ashover and Brackenfield from 21st June.

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.



amber news

For the amber churches of
Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington
working and playing together, with God, for people
May 2021

Hooray! - Church Services in May

Sunday 2nd May

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion (+ children's activities)

Sunday 9th May

10.45 am	Ashover Church	All Age Service
10.45 am	Handley Church	Holy Communion

Sunday 16th May

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

Sunday 23rd May - PENTECOST

10.45 am	Ashover Church	All Age Service of Holy Communion
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Sunday 30th May - TRINITY SUNDAY

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Holy Communion
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(Please use a face covering inside church buildings and maintain social distancing.)

New Beginnings

What a year! And how thankful we are to be restarting services in our churches again. While we do not have a Rector, the Ministry Team are continuing to take services and pick up all the usual parish duties. A meeting has been held with the many prospective brides and grooms who will be tying the knot shortly in our churches and bells may be heard again in the not too distant future.

We will shortly be advertising for a Priest-in-Charge of our churches through the Diocese of Derby and hope to have someone in post by the end of the year. Until the reorganisation of parishes in the Diocese is complete we will not be getting a "Rector" but a "Priest-in-Charge" who will be part-time, fulfil the Rector's duties and probably live in the rectory in Ashover. This technical difference of title is to allow flexibility for the Diocese to consider changes in the parish structure throughout Derbyshire made necessary by falling congregations and revenue. This restructuring is happening across the whole of the UK where team ministries of clergy covering 10-12 churches are becoming common, as in the Wirksworth Group, much like the grouping of local doctors into larger medical practices.

Rest assured that the churches - people and buildings - will remain central to service in their communities.

Contact Information

Church Wardens

All Saints Church Ashover: Nev Stanley 01246 826980
Holy Trinity Brackenfield: Nigel Rogers 01773 836137
St Mark's Church Handley: Fran Roberts 01246 865389
Christ Church Wessington: Rita Buckley 01773 835 633

www.amberchurches.org

info@amberchurches.org

A Message from the Ministry

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this on the morning of Prince Philip's funeral, as her Majesty the Queen bids farewell to her husband of 73 years.

We, as individuals, as a church and nation, give thanks for his life and service to the nation and for his devotion and support to Her Majesty the Queen.



The Duke's funeral service included, at his request, an adaptation of Psalm 104, which was set to music and sung by the choir.

This includes the words, (adapted by Sam Dyer)

'You take your creatures' breath and life is ended, your breath goes forth and life begins; your hand renews the face of the earth, your praise my whole life I will sing'

Life ends and new life begins. Creation is witness to this. In autumn leaves fall to make room for new growth, fruit-bearing growth. Spring time sees the gardens, fields and hedgerows blossoming again; blossom that will develop into fruit.

We are all now in the process of re-blossoming after the dark winter days of lockdown. Let us give thanks and praise to God that we are here to be part of this new life. We have left so many loved ones behind.

As I write we are still in the season of Easter, the season of new life, until 23 May, the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit of God breathed life into the infant Church.

Let us pray that we too will be blessed again by the gift of new life, a new kind of life after the darkness of Covid, but also a life that will produce fruit, that will bring blessings to others and as witness to the love of God that is among us always.

'Your praise my whole life I will sing'.

Celia

(Celia Kelly is a Lay Reader and a member of the Amber Churches Ministry Team.)

From the Registers

BRACKENFIELD

Funeral

Amy Louise Bradley, aged 89.
Service held on 12th April.

Twin My Vaccine

Many of us have been vaccinated against Covid19 now and are grateful for the protection this gives us.

A Somerset vicar and his wife, the Rev Scott and Rowan Patterson, have set up a Just Giving page where you can help pay for vaccinations to the poorest in the world through Unicef and the COVAX programme.

Our vaccines have cost between £4 and £30 per person (plus the associated costs of organisation and delivery).

It is suggested that, if you could have afforded to pay for this, you might like to donate the equivalent cost to help others around the world get the vaccine too.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rowanpatterson>

Tolling for the Duke

The bell ringers marked the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, by tolling a single bell in Ashover Church, half-muffled for 99 whole pulls at 12 noon on Saturday 10th April.

This was repeated at 2.15 pm on the day of his funeral, Saturday 17th April.

May Day Off - Panto On

It is with regret that for the second year running the Ashover May Day celebrations have had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Rosemary Early says that "We are already looking forward to preparations for the following May Day which will be on Monday 2nd May 2022."

However, it is hoped that the

ASHOVER VILLAGE PANTOMIME 2022

will go ahead and Rosemary looks forward to starting rehearsals at the end of September 2021. The pantomime will be CINDERELLA and performances will be on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the 6th, 7th and 8th of January 2022. As usual it is planned that the Parish Party will precede the Saturday performance and turn this into a real family night where everyone can get together again - but in the meantime, stay safe and follow the rules.

Wessington Orchard Farmers Market

Saturday 22nd May - 9 am to 2 pm

Amber Valley Winery & Vineyard,
Back Lane, Wessington

With the easing of restrictions this popular event is making a come-back. The first of these events in 2021 will be on Saturday 22nd May and thereafter they will be held on the third Saturday of the month. Local food and drink producers bring their products to sell in the beautiful setting of the vineyard of Amber Valley Wines.

On 22nd May Wessington Church Members are standing a stall of home-grown plants and preserves in order to raise funds for the church.

Covid precautions will be in force and from August onwards it is planned to return to providing tables and chairs for families and friends to gather, eat, drink and enjoy the setting.

There is very limited free parking on the field and booking is essential; 2-hour slots can be booked by contacting the Amber Valley Wines website

www.ambervalleywines.co.uk

The first Artisans Market for 2021 will be held on Saturday 29th May from 10 am to 4 pm - see the above website for more details.

Home Group on Zoom

The Ashover Bible Study group is meeting fortnightly on Zoom until the end of May but hopes thereafter to meet in person for some events, subject to any restrictions for Covid at the time.

The next virtual meetings (on Thursdays at 7:30 pm) will explore what can be learned from the lives of some of the characters of the Old Testament:

April 29 - OT Characters I - Samuel

May 13 - OT Characters II - Samuel and Saul

May 27 - OT Characters III - Joseph

The group is coordinated by Jonathan and Lynda Warner who would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join in or just get more information:
jonathan.warner@questu.ca or 01246 591448.

Bookswap Corner

The bookswap corner in the information kiosk by the public loos in Ashover is burgeoning. Come and help yourself to a good read before it overflows onto the street.

