

JANUARY
2026



The Bridge



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Revd Mark Griffin,
The Vicarage, Edensor, Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1PH Tel: 01246 604300

Church websites:
www.stpetersedensor.org & www.stannesbeeley.co.uk

January 2026

Dear Friends,

The name January comes from the Roman God Janus, who had two faces, one looking forwards and the other backwards. January has that feel as we look back to the year just gone and look forward to the year that lies ahead. This can be about moving on from the past year and seeing the beginning of a new one as being a fresh start.

It is a traditional part of the start of a year to make New Year's Resolutions - that may be almost anything but often is about trying to lead a healthier or happier life, or about taking on a new challenge or hobby. These days there is dry January where people stop drinking alcohol for a month and various fitness regimes that promise to remove the pounds. They used to advertise part works on TV at this time of year where you could build the Cutty Sark in 78 weekly parts, although apparently mostly the sales dried up and few of them lasted all those weeks.

Often people find it difficult to keep their resolutions, sometimes because the bar is set too high and other times because it is difficult to change our behaviour. Some people really bring about change in their lives at the start of a new year and demonstrate great willpower. I've never found New Year's Resolutions very helpful, but I've known people who set themselves targets or goals, and stick to them despite the many distractions around them.

As human beings we like to let go of the baggage in our lives and to move forward into the future. Books have been written about "life audit" or "life laundry" which can be physical or mental or emotional

decluttering. In Christianity that is seen as confession, which in the Church of England we do together Sunday by Sunday or which we can do individually in prayer or in high Anglican settings individuals talking to a priest formally (which is common in the Roman Catholic Church).

With confession comes absolution which is the assurance that God forgives us and helps us to move on with our lives. That sense of moving on is very important and allows us to deal with the past and hold our heads up, looking forward to what comes next.

We know that we won't always get it right but at heart we always want to do better and live more authentic lives. The turn of the year is a fixed point which allows us to reflect on past, present and future, but there is always the opportunity throughout the year for a fresh start in our lives. That is a great reassurance as we navigate life in all its complexities.

Happy New Year

Mark

Pam Young

We were delighted to welcome Pam to Edensor on Sunday 7th December when she told us about her work supporting villages in Mali and Mauretania through her charity and also her recent visits to Ukraine supporting communities there. Many of us wanted to help practically with her work, so on Sunday 25th January there will be a retiring collection after the 10.45 service at Edensor for Pam's charity.

FROM THE REGISTERS

ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

4th December - Memorial Service

Sheila Fairley

'THE BRIDGE'

The magazine subscription for 2026 is now due - £12 per year.

Please give the money to the person who delivers your magazine. **Cash or Bank transfer are the preferred payment methods. If you pay by bank transfer the account name is Edensor PCC.**

Co-op Bank

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account Number: 65414327

Please use the reference '**parish magazine**' and let me know if you have made a payment this way so that I can mark you down as 'paid'.

If you are only able to pay by cheque this should be made payable to **Edensor PCC**.

If I post the magazine to you please add the cost of a book of 12 stamps (12x 2nd class stamps = £10.44) to your subscription or send a book of stamps to me, Liz Bradshaw.



Thank you for subscribing to 'The Bridge'.

St. Peter's Church 100 Club November Draw 2025

1st Prize £25 - no. 54 Peter Davie
2nd prize £15 - no. 90 Vacant number

Funds to church this month - £50

Ann Hall

Subscriptions for 2026 are now due in order to be eligible for the January draw.

These are payable at £12 per number held. Please make out cheques to:-

St. Peter's Church 100 Club

Thank you for your continued support.

We would like to invite new members for 2026 to ensure a membership of 100 throughout the year.

Membership is open to everyone from the villages and the church and their families and friends.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Ann Hall

Easy Fundraising

If you already SHOP ONLINE, or if you haven't yet done so, then why not use Easy Fundraising and help raise money for St. Peter's Church? There is no extra cost to you and a percentage from your purchase will come back to the church.



To Register : Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk

- Click on **Register**
- Choose **Saint Peter's Church - Chatsworth Park** as your charity and fill in the rest of the form

To Shop : Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk

- Search for your store in the alphabetical list
- Go ahead and shop

Choose from over 2000 of the UK's best-known retailers including names such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis and HMV and when you shop using the links on the easyfundraising site up to 15% from every purchase you make is donated to St. Peter's Church.

St. Peter's Coffee Rota

Do you enjoy chatting over coffee after the Sunday service? If so, then why not consider adding your name to the rota?

Two of our long term couples have decided, for various reasons, to hang up their tea towels, so we will be down to four couples, which makes swapping your duty a little more difficult.

Do have a think about it and if you would like to put your name down have a word with Liz or Lynne.



St. Peter's Edensor

Why Your Support Really Matters

Regular giving from worshippers, visitors and the community is the primary way that St. Peter's Church in Edensor resources itself.

