NEWS FROM THE PEWS

DECEMBER 2025 (V1) www.stgiles-killamarsh.org

Celebrating Christmas in the United Benefice of St Giles Killamarsh and St Matthew Renishaw

Festive Services 2025 Everybody is Welcome!

Sunday 7th December 4pm Festival of Christmas Trees Carol Service at St Giles Killamarsh

Sunday 21st December 6pm Carols by Candlelight at St Matthew Renishaw

24th December: Christmas Eve 4pm: Carols & the Nativity Story at St Matthew Renishaw

6pm: Christmas Eve Holy Communion (formerly known as "Midnight Mass") at St Giles Killamarsh

25th December: Christmas Day 10am: Christmas Morning Holy Communion at St Matthew Renishaw

We Wish You A Blessed & Happy Christmas Season

For more details on any of the above please contact us via one of the following methods:

tel: 07932 529449

email: daniel.cooke@derby.anglican.org
Or find us on Facebook

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD APPEAL 2025 UPDATE

Ben and Rachel have confirmed that <u>sixty-six</u> shoeboxes filled with small toys and gifts, toiletries and school supplies for girls or boys aged 2 to 14 years old have been collected for Operation Christmas Child to distribute.

'Thank you to all of you who donated in any way and for your prayers to those children who will receive this precious gift and know the love of Jesus in their lives.'



Dear friends,

We are really looking forward to our first Advent and Christmas in the Benefice.

While it is one of the busiest times in the year for a clergy household, it is also one of my favourite times of year. My array of Christmas jumpers will soon be out, and the lights will be up at the Rectory!

My love of Christmas was passed on to me and my siblings by our mother, Iris. My mum did go a bit mad for Christmas... Mum loved to put up loads of decorations, she loved hosting parties, feeding everyone with far too much food, and she was really generous with presents. Remembering her joy at Christmas does make this a time of year when her loss feels quite close. I know that she wouldn't want me and my family to mope and weep though, she would never want us to lose our Christmas joy!

I know for many of you Christmas will be a difficult time. Bereavements, friends and family who live too far away to be able to visit, loneliness; there are many challenges which feel particularly acute during the festive period. If this sounds familiar to you, please do talk to me or other friends in our church family. A problem shared is a problem halved... Plus we can support one another in prayer if we know that members of our church family are struggling. We also have a wonderful ministry team here who are all more than willing to pray with you if feel in need of a bit of extra support. This applies all the time, but especially at Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Him who offers to share all of our burdens, and to lift us from darkness into light.

I would like to take the opportunity to pre-warn you, as a family we don't send Christmas cards. This avoids anyone being missed or forgotten, and, the main reason, it saves quite a few trees! So please do not be offended if you do not receive a card from us, we haven't forgotten or ignored you, we don't send any! Instead we give a special donation to charity of the money that we would have spent on cards. Also, we will not be offended if we do not receive cards either! I'm not going to suggest that anyone else doesn't send Christmas cards, I just wanted you all to know why we don't.

I'm really looking forward to sharing in Advent and Christmas with you all, and celebrating at our many services and events through December. In case I do not get the opportunity to offer you Christmas greetings in person, I shall take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to you and your kin for a very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year from the whole Cooke family.

God bless

Daniel

KEY DATES

Sundays in December– Services 10am at both churches in addition to the special Christmas services overleaf.



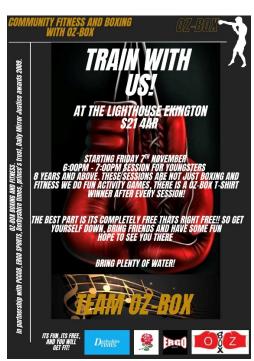
First Saturday of the month-St Matthew's coffee morning

Every Tuesday-St Matthews Coffee morning 9.45am-11am

Every Tuesday- St Giles Church Hall Warm Spaces 1pm-3pm

Sunday 7th December at 2pm-4pm. Killamarsh Bells, end of project celebration





ST GILES CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to all our volunteers and everyone who supported this event £405 was raised towards church funds.

ST MATTHEWS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This was a lovely event and thanks go to all who helped and raised money for our church. A total of £730 was raised.

ST GILES BELLS CELEBRATION EVENT 07.12.25

In June 2023 a project commenced to restore the Killamarsh Treble Bob in St Giles Church. The scope of the project wasn't simply to make repairs but also engage with the wider community. A number of events and activities have took place since the project began and we are excited to announce an open day event on **Sunday 7th December between 2pm-4pm**. Please come along to see the work completed and join us for some light refreshments as well as the launch of a fabulous booklet all about the restoration.

GINGER BISCUITS (Makes 36 approx.)

225g (8oz)Self-raising Flour

1 tspGround Ginger100g (4oz)Sugar75g (3oz)Margarine100g (4oz)Golden Syrup1 mediumEgg (beaten)

Oven 180°C /350°f/ Gas 4

- 1. Grease baking trays
- 2. Mix dry ingredients (flour, ginger and sugar)
- 3. Warm margarine and syrup then add to dry ingredients.
- 4. Add egg and mix well
- 5. Place teaspoons of mixture on baking tray.
- 6. Bake for 15 minutes
- 7. Once removed from oven place on wire rack to cool.

Recipe courtesy of Linda

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

May the Peace of the Lord be with you,

At Christmas and each day, With every candle that you light.

May faith illuminate your way.

Say a prayer for harmony, throughout the World, With every carol you hear and hope for a better future. With the passing of the year with his blessings from above.

Thanks be to God for his eternal love.

Amen

Poem by Ann Ward

RECTORY CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone number is **07932 529449.** Email address is **daniel.cooke@derby.anglican.org**

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Submissions for January Newsletter need to be provided by <u>20 December</u> to <u>stgilesandstmatthews</u> churches@gmail.com.



PATRONAGE SCHEME

The patronage schemes for both St Giles and St Matthews are in their fourteenth year. This is a wonderful way to support either church by being patron for the day (date of your choosing) and donating £25 towards the running costs especially if you wish to remember a loved one, a wedding anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, a family occasion or other special event.

This would also make a wonderful alternative gift this Christmas and be greatly appreciated by either church you support. For more details, please see our website or pick up a leaflet next time you're in church.