

Deanery News

February/March 2023



Dear Friends,

St Augustine of Hippo is often rumoured to have said 'Solvitur ambulando' which translates as 'it is solved by walking'. Even if he didn't actually say it, it is a pretty good saying for a number of reasons.

Getting in our 10,000 steps a day is one way of keeping off the calories as well as (where possible) encouraging us out into the great outdoors where the benefits physically, mentally and spiritually can be considerable. My smartwatch beeps at me if I have been sitting down for too long so I have an extra encouragement to keep moving where possible!

As we begin Lent and look forward to the glories of Easter, we, too, are called to walk ever more closely with Jesus, walking in his very footsteps to the cross and beyond. We journey with him and his followers, walking the 'Way of the Cross' that leads to a beautiful garden and empty tomb.

It is rightly fashionable in Christian Spirituality to talk of our 'journey'. We are a pilgrim people walking with each other, with Christ and in Christ. We have a journey with an eternal destination and the seasons of Lent and Easter are there to be travelled to remind us of this, if we will but walk on once again.

Perhaps one of the most dramatic reminders of this is are the wonderful happenings on the Road to Emmaus where the post-resurrection Jesus walks alongside the two confused, disillusioned disciples and then transforms their world. Canon Francis Brown, a Catholic Priest from Ireland puts it this way:

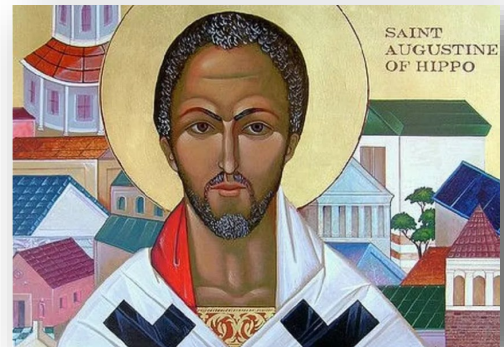
The story also emphasises the importance of community and fellowship in the Christian life. The disciples were not alone on their journey. They walked and talked together, sharing their thoughts and feelings. Similarly, we are not meant to live out our faith in isolation. We need the support and encouragement of other believers to grow in our relationship with God and to serve Him effectively.

As parishes, benefices, as a deanery and diocese, we are called to walk together in faith and in fellowship. That journey, with all its twists and turns, reflects the 'life in all its fullness' Jesus calls us to.

May we be blessed again in our journeying this Lent and Easter, knowing that it is indeed 'solved by walking.'

Yours in Christ,

Rev Steve Short. Assistant Area Dean



Breaking County Lines Course

County lines is becoming one of the most prevalent forms of modern slavery in our country. Breaking County Lines is designed as a resource to enable churches and communities to understand and raise awareness of the scale of the problem and to spot the signs of its presence. It also looks at ways of building resilience in our communities with an emphasis on the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This Train the Trainer course seeks to equip those looking to deliver their own Breaking County Lines Training within their communities. Participants will be encouraged to adapt the material to their own context and to initiate the formation of an action group undertaking practical initiatives to help raise awareness and build community resilience. The course will take place online on the following dates:

- Session 1: Wednesday 7th February 14:30-16:30
- Session 2: Wednesday 14th February 14:30-16:30

You can find more information about Breaking County Lines on The Clewer Initiative website: <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/breaking-county-lines-online>

Diocesan Summer Events leaflet



The Diocese are producing a Summer Events leaflet again this year and are hoping to get as many of our Summer Events in it as possible.

If they would like to advertise your event (flower festival, fete/fair, exhibition, concert, special service etc) you need to complete an online form by Sunday 25 February.

It's for church-based events running April – October and covers the whole diocese. Form linked below or can be found at the bottom of the Communications page on the website <https://derby.anglican.org/en/communications.html>

Do get your event in and let's see how much we have on offer here in Mercia Deanery.

Riding Lights Theatre Company



The Narrow Road by Paul Birch

A moving combination of powerful theatre, meditation and corporate worship.

