

Information & updates from the Vicar Mid-February 2026

Rev Tim Sumpter 74 The Ridings, Ockbrook, DE72 3SF.
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Dear Everyone,

Please find below some information about the life of our church family and some *special* upcoming services and events for the remainder of February, and March:

Lent 2026

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18th) with a 10am Holy Communion service with '*ashing*', at St Stephen's in Borrowash, and will end on Easter Sunday (April 5th).

Living a baptised life

Has been a theme running through the Sunday sermons throughout Epiphany and could be a useful challenge to us for Lent, as we seek to live lives that reflect the life and teachings of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Amazed by Jesus

This is the title of a book by Simon Ponsonby, which I (Tim) read whilst on sabbatical last year. I would recommend it as a companion through Lent, as a way of '*...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...*' (Hebrew c12 v2).

Children's Ministry Lead

It is a joy to welcome Jennie Ruddle as our next p/t children's ministry lead, and will begin the role sometime soon after February half-term. Jennie will be working 19 hours a week, Derbyshire school term-time only, with an additional week at both Christmas and the summer-holidays. Jennie will be especially overseeing the Sunday *Creche & Rise & Shine* groups, the Monday morning *Shining Stars* (carers & toddlers) and the Wednesday afternoon *Youth café*, all in All Saints' Ockbrook, alongside continuing the links we have with the Ashbrook & Redhill schools. Do please pray for Jennie, who can be contacted on: jennie.ruddle@hotmail.com / 07986 870321. Jennie writes:

Hello, I'm Jennie Ruddle and I have just been employed as the new Child Ministry Lead for All Saints' and St Stephen's churches. I am honoured to be given a role within the community that I have grown up in, working alongside parents and children at their most important developmental stage. I have always worked with children in a variety of roles from training to be a baby massage therapist, to running kids clubs as a youngster.

I am currently a primary school teacher working in Long Eaton. I have taught all ages but am currently teaching both Year 3 and Year 6. Prior to becoming a teacher, I trained as a journalist (both Radio and Television) with the BBC and worked in London at White City. I now live on Collier Lane with my husband and two children (who are 10 and 15 years old) and they both come to the Sunday Night youth club, which they love!

I am really look forward to meeting and working alongside you all when I start my new job after the February half term.

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Church Administrator

It is also a joy to announce that our next p/t administrator is going to be Jack Strand, who will begin the role on Monday 23rd February 2026. He will be working alongside and supporting me (Tim), and ensuring all necessary admin tasks are completed. As per the PCC directive, the role will be no more than 8 hours per week, with some weeks much less than that. Please pray for Jack, who can be contacted on: captianstrand@outlook.com / 07402 662755. Jack writes:

Hi everyone, I'm Jack, I have lived in Borrowash for around 8 years and love living here and the community, after attending various denominations and Churches over the years I recently made the decision to join All Saints, Ockbrook, as I wanted to show my support for the local church and connect with people in my local community. Since walking through the doors I have really felt welcomed and immediately felt I'd found my Church home, and I'm hoping to attend regularly and help out as much as I can, I am also currently attending the Alpha course, which I am really enjoying, when not at Church I deliver Autism Training and every few months I take disabled clients on holiday which has taken me to some lovely places, I look forward to getting to know everyone more and becoming part of the Church Family.

Vocational Placement

Rob Mosley is a very talented organist who leads the worship at St Stephen's in Borrowash (with the choir) three weeks per month. Rob is currently testing a vocation to the priesthood with Derby Diocese and will be on placement with us in the parish throughout most of Lent, from Sunday 22nd February to Sunday 29th March (Palm Sunday). Each Sunday Rob will be at both St Stephen's and All Saints' and will also be visiting other church groups. Please pray for Rob, who introduces himself below:

Hey everyone! Some of you may already know me as one of the organists at St Stephen's. I am currently at the very start of the vocation discernment process as I'm trying to ascertain what God is saying to me at the present time. This is a massively exciting time, and during this process I need to go and visit a parish that is different to my usual tradition. I'm an Anglo-Catholic really and am based at Christ Church in my hometown of Belper where they have a sung mass and all the 'bells and smells'! I'm so grateful that Tim has agreed to have me for this placement, and I'm really looking forward to meeting so many of you in the coming weeks at both St Stephen's and All Saints'.

So just a couple of things about me personally, I was raised a Baptist but re-connected with God in the Latin rite whilst living in Preston. I then found my home in the Anglo-Catholic tradition at the beautiful St George's church in Preston - do go and check it out if you're in the area! Outside of this, I'm a chemistry teacher, enjoy travelling and, for all my sins, am a die-hard Manchester United fan! God bless you all, I look forward to the coming weeks, and, if you wouldn't mind, please keep me in your prayers!

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Some special church services (a full list will be on the March news sheet)

Wed. 18th Feb. *Ash Wednesday* H/C with Ashing in St Stephen's, 10am.

Sunday 1st March *Taize Service* in All Saints', 11am (with Sarah Johnson).

Sunday 15th March *Joint 4ALL Service* in All Saints', 10am (Mother's Day). Please note there are no 9.15 or 11am services today.

All Saints' Caretaker

As Paul (Cullen) is now caring for his poorly parents we need a temporary (for an initial 6 months) p/t caretaker to help the smooth running of the All-Saints' building, both on Sundays, and during the week. If you are interested and would like a chat and to see the role description, please be in touch with me (Tim) asap. The position carries a remuneration of around £244 p/m. As the position will necessitate having a church key, the caretaker would need to apply for an Enhanced DBS Certificate, via our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).

March Newssheet

Please let Jack (administrator) have any items for inclusion no later than 12 noon, on Tuesday 24th February.

Church Family Away Day

On the recent PCC away day, it was agreed to hold a church family day away, to focus especially on how to practically develop our church vision of '*Making Christian disciples who love God, love one another and live out God's love in the world*', to help guide us over the next few years. The away day will be at a local venue (outside of the parish), on Sat. 24th October 2026, the first day of the autumn school half-term. Please keep this day free and more details will be shared asap.

February half-term

Tim will be away from work, Friday 13th Feb. 2026 to Saturday 21st Feb. 2026 inclusive.

And finally...

Please pray for; **1.** Paul and Suzanne Cullen. Paul's parents are both v poorly and Paul & Suzanne are commuting regularly to Liverpool to be with them. **2.** Kate, Andrew & George. George's is now at home, though is still needing a lot of specialised care. **3.** For Jennie and Jack as they begin their roles with our church families. **4.** For the ongoing Alpha course.

Thank you for all you contribute to the ongoing life of our church family and our ministry and mission in our community. Please pray for God's protection and blessing upon us all, and for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done among us - throughout our community, locality and nation - just as it is in heaven.

With love in Christ and ongoing prayer, *Tim*.