



# Hallaton, Whatborough and Loddington Newsletter

Edition Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 3

6pm Launde Deanery **Zoom Carol Service** (*preceded by Christmas Party at 5pm*) **See special Zoom link below**

6.30pm **Allerton** Carols by Candlelight (Revd Jayne Lewis)

6pm **Cold Overton** Carol Service (Community Led)

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Advent 4, Christmas

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

5pm **Tugby** Carol Service with Nativity (Revd Jonathan Dowman, Madeleine Wang)

6pm **Hallaton** Carol Service (Community Led)

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 4, Christmas Eve

4pm **Tilton** Crib Service (Revd Jayne Lewis)

5pm **Slawston** Crib Service (Revd David Palmer)

11.15pm **Tugby** Christmas Holy Communion (Revd David Palmer)

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 4, Christmas Day

10am **Hallaton** Family Christmas Communion (Revd David Palmer)

10am **Owston** Christmas Communion (Revd Michael Wilson)

10am **Knossington** Christmas Communion (Revd Jayne Lewis)

11am **Loddington** Christmas Communion

11am Launde Deanery **Christmas Day Zoom Service**

**See special Zoom link below**

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

11am **Tilton** Launde Deanery/ Minster Community Service, **livestreamed on Zoom**

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 11.00am Zoom**

### **Launde Parishes Zoom Service**

**Leader & Reflection:** Helen Bence

**To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:**

**PLEASE USE THIS LINK:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKI91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.1>

**Meeting ID:** 836 7967 6342

**Passcode:** 079282

**DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:**

**T. 0203 481 5240**

Enter the **Meeting ID:** **836 7967 6342** followed by #

Enter the **Passcode:** **079282** followed by #

## **Saturday Mornings**

### **Zoom Prayer Meeting**

**Every week at 9am (meeting open from 8.55am)**

**All welcome. Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89820297969?pwd=HD1LgagamMFBN2y1m7p226w0h2KVkj.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2029 7969

Passcode: 470000

## Contact Us:

Revd Jayne Lewis: 0116 259 7244

[Jaynelewis28@googlemail.com](mailto:Jaynelewis28@googlemail.com)

## **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 6pm Zoom**

### **Launde Parishes Zoom Carol Service**

**(Same link for Christmas Party at 5pm)**

**To Join our Zoom Services, click on this SPECIAL link:**

**PLEASE USE THIS LINK:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5571435547?pwd=eXB3Y3NjB3lubXBDRm53ZU1DaStodz09&omn=89505825350>

**Meeting ID:** 557 143 5547

**Passcode:** 886481

**DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:**

**T. 0203 481 5240**

Enter the **Meeting ID:** 557 143 5547 followed by #

Enter the **Passcode:** 886481 followed by #

## **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Christmas Day 11.00am Zoom**

#### **Launde Parishes Zoom Service**

**Leader & Reflection:** Hilary Painter

**To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5571435547?pwd=eXB3Y3NjB3lubXBDRm53ZU1DaStodz09&omn=81719448007>

**PLEASE USE THIS LINK:**

**Meeting ID:** 557 143 5547

**Passcode:** 886481

**DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:**

**T. 0203 481 5240**

Enter the **Meeting ID:** 557 143 5547 followed by #

Enter the **Passcode:** 886481 followed by #

## **Collect for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

God our redeemer,

who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary

to be the mother of your Son:

grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,

so we may be ready to greet him

when he comes again as our judge;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **A reminder: Launde Deanery/**

### **Minster Community Service**

**Sunday 29th December at 11am**

**at St Peter's Gaulby**



**We look forward to see you - in person and on Zoom**

## Reflection: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

This Sunday's gospel reading tells of the meeting of two remarkable women – women who trusted in God. Elizabeth, despite her advanced years, has become pregnant, as the angel had announced to her husband, Zechariah, and so, some five or so months later, has her relative, Mary. Having heard the good news about Elizabeth's condition, Mary has lost no time in going to greet her. If she had any lingering doubts about what Gabriel had told her then Elizabeth's greeting, calling her 'the mother of my Lord' and the confirmation of John's response, as yet unborn, should have allayed her fears. Mary has been doubly blest – she is physically the mother of Jesus and spiritually as well. Jesus would later say 'My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it'. Mary has indeed heard the word of God and obeyed. Roman Catholics have no hesitation in using the expression 'Mother of God' to describe Mary, although Protestants are more uncomfortable with the term. The Orthodox churches refer to her as the 'Theotokos', which means 'God -bearer', a linguistically cumbersome but theologically neater way of putting it. She is the one who carries and then gives birth to the infant Jesus. She has a more intimate relationship with him than is possible for any other human being. And to do so she has taken a big risk. The stigma of being an unmarried mother was far greater than it is now and there was a distinct possibility that her planned marriage to Joseph would not go ahead. Yet she trusted in God that he could and would solve these problems. Similarly, Elizabeth trusted in God, that he would fulfil his promise, and that mother and baby would come safely through the pregnancy. Remember, infant mortality and the risk to a mother's life were considerably greater in those days. We acclaim Elizabeth in being the first to recognise that Mary carried within her the Saviour of the world. Here are two remarkable women with an essential part to play in God's purposes for humanity. Both present us with a challenge. Are we, like Mary, prepared to let Jesus into our hearts and lives, no matter what the cost? And are we, like Elizabeth, able to see that same Jesus Christ in one another? This is what today's reading asks of us.