Riding Lights Theatre Company are pleased to announce a revival of their acclaimed passion play *The Narrow Road* by Paul Birch, for the season of Lent and Holy Week 2024.

For many years, Riding Lights Theatre Company has toured its passion plays to churches, cathedrals and communities across the UK, providing a unique, revitalising experience of the drama of Christ's passion.

...vivid and contemporary, with moments of high drama...

Church Times

*A man stands alone on a dusty road, an extraordinary journey before him; one that will re-trace the footsteps of Jesus into a world of miracles and madness, violence and liberation. As **The Narrow Road** is walked, this turbulent world is turned upside down; its inhabitants confronted by an unexpected and surprising vision.*

*Meeting the characters and re-living the events of the gospels, this draws us back along that original road, through the place of the cross and into the challenge of a life beyond. Compellingly performed, **The Narrow Road** asks each of us to step out in faith on that journey today.*

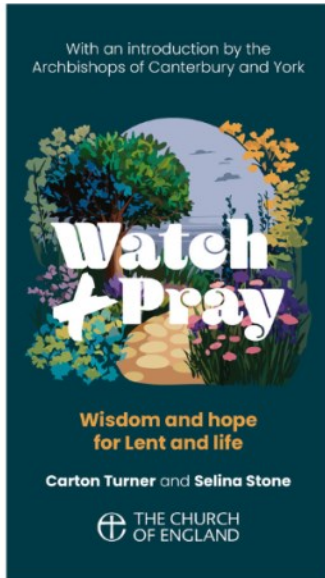
The performance opens up at key moments for other expressions of worship, music and reflection arising directly out of the drama, creating a powerful act of remembrance which is both participatory and reflective.

York-based Riding Lights is one of the UK's most successful independent theatre companies and is internationally renowned for more than forty years of touring productions.

Touring February 25th to Holy Saturday, 30th March 2024, we are taking bookings from churches and cathedrals now. Each performance costs £1,250 plus VAT, which allows you to decide whether you provide the performance for your community, accept donations from those attending or set your own ticket prices and keep all of the ticket sales. We give lots of practical support from our office including help with publicity and planning.

Please contact me on 01904 655317 (or email patrick@rltc.org) to book a performance or to discuss *The Narrow Road* with me further.

Lent Reading



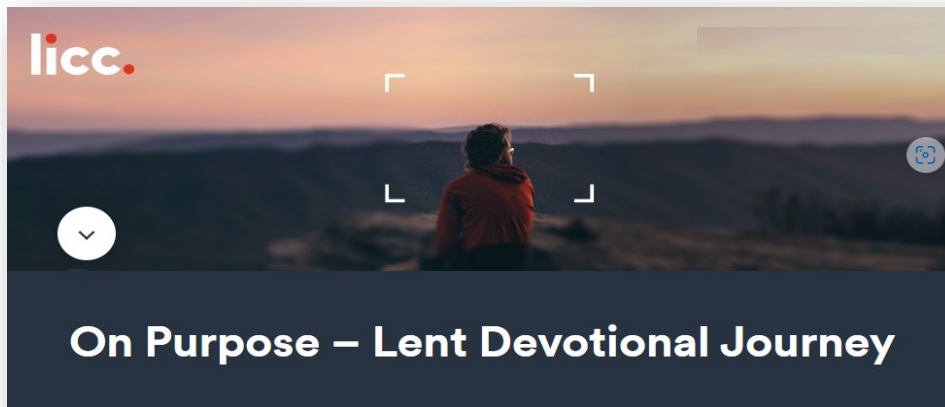
The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024, Watch and Pray invites us all to wait expectantly for God to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials we all face.

This Lent we are encouraged to draw on the wisdom of Black Spirituality, particularly the practice of "tarrying" (waiting) as a community to draw closer to Jesus and to each other.

The **booklet for adults** offers a daily Bible verse, a short reflection, an idea for 'watching', and a prayer. It invites us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.

