



by Sir Richard FitzHerbert

## Church matters

We have our first official lady Vicar in the history of St Mary's Church. The Revd Carollyn MacDonald was confirmed as our Priest in Charge at a service in September. Along with Tissington, Carollyn will take charge of the needs of Alsop, Fenny Bentley, Parwich and Thorpe as well as spending 50 per cent of her time on church projects around Ashbourne. After 18 months of an interregnum we are delighted to welcome her to lead our flock and thank all those visiting clergy, including Ian and Ilonka Aldersley, who have looked after us in this period. Carollyn is well known in our area as she has been Assistant Curate at St Oswald's in Ashbourne for two years.



Photo: Gary Walls

St Mary's Church



### MR NORRIS 2002-2017

I am sad to report the death of our much loved cat Mr Norris. Mr Norris came to us from a local Chatsworth farm in the summer of 2002 and has been happily taking care of our mouse-catching needs for the past 15 years! Always one for a party he enjoyed the weddings at the Hall and was often seen in the early evening watching events on the dance floor (his favourite group was The Stray Cats, of course). Once he even joined me at the civil ceremony as I recited Edward Lear's 'The Owl and the Pussycat' in front of the entranced couple. It was at Herbert's Tearooms that he made the most friends as he patrolled the happy customers seated outside, or inside in bad weather! He caused much amusement right up until the last few weeks of his life. He leaves behind his partner in crime Mrs Hudson (aka Flora) who is already proving to be a solid mouser!



### #DAISY DACHSHUND

After Twitter and Snapchat the most popular of all social media apps is one called Instagram by which one can 'post' photographs and videos of oneself online, reaching a multitude of followers within seconds at the stroke of a finger. I have had both a personal account and a business account, the latter whereby I post snaps of functions and weddings at Tissington so as to publicise our 'product'. But now I can reveal that our lively and loveable dachshund Daisy has, at the tender age

of three, announced herself to all on this medium. It became apparent that Daisy was a far more photogenic face than I and so the children embarked on the crusade to get Daisy well known in cyberspace. Avidly researching the subject William found a huge amount of dachshund-friendly accounts and 'befriended' them all. The usual form is to reciprocate and Daisy now has over 200 followers. Check out her account on Instagram at Daisy Dachshund... She will follow you back!

### Seeing red

Our two post boxes in the village have become a bit of an embarrassment due to the serious lack of upkeep by the Royal Mail. Recently I was introduced to a website whereby we could email in to get them on the 're-painting list' for the Royal Mail. All I received was a holding 'it will be seen to soon' but now our missives' collection points have gone beyond the pale! The village is in uproar as it lets down our tidy community and soon I predict the locals will be taking things into their own hands as the boxes will be repainted overnight a different shade! Watch this space for more news on our post boxes or email [postbox.appearance@royalmail.com](mailto:postbox.appearance@royalmail.com)



### RING OUT THE BELLS

It is always amusing to come across a piece from a bygone local newspaper about previous members of the family. One of our guides was amused to present me with this short piece from the *Derby Mercury* of 3rd July 1833 as it recounts the return of the Third Baronet from visiting his Estates in Barbados and Jamaica: *'On the arrival of the London Mail in Ashbourne yesterday, intelligence was received that Sir Henry FitzHerbert Bt of Tissington Hall had safely arrived at Falmouth after having been on a visit of 8 months to his extensive properties in the West Indies. The character of the worthy Baronet is held in the highest estimation by his tradesmen and others in Ashbourn, and the announcement was hailed with every demonstration of joy; the bells of the church rang merry peals throughout the day.'*

I am not sure if I get that reaction today after our short trips abroad.