By scanning this QR code and making an online donation, you will be enabling regular worship together with weddings, baptisms & funerals, Christmas and Easter celebrations, together with all of the activities the church undertakes in Edensor for future generations.

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to donate now!



St.Anne's Beeley

Why your Support Really Matters

Your support is very important to St.Anne's.

If you would like to make a gift, please scan this QR code with your phone camera. Your gift helps to keep St.Anne's open every day for visitors and the local community, and available for weddings, baptisms and funerals, together with services throughout the year.

St.Anne's church has a long story of faith; your gift enables this beautiful church to be enjoyed and treasured by future generations.



Thank you for your gift.

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to donate now!

The Padley Centre

The Padley Centre accept donations of clothing and household items such as bedding (no duvets or pillows); books, jewellery and bric-a-brac, which they can sell in their charity shop, as well as food, toilet rolls, kitchen rolls and hygiene products. Nadine will take these items down to Derby for booked slots.

They especially need tins of fish, meat, soups, tomatoes, fruit etc. and packets of cereal, tea and coffee and cartons of long life milk as well as toiletries and sanitary products. Items for the Padley can be left at the back of the church.

Telephone Numbers

<u>St.Anne's</u>	Wardens:-	Rupert Turner Fiona Swain	01629 732794 ex directory
<u>Both Churches</u>	Treasurer:- Safeguarding:-	Fiona Lichfield Sarah Porter	01629 813382 0786 669 5132
<u>St.Peter's</u>	Wardens:-	Elizabeth Bradshaw Lynne Clark	01246 582421 07767 652 624
	Treasurer:-	Mark Titterton e-mail: mtitterton@me.com	01246 601475

OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM



John Everitt and Jemima Letts of the Chatsworth Forestry Team will be talking through their joint experience of autism - how it has affected life, work and logs and how learning more about it has revolutionised their experience of working together. Come and hear their personal, inspiring, and very funny story and their answers to all the questions you have about autism but were afraid to ask!

SAT 24 JANUARY 2026

AT ST PETER'S CHURCH, EDENSOR, DE45 1PH
2PM~3:30PM

Tickets £10

Available from 07767 652624 or on the door

Dates for your Diary - January 2026

13 **BEELEY WI Monthly Meeting** - 7.30pm Beeley Village Hall
Crafting - Jude Shore
Refreshments & raffle: Helen Boyce and Laura Boyce

20 **BEELEY HERITAGE SOCIETY** - 7pm Beeley Village Hall
Chris Boyce giving a presentation on Beeley Church.

21 **CHATSWORTH WI Monthly Meeting** - 7pm Cavendish Hall
Speaker: 'Making a Succulent Picture' - Sandra & Linda (Craft activity)
Competition: Bring a picture of a plant.

29 **CHATTY CRAFTS** - 10-12noon in the Cavendish Chapel, St. Peter's Church. Do come and join us for a chat, a cuppa and even some crafting!



Crufts welcomes mongrels

The Royal Kennel Club, which runs Crufts, is going to admit mongrels for the first time in its 150-year history.

Crufts will become a 'year-round community', available to all dog owners, whatever kind of dog they have. Its new online platform will launch in February 2026.

Jannine Edgar, chief executive of the RKC explains: "While our initiatives in areas such as health, research and breeding have historically been focused on pedigree dogs, we recognise that dog ownership has evolved and therefore we must too."

So now our remit extends to all dogs, and we will be investing our efforts to do more for every dog and their owners through the Crufts brand, which will be much more than an annual show."

This year Crufts Dog Show takes place 5th to 8th March at the NEC in Birmingham. Crufts has also held events aimed at non-pedigree dogs since 2000, after launching the crossbreed competition 'Scruffts'.

The late Queen, who was devoted to her corgis, was patron of The Kennel Club for 70 years. Following her death, the King granted the organisation a royal prefix in 2023.

Eating alone ‘bad for pensioners’ health’

Pensioners who eat at home alone are more likely to suffer from poor nutrition and health.

So says new research. It has found strong links between dining solo and diets of poor quality, with fewer fruit, veg and meat. This can lead to weight loss and frailty.

Researchers at Flinders University in Australia are instead highlighting

the importance of community-based initiatives – such as neighbourhood meal groups, intergenerational dining programmes, or local café partnerships to mitigate the harms of eating alone.

As one researcher explains, “Food is more than the nutritional benefit it provides. Sharing a meal is an important social activity that can influence appetite, dietary variety, and overall well-being for older adults.”

What, oh what, is that person’s name?!

Do your New Year Resolutions include the forlorn hope that you will be better at remembering people’s names in 2026?

Many of us – and not only those of the older generation – have difficulty remembering names. It’s not just TV personalities and so on, but people we meet in the street. We know exactly who they are, we see them every week in church or the supermarket, we know what job they do and which school their children go to. But as for their name – it’s a blank.

Help is at hand, however. Not to solve the problem, but at least to

name it. ‘Anomic aphasia’ is the clinical name for the inability to remember a name, even when we can remember everything else about someone.

