



Services & Events – In Church:

Sunday 27th November First Sunday of Advent

9am **Skeffington** CW Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am **Billesdon** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

6pm **Gaulby** Holy Communion (Revd Christine Blodwell)

Sunday 4th December Second Sunday of Advent

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

10am **Skeffington** Morning Praise (Congregation led)

10.30am **Illston** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am **Billesdon** Holy Communion (Revd Christine Blodwell)

5pm **Goadby** Carol Service (Keith Evans)

6.30pm **Keyham** Festival of Lights (Revd Philip Norwood)

Launde Parishes Zoom Services

Sunday 27th November at 11am

Sunday 4th December at 11am

Saturday 26th November at 9.00am

Saturday morning Prayers (From Gaulby Church)

To Join our Zoom Prayers:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2139072137?pwd=WjV4WD](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2139072137?pwd=WjV4WDJBTEIzeVB0YkRCCvJISEc0QT09)

[JBTEIzeVB0YkRCCvJISEc0QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2139072137?pwd=WjV4WDJBTEIzeVB0YkRCCvJISEc0QT09)

Meeting ID: 213 907 2137

Passcode: 405197

Sunday 27th November 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Leading: Mary Twidell **Reflecting:** Madeleine Wang

To Join our Launde Parishes Zoom please click on the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87679803190?pwd=VzV5d1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87679803190?pwd=VzV5d1UwaTd4UnlybDdTbmdVUTZTZz09)

[UwaTd4UnlybDdTbmdVUTZTZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87679803190?pwd=VzV5d1UwaTd4UnlybDdTbmdVUTZTZz09)

Meeting ID: 876 7980 3190

Passcode: 172162

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:

T. 0203 481 5240

Enter the **Meeting ID: 876 7980 3190** followed by #.

Enter the **Passcode: 172162** followed by #

All are very welcome

The Collect: The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great
humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Contact Us:

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Our Churches Online:

All have web pages on 'A Church Near You'

for sermons, videos, information and on line giving:

Billesdon <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3500/>

Hungarton

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4708/>

Keyham <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4709/>

Skeffington

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3502/>

Goadby <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14444/>

The Gaulby Group

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4699/>

Reflection for The First Sunday of Advent, Year A:

The Christian tradition recognizes that God has come, and will come, to be with us in three distinct ways.

The first coming of God was when he walked with us in Jesus of Nazareth, which we celebrate in a few weeks at Christmas.

Another is the final coming, which Jesus mentions in Sunday's reading, when God and creation will be, as they were meant to be, fully united. The strongest image the Bible has for this union is in the Book of Revelation and is a marriage between God and creation and, unexpectedly, heaven is coming to Earth.

The third coming happens between the coming of Jesus and the final marriage of God and creation. This coming of God is the daily visitation: God with us in our prayers, finding God in our neighbours, seeing God in those we are privileged to serve.

What we see in these three visitations is that all of them are the hoped for Day of the Lord. Each one carries with it the loving and just presence of God.

How can we be ready for the coming of God?

There is a telling passage of Scripture at the Ascension, when the disciples have just seen Jesus rise into Heaven. The disciples are looking up, dumbfounded. Finally, some angels appear and ask, "Why are you looking upwards?" The implication is, "Don't look up to find Jesus, look out, look in."

Jesus is always one step ahead, going into the city, into Galilee, into life and we are meant to seek and find him there. That's how we stay ready for God's coming, we daily, hourly, stay on the lookout for God, not in the clouds, not in major world events, but in quieter, unspectacular ways.

Advent is a reminder to be awake and ready for God. This is why Advent tends to be described as preparatory, not just for the great celebration of Christmas but for the final coming of God and also for the ever-present daily visit of God with us in the here and now.

Revd Jeff Hopewell

Bible Readings:

Sunday 27th November 2022

The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

The Future House of God

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into

ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Judgement Pronounced on Arrogance

⁵ O house of Jacob,

come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Romans 13:11-14

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 24:36-44

New Revised Standard Version Anglicised

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, ^[a] but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and

drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day ^[b] your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Additional Prayer for the Day:

The First Sunday of Advent:

Almighty God,

as your kingdom dawns,

turn us from the darkness of sin

to the light of holiness,

that we may be ready to meet you

in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Food Bank Appeal:

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks. All donations welcome, which may be left in any of our Church porches, or you can donate online.

To make a donation to The Well's Food bank fund,

by bank transfer to *The Well Kibworth*

Sort Code: 40-32-04 **Acc:** 41666959 **Ref:** 'Foodbank'

Gift Aid Forms can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.thewellkibworth.org/support-us>

Launde Abbey Quiet Day offer extended!

