

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

DECEMBER 2025 (V1)

[www.stgiles-killamarsh.org](http://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](mailto:daniel.cooke@derby.anglican.org)  
Or find us on Facebook

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

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD APPEAL 2025 UPDATE

Ben and Rachel have confirmed that sixty-six 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.'*



## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## RECTORY CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone number is **07932 529449**.

Email address is **[daniel.cooke@derby.anglican.org](mailto:daniel.cooke@derby.anglican.org)**

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Submissions for January Newsletter need to be provided by **20 December** to **[stgilesandstmatthewschurches@gmail.com](mailto:stgilesandstmatthewschurches@gmail.com)**.



## GINGER BISCUITS (Makes 36 approx.)

225g (8oz) Self-raising Flour  
1 tsp Ground Ginger  
100g (4oz) Sugar  
75g (3oz) Margarine  
100g (4oz) Golden Syrup  
1 medium Egg (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*

## 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.