There is also the strange truth that the cure for anomic aphasia comes spontaneously, often in the middle of the night, when that elusive identity pops unbidden into our memory. We must be sure, of course, to put the light on and write it down, because for sure it will be gone again with the morning light!

Our long love affair with coffee

London's first coffee house opened in 1652, using beans imported from modern-day Yemen. Although many in Cromwell's Britain had doubts about this new drink, others welcomed its reviving effects - and asked for another cup.

Nearly 400 years on, coffee drinking in Britain is a vast industry. We drink 98 million cups of it every day. Even though a takeaway flat white can now cost you more than £5 in London, still coffee has become a daily necessity for millions of us.

And nearly 400 years on, we can better appreciate why this should be so.

Coffee keeps us awake. This is because when caffeine accesses the brain, it actively blocks our

adenosine-producing receptors, which run our sleep-promoting system.

Coffee makes us alert. The caffeine drives our brain towards a more excited state which allows us to process information faster.

Coffee can also improve our mood, especially during the winter, when the loss of daylight acts as a depressant.

And although too much coffee can make us jittery and even prone to heart palpitations, there is growing evidence among neuroscientists that coffee can even help to lower our risk of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

Why you should aim to eat the rainbow

The supermarket chain Tesco has reported a surge in demand for brightly coloured vegetables, from rainbow carrots to pink onions.

The trend follows calls from nutritionists for people to 'eat the rainbow' of fruits and vegetables, so

that they get the whole range of vitamins and minerals.

Demand for rainbow carrots and pink onions is up by 100 per cent this autumn versus last, the demand for rainbow chard is up 70 per cent and that for Cavolo Nero – also known as 'black cabbage' – is up around 30 per cent on last year.

Brief Notes from St. Peter's PCC Meeting held on Wednesday 19th November in the Cavendish Chapel

Rev'd Mark opened the meeting with a prayer.

Ten members of the PCC were present with apologies from David Hartington

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 17th September were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: Live Streaming: The camera has now been set up and trialled. There will be a private link for a few weeks; a microphone has been placed in the roof to provide ambient sound. It is hoped that we will be able to go live with it in January. The experience of other churches offering live-streaming suggests that there is an increase in congregations on the ground once this is in place.

Website update: Jemima said that there are just a few more things to sort out and she hopes we will be able to go live with the new website in the new year. Many thanks to Jemima for all her hard work with this.

Churchyard tree: Jemima told the meeting that Chatsworth Forestry plan to remove the damaged tree in the new year. Other work needed will be done at the same time.

Perimeter wall: The Vicar, Liz and Lynne had met Richard Lee, a consultant recommended by Chatsworth, to walk round the perimeter wall and are now awaiting his report.

Vicar's Report: St Peter's is now registered as an 'Eco' church and is currently on target for a bronze award.

There have been several special services - Stewardship; Harvest; Remembrance Day and all were well attended.

Revd Mark reported on GDPR, a subject which had been raised at the last meeting, especially about legal responsibility and data control. He said that the data controllers are himself and the PCC as we have a responsibility by law to maintain certain information for the electoral roll and marriages etc. He said that it might be useful to have a privacy notice which could be put on the website, he has put something together and will ask David Hartington if he would do this for us. At the moment, all data is given with consent so further consent form is necessary.

The PCC need to reaffirm David Neale as a Reader; this needs to be done every two years. The meeting was unanimously in favour of this, and grateful for all the help David offers to the vicar. Rev'd Mark will now write to Bishop Libby regarding this.

An email had been received from Ed Bond, re the churchyard. He would like to continue mowing for us next year, but would like to increase his charge per cut from £475 to £525 as the process takes longer than he had thought it would. He will also include a mole-catching service as part of this, and when asked, he was also willing to check the safety of the gravestones and report back, as this is something flagged in the QI. Whilst this will incur an annual increase of £800, the meeting felt that he cares about what he does, and the area looks good, but we will review the number of cuts to be done next year.

Rev'd Mark told the meeting that he has asked Harry Bowman about the possibility of having an Estate Christmas carols and mince pies event in church and this has been arranged for Wednesday 17th December at 4.30pm.

Finance: The financial statement had been sent to the PCC prior to the meeting.

- The Common Fund was discussed and a further amount would be paid this year to bring the total to the amount pledged and the amount we will pledge for the next financial year was discussed and decided upon.

The meeting wished to thank Canon Mark for his skilful management of St Peter's funds

Safeguarding: Nothing to discuss

Heritage Lottery Fund: Rev'd Mark had sought some 'off the record' advice about how to proceed and this was discussed. St. Peter's is on the 'At Risk' register so may be well placed to receive a grant for repairs from HLF.

Fabric: The proposed work on the striking mechanism of the church clock will begin on 2nd December and Smith's will take the parts needing repair/replacement to their workshop. The cost for this work will be £2,077 +VAT. The clock will still work, it is only the strike that will be affected and Nick Wood will send a message round the village so residents know what is happening.

