



All Saints Ripley St Andrew's Swanwick St Matthew's Pentrich

Parish Profiles



Combined Benefice of
St Andrew's Swanwick and
St Matthew's Pentrich

Context

Ripley, Swanwick and Pentrich are three neighbouring parishes in East Derbyshire, about half an hour from Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield and close to the Peak District. The three churches have recently started working together under one incumbent and ministry team, and are looking forward to developing mission and ministry jointly. This offers a wonderful opportunity for a curate to join in an expanding ministry across churches that represent a range of contexts including a market town, a large village and a rural parish, and a mix of open evangelical, gently charismatic and some more central churchmanship.

The Churches



All Saints Ripley is an open evangelical and gently charismatic church with an electoral roll of 100+. Pre-Covid there were two distinct congregations representing more liturgical and more contemporary worship styles, but starting in lockdown the two have combined into a single morning congregation who enjoy a range of worship styles, with the benefits of gathering together outweighing the preference for one style of worship or another. All Saints is blessed by its worship leaders, whether leading on organ or keyboard or a bigger band. Services are now livestreamed. We are looking to re-establish prayer ministry and the use of the gifts of the Spirit in worship into our now more diverse congregation, and within the constraints of livestreaming. We have a bi-monthly Young Church, and we also have Jam!, a monthly Saturday afternoon fresh expression service for families. Typical Sunday morning congregations are around 50 with 10 or so more online. The church is used by many in the town, with a thriving weekly community coffee and cakes, a toddler group, and busy festival and civic services, including a particularly large remembrance service. The vicar and an 'Open the Book' team lead assemblies in schools, and clergy take some lessons in the church or in school. Almost all schools come into the church for Christmas, and some for other festivals.

St Andrews Church is at the heart of the village on the main crossroads. It has a central, open evangelical churchmanship, with Sunday Communion weekly except for a monthly family service. There is also a Sunday afternoon fresh expression for families each month. The church has connections with the community, including hosting occasional concerts, civic services and other events and running a monthly coffee morning. Churches Together in Swanwick organise shared services and initiatives, including the hosting of a joint Christmas morning service rotating between three denominations.



St Matthew's Church was consecrated in 1150 and is centrally located in Pentrich village. It has a dedicated weekly congregation of about 15 people from the village and further afield, and draws in the local community for festivals and special occasions. Churchmanship is traditional and central. Progress is being made in combining the organisational structures of St Matthews and St Andrews, who have been two parishes in a

combined benefice for a long while, have a vision of being one church with two buildings and are exploring combining more formally. The recent partnership with Ripley church brings new opportunities, and a rekindling of an old connection, as Ripley was originally a daughter church in the parish of Pentrich, with a fair number of Ripley people still seeing Pentrich as their historical family church.

The Parishes

Ripley parish covers the town itself along with surrounding rural areas and some industrial sites, with a population of around 20,000. The area was previously characterized by mining and textile industries, and Ripley was the location of the large Butterley Ironworks. These industries have generally closed and been replaced by a variety of commerce and service industries. The town has developed in the last 250 years, with older housing and recent new estates. Many people have lived in Ripley all their lives, and the population is not ethnically diverse. The town is well served by buses; nearby train stations are a 15-20 minute drive away. There are nurseries, two infant schools, a junior school and two combined primary schools, and one secondary school; a hospital with a minor A&E unit, three doctors' surgeries and a number of dentists and vets, as well as number of care homes and complexes of warden controlled housing. There are numerous pubs, a few clubs, a leisure centre and various gyms. The town centre shops include a few well-known names as well as independent stores, and there are three supermarkets.

Swanwick parish covers the village and surrounding countryside, with a growing population of 5,000+ and active development of new housing estates. Relatively affluent in comparison with Ripley, although sharing the same industrial roots and strong connection with the Butterley Company, and limited ethnic diversity. There is a nursery, a primary school and a secondary schools in the parish as well as a special school covering primary and secondary, and the parish also includes the Swanwick Hayes Conference Centre. There are a few pubs, stores and cafés, and some care homes. With easy access onto the A38 there are a number of people who commute elsewhere for work.

Pentrich parish covers the village and three other hamlets, and is otherwise mostly farmland. Its population is around 500, and most people commute to work elsewhere. There are a couple of pubs in the parish, and various small companies located on farms and one industrial area.

The Role

A curate would work in a diverse team of clergy and readers who minister in one of more of the churches and bring a mix of experience and perspectives within the rich tapestry that is the Church of England. As a group of churches working together we have agreed to look forward with the image of an outstretched hand, representing different areas in which we will be putting our focus and looking for God's calling and direction. This is represented in the diagram below, which is outworked differently in each church community.



Finding Out More

To explore this post further, please initially contact Ben Griffiths or Dwayne Engh at the Derby Diocese. For Ben use ben.griffiths@derby.anglican.org or 01332 388693, and for Dwayne use dwayne.engh@derby.anglican.org or 01332 589769.

The Vicar of All Saints and Priest in Charge of At Andrews and St Matthews is the Revd John Wigram, john@wigram.org.uk or 07939 581202.



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL