

The North Lafford Benefice Newsletter

October 2025

Harvest, Sowing, Growing and Reaping



By the time you read this we will have celebrated Harvest and Creationtide in all of our churches in some form. Once again our churches have been decorated with the most beautiful arrangements of flowers, vegetables, crafts and so many donations for the Sleaford Larder.

Harvest is a time of reaping, collecting and storing. It is at this time of year that the story of Ruth and Naomi comes to mind. A story of those who had seemingly lost everything had held on to faith and through God's providence find their place in the world once more. So many, just like Ruth and Naomi, struggle today, reminding us that not everyone has sufficient, unable to feed and clothe their children, heat their homes or find access to the help they need. Archdeacon Gavin reminded us of our calling as Christians when he spoke to us during his recent visit to Cranwell for Harvest that we are called to seek out the lonely, the marginalised and to offer the love of Jesus through our service to God's people.

In late October and into November, I will have some time away to recover from planned surgery. I want to thank our wonderful team of ministers, all volunteers or retired, who care for and support us. . We have a pastoral team that seeks to provide comfort to those who are lonely and unwell, whether in their home setting or in residential homes. Reverend Rosemary, as she has always kindly done, will look after the priestly things. I finish with my heartfelt thanks to you all for the messages of support and love that Jayne and I have received during a difficult family time.

I look forward to seeing each of our congregations soon and pray that we may we all find the love of God in our worship, prayer and thanksgiving remembering in our hearts the words of Psalm 139 *"[Lord God] I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."* Blessings. Reverend AI.



Schools are back and our first Collective Worships (Assembly as was!) have been delivered

It has been great to be back into our church schools so early in the first term of this academic year. The children are getting to know their new roles as they either start school or move up a year. Transition is often a difficult time and being part of that is one of the main roles of our Schools

Team. Delivering Collective Worship is an opportunity to offer different aspects of the story of Jesus to young people at our Church Schools and we are blessed to have our Open The

Book Team which goes to all 4 primary schools offering reenactment of Bible stories for the children and staff. Thank you to our head teachers, staff and students for being part of the big story. Reverend Al.



Messy Church and Sunday@3 – the Parable of the Sower

Messy Church and Sunday@3 explored the parable of the sower. Of planting, nurturing and reaping. Various colours of paint were mixed to produce some very colourful harvest displays, with some very messy hands.

The top activity was making the fruits of the harvest baskets. Our fruits and vegetables were made from Play Doh and most of them were recognisable! Thank you to everyone who took part, and we look forward to Messy Church on the 11th of October in the Winchelsea Centre at 1.45pm. Come and see. Reverend Al.

Harvest Harmony at St Edith's

Friday the 19th of September saw the annual Harvest Festival at St Edith's Anwick. The decorations around the church were very special and the newly carpeted Lady Chapel looked very special. People from across the village came along to worship and enjoy fellowship. Cherith read the lesson, and Alwyn provided the musical support. It was a really special gathering full of conversation and joy and the singing was excellent. The donations for the Food bank poured in, thank you everyone.



The Pastoral Visiting Team

You might be asking why do we need a team, do not so many of us already look out for people in times of need and offer support? Do we not send texts, E mails and cards of concern comfort and support, do we not already call on neighbours and friends in need?

We do this without being asked!

Yes, you do, out of your caring hearts and as expressions of the love of God, supporting one another in times of joy and in times of difficulty. This support is offered as your personal gift and on your own accountability. Please continue to show love and compassion and may God bless you.

An authorised team differs in that a visit is representational, made by people who have trained through the Diocesan course and have satisfied the requirements to have safeguarding training. All are aware of the need for and

guidelines of confidentiality. The Visitors will be accountable to the PCC and represent Rev AI, the Benefice churches and the Diocese and ultimately Jesus.

Our team includes Readers, ALMs and the Clergy.

Rev Rosemary, liaising with Rev AI, will consider requests and administer the visits, working with the team to review, train and pray.

Requests should be made, not to the visitors, but to Rev AI and Rev Rosemary.

Unless we know when someone is ill or coming out of hospital, know of a need and desire that the church would help, to listen, to pray and maybe where appropriate, minister Communion at home, we cannot offer support.

Please pray for this ministry and for the team members. Pray that God will inspire, guide and protect the visitors and that there will be many opportunities to speak of Jesus and to pray with those who wish prayers to be said with or for them. Pray that many will be blessed in times of need and distress.

Rev Rosemary Jenkins.



All Saints Ruskington Parish Giving Scheme

The All Saints Ruskington Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is now live online.

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a simple and secure way, for those wanting to make a regular donation, to the upkeep of the Church. Allowing the Treasurer to be able to budget church funds. If you are a UK tax payer this scheme also allows the Church to claim back 25% of your donation via Gift Aid.