It has been noted that there is a 25' drop at the west side of the church down into the yard at Guide Cottage, with only a very low parapet. Rev'd Mark has mentioned it to Harry Bowman, and he and the churchwardens are now in negotiations with the Estate regarding what should be done.

A Health and Safety Report needs to be put in place and David Hartington will be asked if he would do this for us; there is a template he could use on the EIG website. We also need a tree survey and Jemima will get a quote for this.

Fundraising: Lynne updated the meeting on fundraising events -

- two tickets left for the Christmas wreath workshops
- Jemima's talk 'Opposite Ends of the Spectrum' Saturday 24th January 2-3.30pm
- Author Stephen Booth will come to give a talk sometime after Easter.
- Rev'd Mark has agreed to give his talk about Francis Thompson and Edensor Vicarage.
- Sir Richard Fitzherbert will give a talk about being High Sheriff.
- Ed Austin from Chatsworth will give a talk about biodiversity.
- David Spencer will deliver one of his talks, topic tbc.
- Someone from Derby Museum will give a talk about 'The Making of Derby Museum of Making'.
- Jonathan Foyle, an architect and historian (who has abseiled down many historic buildings), has been emailed to request a talk but has not yet replied.
- A Tudor Festival is planned for 2027.
- Springwatch presenter, Jack Baddams will give a talk on 11th September at 7pm.
- Jonathan Moseley will give a flower arranging demonstration at St Peter's, date tba.

AOB:

- Village lights switch-on: 4th December
- Christmas wreath making workshops with Mick Brown: Wednesday 10th December 10am and 2pm.
- Carol Service: 15th December
- Carol singing: 22nd December

PCC meetings for 2026:

- Wednesday 21st January 7pm (apologies already received from Mike Woodcock)
- Wednesday 25th March 7pm
- Sunday 31st May APCM after morning service
- Wednesday 8th July 7pm
- Wednesday 16th September 7pm
- Wednesday 18th November 7pm

The secretary had circulated the Diocesan Synod report from Claire Collishaw and it was well received.

Rev'd Mark said that there had been an interesting talk about farming and the rural community by Alison Fletcher at the Deanery Synod meeting.

External Christmas Decorations: Mike Pindar and Steve Wilton had put up the lights on the trees on the south side of the church, but had not done the large tree on the north side. Christine said that it's a shame not to use the lights bought for the tree last year, and offered to put them across the top of the north steps if that would be easier since the tree has now grown so tall and the bank is very steep. Mike will let her know.

The Meeting ended with the Grace at 8.15pm

Church of England weddings at historic low

The Church of England conducted fewer weddings than ever in 2023, as the number of people in England and Wales getting married in religious ceremonies has slumped to a new low.

In 2023, 23,004 marriages were recorded by the Church of England and Church in Wales, according to recent data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). It is the lowest number since the 1830s, except for 2020, when churches were closed during the pandemic.

In total, 216,901 weddings of opposite-sex couples took place in 2023. The majority (184,428) were civil ceremonies. There were 32,473 religious weddings, of which 70 per cent were held in Anglican churches.

The Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, told the Daily Telegraph: "We want to reassure couples that they don't have to be churchgoers to have a church wedding, they don't need to be christened, and we welcome couples who already have children."

Why we have Plough Sunday

In bygone years, the supply chain of food across Britain was fairly short: if it didn't grow in your local fields, you were apt to go hungry. Hence the widespread traditional custom of Plough Sunday – bringing a plough (and sometimes a lamb as well) into church and praying for God's blessing on the land in the year ahead.

Traditionally, Plough Sunday was held on the Sunday after Epiphany, which makes 11th January this year's special day. Parishioners would often walk through their village collecting alms for the poor, before gathering down at the church. Farmers would

sometimes roll up on their tractors at the church door (though there are no stories of any farmer trying to bring his tractor into the church!) Work on the fields would then begin on Plough Monday, the day after the prayers for blessing.

These days, with supermarkets delivering food all year round, the nature of Plough Sunday has changed into a general celebration of farming and the work of farmers. In the C of E's Common Worship there is a suggested prayer for the 'Blessing of the Plough'.

What makes snow stick?

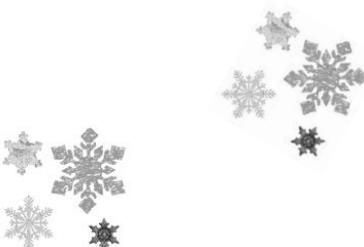
Depending on whether you are a child with a sleigh or an adult trying to drive home, snow is either your friend or your foe. And sometimes snow can be hard to understand....

Matt Taylor of the BBC Weather, recently named a couple of reasons as to why snow behaves in the way that it does. For instance:

Ground temperature plays a massive part when it comes to whether snow sticks or not. When the weather has been relatively warm, the ground will

store some of that warmth and melt the snow more quickly. This happens faster on roads and pavements than on grass, which transfers the heat from the ground more slowly.

