

HEXAD

December 2023

Peace on Earth

As I write, we have just moved from the season of Remembrance and now are looking ahead and planning for Christmas. Some of the words of my reflection for Remembrance Sunday are still clear in my mind and help me move on from one season to the other. Whilst remembering involves looking back at those who have given their lives in war and conflicts past and present, it also inspires us to look forward in the hope and desire of peace throughout the world. By now you may have spotted the word that goes with me as I journey from one season to the next. **Peace.**

I recall the words from the Bible book of Isaiah: *Unto us a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

I am then reminded of the words of a favourite Carol:

*O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth.*

You may recall the words are from the Christmas Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. How poignant it will be to hear the names of the Bible lands in our readings and carols this Christmas. In recent weeks Bethlehem has provided a backdrop to newsreaders as they have reported on the appalling death and destruction in Israel and Palestine. In contrast, the words of the Carol evoke an atmosphere of peace and calm. 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' tries to capture the mystery and meaning of what was happening on that first Christmas. It begins in a specific geographical location but ends in a spiritual place. Bethlehem's streets beneath the stars become our hearts beneath our hopes and fears.

Each Christmas we are reminded: *Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.* Christian hope is that peace in our hearts will lead to peace in our streets. I pray that you and your family know the peace of Christ this Christmas and for peacemakers and peacekeepers everywhere.

Revd Jayne Lewis, Co-Area Dean of The Launde Deanery

Hallaton Benefice Services

Church Services in the Hallaton Benefice

You are welcome in any church in any village. Details of services in the Whatborough Benefice are on the Benefice website.

December	3rd:	
9:30am	East Norton	Advent Holy Communion
5:00pm	Tugby	Advent Holy Communion
December	10th:	
10.00am	Hallaton	Advent Holy Communion
11:00am	Tugby	Christingle Service
5:00pm	East Norton	Carol Service
December	17th:	
4.00pm	Horninghold	Carols by Candlelight
5.00pm	Tugby	Carols by Candlelight
6.00pm	Slawston	Carol Service
6.00pm	Hallaton	Community Carol Service
December	21st:	
6.30pm	Allexton	Carols by Candlelight
December	24th:	
3.00pm	East Norton	Crib Service
5.00pm	Slawston	Crib Service
11.00pm	Tugby	Christmas Communion
December	25th:	
10.00am	Hallaton	Family Christmas Communion
December	31st:	
11.00am	Gaulby	Deanery Service

Zoom Services:

These will continue each Sunday at 11.00am apart from December 31st when the Deanery Service will be live streamed from Gaulby.

In addition there is a Zoom Carol Service on Thursday December 21st at 6.00pm

Full instructions and Zoom link can be found at the Launde Deanery Minster Community Website:

launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk

Parish News:

Horninghold:

Trees were in the news again in November, with necessary work completed on a tree in our churchyard. Our traditional Candlelit Carol Service will be on December 17th at 4.00pm followed by mulled wine and seasonal refreshments.

Slawston:

We are looking forward to our Christmas Services:

17th December - Carols by Candlelight @ 6pm with David Palmer - followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
24th December - Crib Service at 5pm with David Palmer.

Hallaton:

The weather did not deter people from coming out to mark Remembrance on 12th November. Our thanks go to Rev. David Palmer for taking a thought-provoking service in the church and at the memorial. The whole event was organised with expert precision by Denis Kenyon. Thank you to Denis and everyone who participated in the proceedings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Graham Buchanan and Phil Billings as they grieve their loss.

We are looking forward to our Christmas celebrations, which start with the Fair on 2nd December in the church. Please come along to do a spot of Christmas shopping and enjoy a delicious coffee, lunch or tea. Our carol service will be on 17th December at 6pm and our Christmas Day service at 10am. We look forward to welcoming you at some point over the festive period.

Allextton:

We shall be holding our Carol Service on Thursday 21st December at 6.30pm. It is always a lovely service and much enjoyed by a very friendly congregation and we would warmly welcome any new faces.

Tugby:

Our Remembrance Day service was very well attended and very moving as always.

Although the weather was inclement we did go out to the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance and two minutes silence. Many thanks to Kevin for playing the Last Post and Reveille.

Many thanks to Mary and Martin for all their hard work in producing Hexad for all these years.

Everyone will be very welcome at all the Christmas services, we would love to see you. Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Valete Hexad:

At a recent meeting of Church Wardens and Parish Representatives it was decided that after very many years Hexad has reached its sell by date. Gone are the days of Father Anthony pedalling around the Benefice with print copies and we welcome the days of instant, and paperless communication. Linda Jones distributes a weekly newsletter for the Benefice, which contains details of services, events in the Benefice and beyond, a weekly 'Reflection' and much else besides. If you would like to receive this please contact Linda at l.jones2k@btinternet.com

Thank you to the many contributors to Hexad over the years and especial thanks to Martin Griffin who has formatted it month by month. A monthly list of services within the Benefice will be distributed.

Hallaton Manor:

A small group of people from Hallaton and the surrounding villages join with the Revd. David Palmer in a monthly, short and simple service at Hallaton Manor followed by tea with the residents.

On **Tuesday December 12th at 2.30pm** we shall be having a Carol Service there.

Please come and swell the numbers. Just turn up at Hallaton Manor at 2.30pm and you will be made most welcome.

Celebration of Christmas with the Harborough Singers:

Saturday December 9th at 7.30pm in St Dionysius Church, Market Harborough

A flyer about this event is attached with the December Hexad.

Jubilee Food Bank: www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk

Our Churches continue to support the local Foodbank: Jubilee Foodbank Market Harborough.

You can drop off donations at Hallaton Church or to Linda Jones at 25, Eastgate, Hallaton *at any time*.

Details of items most needed can be found at:

jubileefoodbankmh.uk/shopping-list

Launde Abbey:

The Dairy Tea Room at Launde is open daily from 10.00am to 4.30pm for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Over the Christmas / New Year period double check opening times at www.laundeabbey.org.uk

Contact details for clergy (For pastoral support, baptisms, weddings and funerals):

The Reverend Jayne Lewis:

Priest in Charge of the Whatborough Parishes

Cold Overton, Knossington, Lowesby, Owston, Tilton-on-the-Hill

and with duty of care for the Hallaton Benefice

Telephone : 0116 2597244

East Norton, Hallaton with Allextton, Horninghold, Slawston, Tugby

email : jaynelewis28@gmail.com

Visit launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk

Safeguarding - children, young people and vulnerable adults:

The Benefice co-ordinator is Jane Anne Gore Brown who may be contacted on janeannegb@yahoo.com or on 01162598382.