Members of Launde Deanery churches are offered places on the Launde Abbey Quiet Days at a **discounted price of £35 through to the end of 2022** - please ask when you book.

5 December: "Also Made" with Emily Owen: "*In Genesis 1, we read that God made the stars. In fact, He 'also made the stars'. This day will offer gentle time and space to be affirmed in who we are. We are not an afterthought.*" More information and booking details can be found on the Launde Abbey website, www.laundeabbey.org.uk and we look forward to welcoming you to Launde.

TOILETS, TAPS AND TRAINING – A LIFESAVING TRIO

WE ARE FLUSHING AWAY POVERTY, ONE TOILET AT A TIME.

By donating £60 to twin your toilet, you help fund a project in a community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives.

<https://www.toilettwinning.org>

Messages from The Revd Alan Humphrey, Interim Co-Area Dean

Deanery January Service Pattern

This is advance notice that the Deanery Service in January 2023 will be held at 11:00am on 1st January at St Peter's, Gaulby. There will be NO Deanery Service on 29th January (5th Sunday). Parishes are recommended to treat 8th Jan as the 1st Sunday, 15th Jan as the 2nd Sunday, 22nd Jan as the 3rd Sunday, 29th Jan as the 4th Sunday. However, please check with your local church for confirmation of the pattern that they are adopting. The normal pattern resumes in February.

Preparing for becoming Launde Minster Community

Every Churchwarden has received copies of the findings of the Minster Community Working Groups. Each parish has been advised to become familiar with the various recommendations and conclusions of these reports so that they can be ready to critically examine the proposals for becoming a Minster Community when they are issued early in January. Anyone who wishes to familiarise themselves with the relevant issues and become involved in the process, whether a PCC member or not, is advised to contact their churchwarden to obtain copies of the reports. Parish wide consultations are being recommended during January with a formal PCC vote occurring in February. Please contact your churchwarden for more information.

News from the Diocese:



The national Church of England is using a liturgy and video by Revd Barry Hill, Team Rector of Market Harborough Resource Church Team & our Diocesan Resource Church Enabler, to help churches in the run up to Advent. Barry has written a short act of commissioning to be used in churches on 20 or 27 November when it is hoped invitations for congregation members to pass on to friends and family, classmates, colleagues and neighbours will be given out for Christmas and advent services, and events. A short video of Barry introducing the pre-Advent liturgy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK4PdOfkPag>

Shaped by God Together Update

We now have three areas piloting the Minster Community process in the diocese (for details of what Minster Communities are and the story so far [click here](#)) The first of these, which is made up of churches from the Launde Deanery, is now in the latter stages of the process. The churches of the proposed Minster Community recently had a joint service at which the work that has emerged from their working groups and coordinating group was shared, and the coordinating group are now engaged in writing the proposal of how

the Minster Community might function. This proposal will then go to all the PCCs in the group and to the diocese through the Joint Archdeaconry Mission Committee. Working on the process together has helped the churches to begin exploring how to develop shared ministry and to begin thinking about how they work together more strategically with schools and families and to start thinking about possibilities in relation to rural chaplaincy. One or two new initiatives have begun to spring up even before the Minster Community has come into existence, including a midweek family focused evensong which has been well attended and has attracted people from different parishes.

The second potential Minster Community is comprised of a group of churches in North West Leicestershire around the Coalville area. The third group, which is in North East Leicester, is very much in its infancy.

Covid News from our partner diocese in Tanzania

Covid apparently never got the memo that it is over and so continues as a threat all over the world. As we get boosted the majority of people in Tanzania still have very low protection with about 97% of the population still NOT vaccinated in and around our link diocese of Kiteto. Earlier this year our diocese supported work amongst local media and churches to counter myths around vaccine hesitancy and to start this mountain climb by encouraging community leaders to take up the vaccine.

Have you been protected from covid? If so, let's show our gratitude to God by helping our brothers and sisters get the same benefit. Our link Diocese of Kiteto have asked for our support to: -

1. Run local TV and radio educational covid programmes
2. Produce promotional materials
3. Support the governmental vaccination programme through the Kiteto Dispensary
4. Help target vaccine to the high-risk groups

If 1,100 of us offered £5 in gratitude for our protection we can raise the money requested. It could be the cost of living for some. If you can help, please send donations to:

Sort code: 20-49-37

Account number: 90577103

Account name: Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance

Reference: 'Kiteto'

The MU are holding a one-minute silence at 1.03pm on 26 November 2022 (linking to the no more 1 in 3 theme) which Bishop Martyn and Bishop Saju will be observing.

[You can find the resources to support participation in the #NoMore1in3 campaign for the Global Day here.](#) You can also share what you are planning for the campaign on social media using the hashtag #NoMore1in3.