Sunshine helps melt snow, and any snow covered in dirt and debris will melt even quicker, as the darker surface absorbs the warmth from the sun more readily.



6th January - What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and

with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!



Bishop of Tewkesbury to be new lead safeguarding bishop

The Bishop of Tewkesbury, Rt Revd Robert Springett, is to be the Church of England's new Lead Safeguarding Bishop, taking over from Bishop Joanne Grenfell who leaves the role at the end of March 2026, when her three-year term ends.

Bishop Robert will work closely with the National Director of

Safeguarding and other members of the National Safeguarding Team.

The C of E is continuing to strengthen its safeguarding practices by committing to independent scrutiny and improving delivery. Bishop Robert said, "Safeguarding should not be seen as a burden, but embraced with joy for the opportunity it offers to serve others."

Fuelling children's potential

The international children's charity World Vision has recently published a new research report, *School meals in our words: Choosing our future*, to demonstrate the positive ripple effect that meals at school are having on children's lives across the globe.

The report comes at a time when the World Food Programme has warned that, despite a significant increase in government-led school meals programmes, it is estimated that half the world's primary school-aged children go to school hungry.

Yet World Vision found that children worldwide consider school meals very important to their daily lives. The regular food gives them the energy to learn, and a reason to come to school on a regular basis.

World Vision prioritises school meals through its Child Sponsorship programmes and through partnership with the School Meals Coalition. In 2024, nearly one million children were provided with school meals through World Vision projects.

Remembering Agatha Christie

50 years ago, on 12th January 1976, Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright died. Best known for creating the characters Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

Agatha Christie was born in Torquay in 1890, the daughter of wealthy parents. In 1914 she married Archibald Christie, and Rosalind, their only daughter, was born in 1919.

Agatha produced her first detective story in 1920, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, which introduced Hercule Poirot. Her marriage failed in 1928, but not her desire to write; for in 1930 she produced *Murder at the Vicarage*, and Miss Marple arrived.

That same year, 1930, Agatha married again, this time to an archaeologist Max Mallowan, who was 14 years her junior. They had met when Agatha visited an archaeological dig at Ur, a major ancient Sumerian city-state located in modern-day southern Iraq.

After the war, Max became Professor of Western Asiatic Archaeology at London University and as Director of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq he excavated at Nineveh and Nimrud 1947–61.

Agatha went with him, and her travels in the Middle East inspired *Murder in Mesopotamia*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile*. Back home, in 1934 the couple had found a peaceful and elegant home just outside of Wallingford, where they lived for many years.

In all, Agatha wrote more than 100 novels, plays and short stories. The undisputed 'Queen of Crime', she is the best-selling novelist of all time. Some two billion copies of her books, translated into at least 100 languages, have been sold. Her play *The Mousetrap*, has been in continuous performance in London since 1952, breaking all records.

Journeying in 2026

It is January, and the adverts for summer holidays are hitting our TV screens again. But have you ever considered a walking holiday with a spiritual side to it, here in the UK? If so, Journeying might be a website well worth visiting (<https://www.journeying.co.uk>).

Travelling through beautiful landscapes to places where for centuries people have felt especially close to God – sacred places, places of pilgrimage – Journeying holiday groups are small, perhaps a maximum of 12 including two leaders who stay with the group throughout.

There is a family feel and a sense of community, with everyone accepted just as they are. The days are not crowded with activity, allowing space and time for reflection.

The origins of Journeying lie in pilgrimage, and Celtic spirituality is a thread woven through all that they do. Their purpose is to enable guests to venture out, leave the every-day and connect with God in Creation, in each other and in themselves.

Each holiday has a rhythm of gentle prayer; morning and evening and occasionally when the group are out, perhaps by a mountain stream or on a hillside. All who feel the informality and ambience of the holiday will help nurture their own spiritual journey, are warmly welcomed.

The 2026 programme includes holidays with long walks, short walks and some with elements of retreat:

The Island of Anglesey. 24th- 30th April

Llŷn Peninsula, North Wales. 16th - 23rd May.

Caldey Island Pilgrimage retreat, West Wales. 4th- 8th June

Grasmere and Lake District. 14th - 19th June

Monasticism in the Wye Valley. 6th - 11th July

Canterbury, England. 17th- 24th August

Tenby and the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path. 12th- 19th September

Late Summer in Oxfordshire. 22nd- 25th September

More info at:
www.journeying.co.uk

Michael Bond, creator of Paddington Bear

It was 100 years ago, on 13th January 1926, that Michael Bond, the children's writer, was born. He has an assured place in any literary Hall of Fame, for he created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Paddington Bear padded into Michael Bond's life quite by accident. It was back in 1956 that Michael was on his way home from work at the BBC when he spied a lonely looking teddy bear on the shelf in a shop window in London. On the spur of the moment, Michael decided to take it home as a stocking filler for his wife.