You can give monthly, quarterly, annually or a one off gift.

You set the amount which cannot be changed unless you authorise it.

You can cancel your PGS at any time.

It's as simple as A B C:

- A. Using your search engine, log onto the Church of England Parish Giving Scheme page to register and complete your details
- B. Confirm your details and activate
- C. Complete your bank account details and gift aid form and then submit

You will receive a confirmatory letter within 24 hours

The All Saints Ruskington PGS point of contact for any issues or further information is Jeremy Field. Jeremy.field4@icloud.com or ring 078 112 46 112.

Thank you for supporting the All Saints Ruskington PGS

Stories From Around the Parishes

News from St Andrew's Church Cranwell Village and Community

NEWS FROM CRANWELL



On Saturday 6

September St Andrew's Church, Cranwell held their monthly coffee morning which included the Charity Table for the month ssafa – it was lovely to have a charity which hadn't attended before.

The coffee morning next month is on Saturday 4 October when the Charity stall will be the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Harvest Festival was celebrated in St Andrew's Church, Cranwell Village on Sunday 14



September, extra special with Archdeacon Gavin leading the service, assisted by Rev Al Jenkins. This was followed by a Harvest Lunch in the Church, where everyone then had the opportunity to chat and admire the flower displays in the Church. The very generous collection of dried/tinned goods received from the Community including Cranwell Primary School and

Cranwell Beavers was donated to Sleaford Community Larder.



On Saturday 13th September Lincolnshire Churches Trust held their annual Ride & Stride event and St Andrew's Church Cranwell were represented by four members of our community, Jim Clarke, Joe Connon and Paul and Zoe Cox. They visited over 16 churches completing a combined distance of some 60 miles (both riding and striding this year), a tremendous achievement.

A sponsorship appeal raised approx. £300 towards maintaining these old buildings. Many thanks go to the cyclists and walkers and to all who gave their support for the occasion.

HERITAGE LOTTERY GRANT FOR CRANWELL



St Andrew's Parish Church, Cranwell Village is delighted to share the news that they have been successful in a grant application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for £17,069 to restore the churchyard drystone boundary walls. This involves not only repairs to three of the walls but also a complete rebuild of the north wall. When work on the walls is complete, military headstones that were removed for safe keeping will be reinstated and the sectioned off part of the churchyard that has been closed for three years will once again be open to the public. Tours of the military section of the churchyard that are organised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are expected to resume next spring. We are thrilled to have received this support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players vital conservation work to restore the walls will enable full access to be restored to the churchyard.



News from St Mary's Church Evedon and Community



We were delighted to host the Beatles Musical Concert on 12th September. This was held at the Anwick community centre which provided the space for a sizeable audience (too big for our quaint little St Mary's Church) We had hoped to attract an audience of 50+ and were - over the moon - with the actual attendance. We set the hall out

with 74 seats and then had to bring more seats in to cope with the 80 or so guests.

Not only were there those present from all the churches in our Benefice, but also those from at least two other benefices. Surrounding villages were also represented such as Kirkby La Thorpe, Ewerby, Sleaford, over and above the villages within our own benefice.

From feedback received it is true to say that we all had a super night. Lots of Music, singing and dancing, wine and supper, quiz and Raffle.



The generosity of those that came was wonderful too, with contributions of food for the lavish supper plus gifts towards the raffle prizes.

All this effort culminated in donations for the night rising to a whopping £720. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part in a special occasion

News from All Saints Ruskington and Community



All Saints Ladies Club Ruskington

On a very wet Wednesday, twenty hardy ladies from the All Saints Ladies Club travelled by Philips coaches to Ely. Luckily the rain started to ease on arrival but everyone headed off to the café for refreshments. We then ambled along to look around the magnificent cathedral. The statues, the artwork and the ceiling frescoes were magnificent. The feeling in the cathedral with its history, was breathtaking and everyone was so pleased to have had the opportunity to go there. After drinking in our fill of such a wonderful building it was time to leave and do a bit of retail therapy of course. Most then decided on a super pub lunch before our journey home. Thanks were given to Rose and her team for a great day out.



All Saints' Knitters (ASK)

Why not come and join us at the Winchelsea Centre
on Saturday 15th November 2025
at any time between 10.00.a.m. and noon
to knit an easy pattern for Christmas.
Patterns, needles, wool and refreshments will be
available and a chance to sit and have a natter!

Hope to see you in November,
"Keeeeeeep Knitting"

October Coffee Mornings around the Benefice

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Do you enjoy a coffee and some good conversation on a Saturday morning? With a warm welcome, stalls to tempt and a hot drink to quench your thirst, why not tour the Benefice?