Revd Jeff Hopewell

### Bible Readings:

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### Micah 5.2-5a

- 2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall  
come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.
- 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time

- when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the  
rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.
- 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength  
of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And  
they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;
  - 5 and he shall be the one of peace.  
If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them  
seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

#### **Canticle: Magnificat (The Song of Mary)**

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; •  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; •  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, •  
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm •  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones •  
and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things •  
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, •  
to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, •  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

Or

#### **Psalm 80 1-8**

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, •  
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the  
cherubim, •  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength •  
and come to our salvation.
- 4 Turn us again, O God; •  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be  
saved.
- 5 O Lord God of hosts, •

how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?  
6 You feed them with the bread of tears; •  
you give them abundance of tears to drink.  
7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, •  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; •  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

### Hebrews 10.5-10

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;  
6 in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.  
7 Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'  
8 When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law),  
9 then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.  
10 And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.  
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit  
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?  
44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy.  
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'  
46 And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
51 He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.']

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### Additional Collect for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

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### A prayer for advent by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do  
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things  
look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy  
seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people,  
walking in darkness yet seeking the light.  
To you we say  
"Come, Lord Jesus".

**Amen**

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### Bible Readings: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Christmas Day

#### Isaiah 52.7-10

7 How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.  
9 Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
10 The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of  
the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

### Hebrews 1.1-4 5-12

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and  
various ways by the prophets,  
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,  
whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he  
also created the worlds.  
3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact  
imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by  
his powerful word. When he had made purification for  
sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on  
high,  
4 having become as much superior to angels as the  
name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.  
5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are  
my Son;  
today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his  
Father,  
and he will be my Son'?  
6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the  
world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'  
7 Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire.'  
8 But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever  
and ever,  
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your  
kingdom.  
9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'  
10 And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
11 they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;  
12 like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the  
same,  
and your years will never end.'

### John 1.1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God.  
2 He was in the beginning with God.  
3 All things came into being through him, and without  
him not one thing came into being. What has come into  
being  
4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  
5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did  
not overcome it.  
6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was  
John.  
7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all  
might believe through him.

8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to  
the light.  
9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming  
into the world.  
10 He was in the world, and the world came into being  
through him; yet the world did not know him.  
11 He came to what was his own, and his own people  
did not accept him.  
12 But to all who received him, who believed in his  
name, he gave power to become children of God,  
13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the  
flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and  
we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only  
son, full of grace and truth.

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## Collect for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

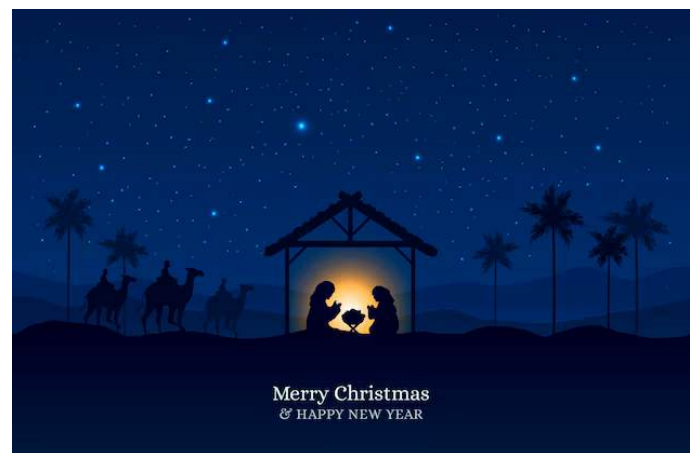
Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on  
earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Additional Collect for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen**



## Coplow Benefice and Gaulby Group Meeting

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm at the Old School in Billesdon (*Venue to be confirmed*)  
To: All PCC Secretaries and Churchwardens in the Coplow Benefice and Gaulby Group

Dear All

We are arranging a series of evening get togethers for all PCC members or anyone else who may wish to attend. This email is an invitation to the meeting for Coplow Benefice and the Gaulby Group which is proposed to be held on Thursday 9th January at 7:15pm. It is intended that this will be held at **The Old School in Billesdon**, although that is to be confirmed.