Michael called the bear Paddington, because they lived near Paddington Station at the time. Two years later, in 1958, while daydreaming over a typewriter and a blank sheet of paper, Michael wondered what might happen if an unaccompanied bear turned up at a railway station looking for a home.

The rest is literary history.

His first book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was written in ten days and published by Collins in October of 1958. 28 more books followed, and in all more than 35 million Paddington books have been sold worldwide, in more than 40 languages. More than 27 million Paddington Bear soft toys have been sold, just since 2021. The films alone have grossed more than \$778 million.

Paddington made his most famous appearance at Buckingham Palace in 2022, where he had tea with Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee, and exchanged tips with her about the best place to store marmalade sandwiches.

Bond was born in Newbury in 1926 and served with the RAF and army during WW2. He started writing in 1945 while stationed in Cairo, and began his career at the BBC, where he later worked on Blue Peter as a cameraman. He died in 2017, aged 91.

God in the Sciences - Science and Miracles

Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in text-books are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character, His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.

A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that “We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches.” For the non-believer, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book *True Scientists, True Faith* (Monarch, 2014) she writes: “Even when I was an atheist I

used to get cross at discussions...on how all Jesus’s miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a God, a supernatural being, then it’s obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses.”

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don’t seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don’t.

Many in Jesus’ audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God. The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what ‘your kingdom come’ looks like in our communities. God works through us in words, works and wonders.

World Leprosy Sunday - 25th January 2026

We read about leprosy in the Bible and assume it is a disease of the past. But leprosy is very much a disease of today, with more than 200,000 newly diagnosed cases every year.

That means that every two minutes of every day, someone hears the words 'you have leprosy'. Three short words, but they carry thousands of years' worth of fear, stigma and shame.

Leprosy thrives in areas where poor nutrition, overcrowding, shared wash facilities and low standards of living naturally lower people's immune systems.

Lepers will suffer growing numbness and worsening nerve damage, ulcers and finally even amputations. They will also suffer the hurt and shame of

being an outcast, often abandoned by their own families.

And this is where The Leprosy Mission steps in, and with the support of churches in the UK, works to help the sufferers of leprosy around the world. The Leprosy Mission is a medical Christian mission which helps people with leprosy both medically, spiritually, and practically. With your help, their Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Centres can give sufferers a chance to learn a skill and get a qualification.

In Mark 1, the leper said to Jesus, 'If you are willing, you can heal me.' That plea still stands today – if we are willing, we can help The Leprosy Mission to still do Christ's work of healing and rehabilitation today.

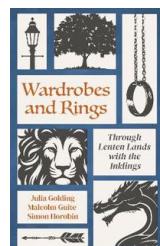
More details at: <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk>

Wardrobes and Rings - Through Lenten Lands with the Inklings

By Julia Golding, Malcolm Guite, and Simon Horobin, Canterbury Press, £12.99 (Book Review)

Drawing on the work of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, as well as friends of the Inklings such as Dorothy L. Sayers and T.S. Eliot, this book explores through their eyes a faith

which is tinged with seriousness, creativity and joy. Using their fiction, poetry, and essays, the book offers daily readings and reflections on the cross and resurrection, helping you to rediscover Lent through the lens of imagination-infused faith.



Menai Suspension Bridge celebrates 200 years

If you have ever gone to Anglesey, chances are that you used the Menai Suspension Bridge (*Pont y Borth*, in Welsh). A lot of people do – an average of 13,300 vehicles a day, or about 4.8 million vehicles a year.

The bridge celebrates a big anniversary this month: it is 200 years old. It was formally opened on 30th January 1826, to link Anglesey (*Ynys Mon*) to mainland Wales (*Gogledd Cymru*).

The bridge is special – it is the world's first ever major suspension bridge, with a 176-metre span. Designed by Thomas Telford, it took seven years to build and has been a huge success. It made the crossing safer (until then famers had had to swim their livestock across the

strait), and it also made the crossing more dependable and quicker for everyone, cutting hours off the trip from London to Holyhead.

The bridge has changed a bit over 200 years – the original wrought-iron chains were replaced with high-tensile steel chains in 1940, the bridge was reconstructed after a fire in 1970, and in 1998 it was brought under the management of UK Highways A55 Ltd.

But the Menai Suspension Bridge is still a much loved and critical road bridge for Anglesey, and there will be warm celebrations for it this month.

To put the history of the bridge into perspective: it was built nearly 25 years before Big Ben (in 1859) and more than 60 years before the Eiffel Tower (in 1889).

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), held each year on 27th January, marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

Under the Nazis, six million Jewish men, women and children were murdered, as well as millions of Gentiles. Holocaust Memorial Day also commemorates the more recent persecutions and slaughter in

Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

A spokesman explains: "HMD is for everyone. Each year across the UK, we bring people together to learn more about the past, empathise more with people today, and work to build a better future. Together we bear witness for communities who suffered attempted annihilation, and we honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition."