4th October Anwick Village Hall at 10.00am

4th October Cranwell Village Hall at 10.00am

11th October Leasingham Village Hall 10-11.30am

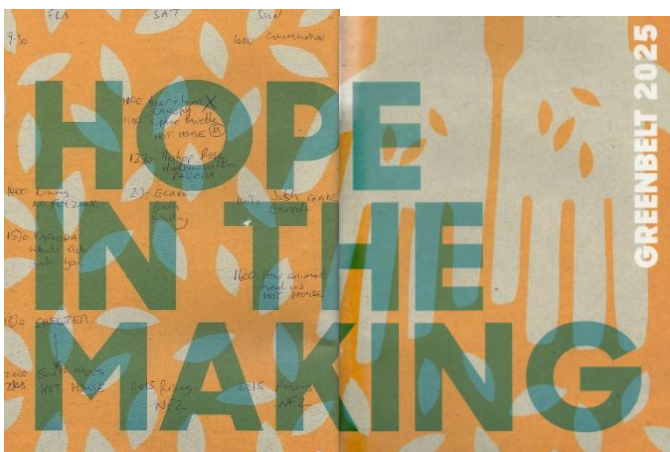
18th October Ruskington, Winchelsea Centre at 9.00am-serving bacon butties & hot drinks!



Please remember to send your Newsletter article to northlafford@gmail.com

Articles should be submitted by the **20th of October** to ensure its inclusion in November edition

Greenbelt 2025 – A Christian Arts Festival



At the end of August Melissa and I attended Greenbelt at Boughton House in Northamptonshire for the bank holiday weekend. We used our caravan off grid; however, most people camped in their tents.

There were several marquees for the talks and two main stages for the music. There was the Jesus Arms to quench your thirst and sing with “Beer and Hymns.” For those who did not drink there was the “Tiny Tea Tent” with sofas and chairs to lounge in. There were various food wagons around the

site, but we really took to the “Rubbish Café” where food that would be thrown away by

supermarkets was collected and a meal produced for lunch and dinner. The money collected went to charity.

I attended a talk from Sophie Pavelle species symbiosis and how they evolve to support each other, Bishop Rose-Hudson who talked about her early years growing up, John Philip Newell talking about his book 'Sacred Earth Sacred Soul', and a very animated, humorous talk from Jay Griffiths on how animals heal us.



There was a main stage called the Canopy on which there was Christian music from about midday to late into the evening. The Sunday communion was held on this stage and was led by a 80-year-old woman priest who had lost their Permission to officiate due to being arrested at a protest concerning Gaza. Also, a child called Edwin. They took it in turns to lead the worship. There were thousands in the congregation!! There was a quieter communion led by the Iona community in their marquee in the village.



In recognising the need to cut down on the carbon footprint there was the 'No Fly Zone' with a video link, so they were able to interview and have music from around the world.

Also, there were many side stalls for various charities and organisations. We were truly blessed for the weekend with sunshine. What more could we have asked. Richard and Melissa.

Monthly Sunday Service Planner - North Lafford Group - October 2025

Date	Ruskington	Service
05/10/25	11am	Holy Communion
12/10/25	11am	Morning Praise
15/10/25	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion St Andrew's Cranwell
19/10/25	11am	Holy Communion
26/10/25	11am	Morning Praise

Date	Anwick	Service
05/10/25	11am	Morning Praise with St Edith's at St Mary's
15/10/25	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion St Andrew's Cranwell
19/10/25	9.30am	Holy Communion with St Mary's at St Edith's

Date	Cranwell	Service
05/10/25	11am	Morning Praise
12/10/25	11am	Holy Communion
15/10/25	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion St Andrew's Cranwell
19/10/25	11am	Morning Praise
26/10/25	11am	Morning Praise

Date	Leasingham	Service
05/10/25	9.30am	Morning Praise
12/10/25	9.30am	Morning Praise
15/10/25	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion St Andrew's Cranwell
19/10/25	9.30am	Morning Praise
26/10/25	11am	Holy Communion

Date	Evedon	Service
05/10/25	11am	Morning Praise with St Edith's at St Mary's
15/10/25	6.30pm	Benefice Evening Holy Communion St Andrew's Cranwell
19/10/25	9.30am	Holy Communion with St Mary's at St Edith's

Readings for October

	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel
October 5 th Green	Psalm 37:1-9	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
October 12 th Green	Psalm 111	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
October 19 th Green	Psalm 121	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
October 26 th Green	Psalm 84:1-7	2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18	Luke 18:9-14

The North Lafford Benefice Office is located
at **Myers House** (next to the Winchelsea Centre) Ruskington
Opening hours Tuesday and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

The Ministry Team

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Revd Rosemary Jenkins, Priest
Revd Nigel Panting, Deacon
Richard Vickers, Reader
Corinna Langridge, Reader
Jane Hansford, ALM
Di Holt, ALM
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