This will be an informal opportunity to meet together, to get to know each other better and share views on being church in the changing context beyond Easter and the summer of 2025. Service rotas and church governance will be discussed among other matters of importance to you. Revd Jonathan Dowman and Phil Leech (from Leicester Diocese representing the Archdeacons) will be present. Similar meetings are being held with all of the benefices within our Minster Community.

Please would you circulate this email to all the members of your PCCs and confirm your attendance with Wendy Lewis by Friday 13th December if possible.

**Jonathan**

Jonathan Dowman  
Oversight Minster for the Launde Deanery Minster Community



### Food Bank Appeal:

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks. **Jubilee Foodbank Market Harborough** You can drop off donations at **Hallaton Church** or to Linda Jones at **25, Eastgate, Hallaton at any time**. Please note that all food collected is non-perishable, long-life or tinned.

The Foodbank has **URGENT NEED of:**

Hot Chocolate, UHT Milk (semi-skimmed or whole), Tinned carrots, Pasta sauce, Corned beef, Biscuits, Snacks & Crisps, Tinned chicken in sauce, Fray Bentos pies.

**The list of food always required is on the website:**

<https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk>



## 2025 Environment Awareness Days Calendar

**A new resource has been published by the Church of England to help churches keep environmental issues in focus.**

The 2025 Environment Days and Key Events Calendar lists key days, weeks and months which are associated with the environment, climate change awareness, and reaching net zero carbon.

It is hoped the calendar will help parishes raise awareness about climate change, as well as assist with event and campaign planning to boost support for local eco projects. It can be downloaded as a PDF with links to more information about the events featured.

**Download the Calendar PDF here:**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/environment-calendar-2025.pdf>

**See more from the Church of England Environmental Programme:**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme>

## Advent Reflections



Advent is a time when our calendars can be very busy and our heads become filled with the festivities, yet it is also a season to pause, prepare, and wait with hopeful hearts. We hope you'll find time to reflect on the Christmas story through Advent in ways that might help you prepare room for Jesus.

Each day from 1 December until Christmas Day, we'll be releasing a short daily bible verse or a line from a carol. We encourage you take a few minutes reflecting on these words using a spiritual practice called Lectio Divina (divine reading).

**You'll find our Advent verses shared on**

**our [Facebook](#) and [X](#) accounts, and on our website:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/advent-2024--let-every-heart-prepare-him-room.php>



## Each day throughout Advent we'll be releasing a Bible verse or a line from a carol.

We hope taking a few minutes each day to reflect on these words will help you to 'prepare room' for Jesus during this season.

Find the posts on [Facebook](#) and [X](#), or on our website along with a guide to Lectio Divina (divine reading).

Visit our **Advent 2024 webpage**:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/advent-2024--let-every-heart-prepare-him-room.php>

## Advent Meditations

**Monday 23 December, 12.30pm – Leicester Cathedral**

Seasonal meditations with organ music, Bible readings, and poetry. Admission free.

## Advent and Christmas resources available on [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com)

The Church of England Digital Labs team have compiled a list of their 'Calm and Bright' Advent and Christmas resources so churches can easily access them all in one place. You can find the relevant links and details compiled here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/achurchnearyoucom-advent-and-christmas-resources-and-how-you-can-use-them>

We're encouraging churches to make the most of [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) by adding Christmas services and events to their church/benefice pages. You can read a practical guide to doing that here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/add-your-advent-and-christmas-services-and-events-me> There are 'Calm and Bright' graphics, social media templates, music, and other resources available. You can watch a demo of how to access the resources on the Resource Hub here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4otbtIA1wz4> and you can read a summary of the key resources and links here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/achurchnearyoucom-advent-and-christmas-resources-and-how-you-can-use-them>



## Carol Concert by Candlelight

**Thursday 19 December, 7.30pm – Leicester Cathedral**

Join us for two special concerts of Christmas carols and music sung by the Cathedral Choir, surrounded by real candlelight in the final resting place of King Richard III.

Tickets are £12 / £10 concessions, which include a mince pie and festive drink.

**Book here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carol-concerts-by-candlelight-with-leicester-cathedral-choir-tickets-1074167526989>