Our irrepressible poet Nigel Beeton was inspired to write another version of a famous hymn...

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

See, amid the winter's snow
Lots of cars that just won't go;
It is not the drivers' fault –
Councils have run out of salt!

*Here, we sit the whole night long!
Where have all the snowploughs
gone?
If we'd known we'd be delayed
We'd perhaps have brought a
spade!*

Say, ye cheerful children, say
Why aren't you in school today?
We are skating round and round
'Cos the heating's broken down!

*'Yes, the heating's gone beserk!
'Mum has missed a day at work!
'Though she's cross and seems on
edge,
'We can ride upon our sledge!'*

Sages on the weather show
Said the sun would surely glow,
And, said they, we may be sure
Of a glorious day in store!

*But they missed a detail, small
And the snow did thickly fall!
But the met-men feel no shame
—Their computer takes the
blame!*

By Nigel Beeton



The puppy (Smile)

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, surrounding a small puppy. Concerned lest the boys were hurting it, he went to investigate. One boy explained, "We just found this puppy, and we all want him. So, we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to take him home."

The minister was taken aback. "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie? Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for a moment. The minister thought he had got through to them.

Then the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police	101 for non emergencies (999 for emergencies)
NHS Direct	111
Derbyshire Domestic Abuse	08000 198 668 Text: 07534 617 252
Derbyshire Dementia Support Service	01332 208 845 derbyshire@alzheimers.org.uk
Mind (Sheffield)	0114 258 4489 info@sheffieldmind.co.uk
Cruse Bereavement Support	0808 8081677
Childline - for kids and young people	0800 1111
The Silver Line - helpline for older people	0800 470 80 90
Samaritans	116 123
Derbyshire Addiction Advice Service	01246 206 514
Farming Community Network	03000 111 999
Derbyshire LGBT+	01332 207704
Citizens Advice	0800 144 8848
Derbyshire Dales District Council	01629 761100
Derbyshire County Council	01629 533190

Baslow Health Centre – Church Lane, Baslow

www.baslowhealthcentre.co.uk

Patient Online:

Have you registered to use the online service? This allows you to book or cancel appointments on line (during normal service) and order your repeat medications. You can also request access to your Summary Care Record, and Detailed Coded Data contained within your medical records. You can also look at your test results.

Telephone Numbers:

Reception: 01246 582216

District Nursing Team 01332 564 900

Health Visitor: 01629 816633

Normal Surgery Opening Times

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri

8am-6.30pm;

(closed Bank Holidays)

(Phones 8am – 6.30pm Mon - Fri).

Surgery Closure

**The surgery will be closed on
New Year's Day.**

Ordering Repeat Medication

You can order repeat medications in the following ways:

- In writing or with our on-line access service
- Return your repeat request form to surgery by Post or Fax

Please allow **three** working days before collection and **collect between 8am and 5pm**

Prescriptions can be collected from reception inside the surgery.

Samples – if you need to leave a sample with us please ensure it is labelled with your name and date of birth and returned in a bag, if provided, either through the letterbox or at reception.

Test Results – Please ring for test results after 2.30pm as we do not receive test results back from the hospital until lunchtime.

For Urgent Calls when we are closed call 111

Pilsley C of E Primary School NURSERY

FREE childcare places AVAILABLE

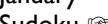
- Exceptional grounds for exploration and play, with Forest School activities, and an outdoor classroom.
- Highly experienced, well qualified early years practitioners.
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- High quality child-led learning and continuous provision.
- Links to the local churches and community.
- State of the art interactive smartboard technology in every classroom.
- Dedicated music, baking and PE sessions.
- Delicious home-cooked lunches, prepared on site.

1	5	6	9	4	8	3	7	2
3	9	4	2	7	6	1	5	8
7	2	8	3	5	1	9	4	6
2	4	3	6	1	5	8	9	7
5	8	7	4	2	9	6	3	1
6	1	9	8	3	7	4	2	5
4	3	5	1	6	2	7	8	9
8	7	1	5	9	4	2	6	3
9	6	2	7	8	3	5	1	4

December
solution



January
Sudoku



		6				9	
1	5		9	8			
4			6	5			8
6	4	3				9	
		7				8	3
5			3	2			9
			4	9		5	6
	2					3	

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Be smart – don't keep up appearances

If you are struggling with money as the New Year begins, you are not alone. Too many of us are using our credit cards as almost permanent extensions of our bank account, instead of as highly expensive loans.

So, this year, think about how just small changes could help you. For example, simply deciding to take your own sandwiches, and skipping lunch and coffee 'out' could save you £25 a week – that is £100 a month, or £1,200 a year – enough to pay off a big chunk of your heating bills.



THE CAVENDISH CLUB

The Cavendish Club is a wonderful facility for the people and associates of Chatsworth, located at the rear of the Estate Office building opposite Edensor village.