The **booklet for children** offers a daily challenge to do, learn or think about something. There are also weekly themes, prayers and short Bible readings – all exploring the theme of Watch and Pray.

Find out about all the ways you and your family can get involved in the Watch and Pray journey, including booklets for grown-ups, videos for young people and ideas for churches and groups on the [Church of England website](https://www.churchofengland.org.uk/watch-and-pray).



This Lent devotional journey invites you to think differently about everything you do. Over 40 days, you'll get to grips with the Bible's view of purpose, and read true stories of how that purpose is worked out in all kinds of Christians' lives today.

Each week, you'll explore a different theme:

1. Purpose in work
2. Purpose in family
3. Purpose in friendship
4. Purpose in our interests
5. Purpose in our neighbourhoods

Finally, in Holy Week you'll prepare for Easter with an examination of how Jesus reveals his true purpose in the days before his crucifixion.

This journey comes with small group questions and videos to prompt discussion around each week's theme, making it perfect to run as a whole church.

To find out more follow this link: [On Purpose – Lent Devotional Journey | LICC](https://www.churchofengland.org.uk/watch-and-pray) or go to www.licc.org.uk

Post Holders ... information

Updating contact details

If you change your email address, please email enquiries@derby.anglican.org who will ensure our CMS system is updated.

Clergy - any change to your email address which is connected to your stipend also needs to be made by contacting the People System Support Team on peoplesystemsupport@churchofengland.org with the following information:

- Full name
- Person Unique Number (PUN)
- National Insurance number
- Both your old and new email address
- Date of birth

The Revd Steve Short will be licensed

as

**Priest-in-Charge for Foremark and Repton
with Newton Solney and of Willington**

on

Tuesday 19th March

at

7.00pm

at

St Wystan's Repton,

by

+Libby - Bishop of Repton

assisted by

Archdeacon Matthew Trick

You are warmly invited to attend this important event and the life of our Deanery.

Clergy and readers are invited to robe and to wear surplice, scarf and hood.

Please email Stephen Longden (stephenlongden@icloud.com) if you wish to attend and please indicate if you intend to robe.

Deadline for the May Deanery Newsletter

Please send in your articles to debbie.patrick@derby.anglican.org

Deadline - 19th April

Remember that anything you send looks much better with photo's so please send anything you have.

Dates for your Diary

Deanery Synod – Dates for 2024

- ◆ Wednesday 20th March – Venue TBA
- ◆ Thursday 11th July – Venue TBA
- ◆ Wednesday 20th November – Venue TBA

Deanery Chapter – Dates for 2024

- ◆ Thursday 15th February – 7 pm – *Greater Chapter* – Venue TBA
 - ◆ Wednesday 21st March – 1.30pm – 3.30pm – Venue TBA
 - ◆ Wednesday 17th April – 1.30pm – 3.30pm – Venue TBA
 - ◆ Thursday 16th May – 7pm – *Greater Chapter* – Venue TBA
 - ◆ Wednesday 12th June – 1.30pm – 3.30pm – Venue TBA
- ◆ Thursday 18th July – 6pm summer social possibly at new Repton vicarage

Learning webinars run by The Church of England

There are a wide variety of Webinars available and, having been on some, I can highly recommend having a look at the Church of England website and seeing if there is anything that could be useful to your church.

Go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/digital-labs/digital-labs-webinars#na>

And see what is available.

Mercia Deanery Benefices

- Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney ● Melbourne, Ticknal, Smisby and Stanton-by-Bridge
- Seale: Lullington, Linton, Castle Gresley and Overseal ● Stapenhill (including Caldwell)
- Trent and Derwent: Aston-on-Trent, Elvaston, Weston-on-Trent and Shardlow, Barrow-upon-Trent with Twyford and swarkestone
- Trent United: Walton-on-Trent and Croxall, Rosliston, Coton-in-the-Elms, Catton
- Winhill, Bretby and Immanuel: Stapenhill ● Swadlincote and Hartshorne ● Newhall ● Church Gresley