

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

AUGUST 2025

www.stgiles-killamarsh.org

INTRODUCING THE COOKES



Greetings!

It is with great joy that I introduce myself as your new Rector. My family and I are looking forward to moving to Killamarsh next month. We will not be formally joining you at Killamarsh and Renishaw until October, but the diocese have graciously arranged for us to be able to move house during the school holidays, for which we are very grateful.

I am currently enjoying some time on sabbatical, and will be finishing my tenure as Rector of St Michael and All Angels, Brimington appropriately at Michaelmas.

My wife Crystal is a Teaching Assistant, currently working at Woodthorpe CofE school. Our children are Beth and James. Beth has just completed her GCSE exams, and James will be taking them in the coming academic year. Beth will be starting her A level studies this coming year at college in Chesterfield, and James will be remaining at his current school in Staveley.

We come with a small zoo... Daisy the dog, Yarrick the cat, Smaug the bearded dragon, Apple the axolotl, and Greggs the goldfish...

Our family is "half" American. Crystal was born in Arizona, but has lived in various states in the West and Southwest. I was born in Texas, but raised on Teesside, with the North York Moors a constant backdrop! Crystal and I met while we were both studying at the University of Hull (during my final year of my undergraduate degree Crystal came over for a one year exchange programme, and hasn't looked back since!). We then moved to Nottingham where I studied at St John's theological college, followed by serving curacy back on Teesside. I was ordained in York minister June 2008.

Beth and James were both born in Middlesbrough, but have lived most of their lives so far in Brimington. We've been in Brimington since 2011.

As a family we enjoy walking, camping, and generally enjoying the great outdoors. Generally on my day off I'll be out in the hills somewhere!

I'm sure we'll share something of our faith journeys with you in the coming years, but essentially I am a "cradle Anglican", Crystal joined the Church of England prior to our marriage. Our children are both active church members, and are adept at serving at the altar, something they hope to continue at St Giles and St Matthews.

We all find fulfilment in bible study, with the children especially enjoying asking difficult questions! We are all looking forward to exploring our faith with you in small group and bible study settings in the coming months and years.

We would value your prayers as we undergo what will be a significant period of transition, especially for the children, who cannot remember our last house move.

We hope to see as many of you as are able to attend my induction on 7th October at St Giles, and/or our first Sunday services on 12th October at St Matthews.

God bless

Daniel

WELCOME FROM THE JOINT PCC LAY CHAIR

A massive warm welcome to Daniel, Crystal, Beth, James and the small zoo! The churches of St Giles and St Matthews look forward to meeting you and working with you.

Best wishes, Kay

KEY DATES

Sundays in August – Service's,
10am both churches



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

*Monday 11 August- St Giles PCC
meeting*

*Monday 1 September – Joint
Benefice PCC meeting*

AN UPDATE FROM ST MATTHEWS

On the 12th of July we held a very successful Strawberry fayre. Raising just over £872, a much needed boost to our funds.

We are looking forward to the new Rector joining us, it has been a hard couple of years for both churches, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We still hold our once a week coffee morning on Tuesdays and a craft session on alternate Tuesday during the afternoon. And our last monthly coffee morning on Saturday 3rd August was a really great get together, lots of laughter and banter it raised exactly £100. The people in Renishaw are very generous.

As always I thank all our helpers and supporters. At all our events wonderful people, We must not forget Mr Ray who continues to battle with the lawns around our church, and rings the church bell on Sunday, helpful and generous, also Richard Godley who supplies plants and tends to the flower boxes at the front of church.

God bless you all, Ann Morton

CHURCH ON THE BUS

Our churches have supported CotB for a number of years and this year marks 21 years of the charity.

In their recent newsletter they have asked for Gifts in Kind: they especially need small items for personal hygiene that can be easily carried, good trainers and walking boots, jeans and jogging bottoms, socks, thermal hats and gloves for winter, and new underwear. They can also use sleeping bags but not Duvet's. Please email churchonthebus@gmail.com if you can donate or to find out more.

ST GILES BELLS PROJECT EXTENSION

Work on the St Giles Bells Project was due to be completed in June but has been extended to September. There has been a lot of great work to date so please check out www.stgiles-killamarsh.org to see some of that work.

An upcoming event is the walk around the church yard (and possibly a little further) to look at the wildlife and the biodiversity, this is taking place on Thursday 14th August with a provisional start time of 11am at St Giles church, details to be confirmed prior to the day.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Unfortunately there was no newsletter in July and we really would like to continue with them, all ideas for content are welcome from the wider members of our congregations. Please provide your 'short' piece to the email address below for consideration for inclusion.

CHURCH WARDENS

On 1st July John Hall, Ann Morton and myself, attended the Archdeacons Visitation to be sworn in for another term as Church Wardens.

It was a lovely service conducted by The Ven. Karen Hamlin. The service lasted about an hour and it was really inspiring to hear the hymns sung by a full choir.

REMINDER: HERITAGE OPEN DAY AT ST GILES

The Heritage Open Day at St Giles 2025 will be at the beginning of September. Details to be confirmed when known, volunteers required to help with refreshments on the day.

SAFEGUARDING: KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE

Safeguarding training is required of all PCC members and an up-to-date safeguarding policy is available in both churches.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this subject then please contact Jenny Crump, Parish Safeguarding Officer for both churches.

Further guidance can be found on the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Submissions for July's Newsletter need to be provided by **25 AUGUST**.

Please submit via email (stgilesandstmatthewschurches@gmail.com) or inform members of the PCC's.