All Estate pass holders, tenants of Chatsworth, and Chatsworth sports club members are granted automatic free membership of the Club and are welcome to come along and enjoy the great atmosphere with their guests. We serve classic pub dishes and fabulous local beers and wines all of which are very reasonably priced in accordance with the core Chatsworth value of looking after our people.

We are open: Tuesday 16:00 - 23:00
Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 11:00 - 23:00
Saturday 16:00 - 23:00

Lunch options and light bites 11:00 - 14:00 Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Evening meals available 17:30 - 21:00 Wednesday - Saturday

Check out our Facebook page for details on our monthly quiz nights and special evenings

For enquiries, bookings and any other business just give us a call on 01246 565392 or email Andrew.Garrod@chatsworth.org. We look forward to seeing you!

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If you would like to place an advert for your business in our parish magazine, then please contact Liz Bradshaw for more information on prices etc. - liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk

CAVENDISH VILLAGE HALL, BEELEY

Looking for somewhere with bright modern facilities to hold your event and at reasonable cost? Beeley Village Hall is the place for you.

- Disabled access and toileting
- Fully equipped kitchen.
- Small meeting room seating 12 persons.
- Main hall seating 100 persons.
- Situated within a well maintained garden.



Currently used for Yoga, Flamenco dancing, band practice, Society meetings, Wedding receptions and of course parties. An ideal venue for anything from small one off meetings to regular courses.

Available for ½ day, full day or evening bookings.

For more information or to make a booking please contact 07900 214 286 or look at our website www.beeleyvillage.org.uk

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READINGS & ROTAS FOR JANUARY 2026



ST. ANNE'S, BEELEY

4	3pm	Family Communion
11	9.30am	Holy Communion
18	9.30am	Holy Communion
25	9.30am	Holy Communion

FLOWERS & BRASSES

Liz Turner
“ “
Sarah Porter
“ “

ST. PETER'S, EDENSOR

4	10.45am	Holy Communion	Mrs Jackson/Liz Bradshaw
11	10.45am	Holy Communion	Mr & Mrs Wardle
18	10.45am	Matins	Diana Walters/Christine Robinson
25	10.45am	Holy Communion	John Bowns/Mike Pindar

COFFEE

4	Mrs Jackson/Leslie Butcher
11	Ann & Tony Hubbuck
18	Kate Green/Christine Goldsack
25	Amanda Neale/Clare Giles

CLEANING

Fabulous Cleaners
Kate Green/Nick Wood
Fabulous Cleaners
Mr & Mrs Greeley

FLOWERS

Christmas flowers remain
Gloria Sherwood
“ “
Amanda Neale

READINGS

		ST. PETER'S	ST. ANNE'S
4	Ephesians 3:1-12	David Jackson	TBA
	Matthew 2:1-12	<i>Epiphany</i>	
11	Acts 10:34-43	Duke of Devonshire	Fiona Swain
	Matthew 3:13-end	<i>Baptism of Christ</i>	
18	Isaiah 49:1-7	John Bowns	Sarah Porter
	John 1:29-42	<i>Epiphany 2</i>	
25	I Corinthians 1:10-18	Susan Hobson	Rupert Turner
	Matthew 4:12-23	<i>Epiphany 3</i>	

Deadline for the **February** magazine: items should reach me **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 12th January** : email to: liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk
The 'Bridge' Parish Magazine £1 per copy (£12 per year)

THE CAVENDISH HOTEL

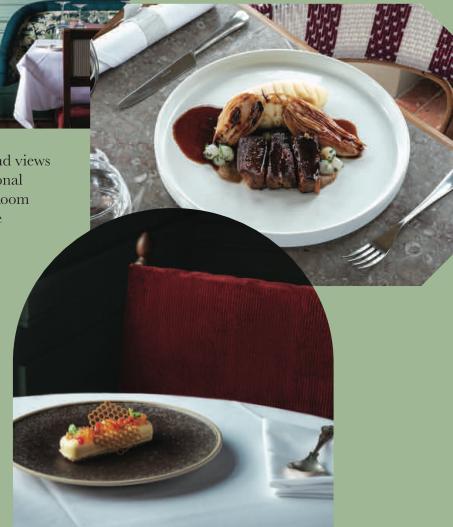
Fresh food
sourced from
the land

Our curated menus tell a story of the land with Chatsworth Garden fruits, vegetables and herbs, and ingredients from some of Derbyshire's best suppliers.



From the natural interior touches and views across Chatsworth Park, to the seasonal ingredients we serve, The Garden Room celebrates a strong connection to the surrounding landscape.

The Gallery Restaurant is a serene space to enjoy an ambitious take on the very best local produce. We look forward to welcoming you for lunch, dinner or afternoon tea soon.



For bookings and enquiries call 01246 582311
or visit cavendishhotelbaslow.co.uk

THE CAVENDISH HOTEL AT BASLOW | CHURCH LANE | DERBYSHIRE | DE45 1SP

If you would like to place
an advert on this page
please contact:-

liz.bradshaw@w3z.co.uk