

The North Lafford Benefice Newsletter

December 2025

Reflection from the Rectory – In Anticipation – Advent and Christmas



*“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” **Isaiah 40:1-3***

The verse which accompanies the image of the Christ child for this newsletter is taken from the King James Version of the Bible. I have used it because it announces the Christ's coming; It is also the opening stanza of Handel's wonderful work, *The Messiah*. I was blessed to be in Lincoln Cathedral in November (*alongside Alwyn Kirk*) as the Lincoln Chamber Orchestra and the Lincoln Cathedral Choir performed this seminal work. The performance reminded me of the wonder of our God and the love that he has for us. From start to finish I was captivated by the music and singing, just as I am captivated by the love of our God.

Advent is a season in which the excitement, the anticipation, of getting ready for Jesus builds. We prepare week by week. Scripture is full of words of preparedness, I wonder where we all are in our own faith. Thinking about Isaiah's words, how straight is the path on which we walk, who are we walking it with and who might we want to walk with. Perhaps that is something we can explore together, at worship, maybe you might wish to join our Benefice Advent Exploration beginning on the 2nd of December, more detail below. But, of course, we do not have to wait until then! You could start now, some of you might have already done so through the new Bible Studies which have started across the Benefice. They are being well attended. Knowing the Story, our Story is so important in our Christian lives and I will, rightly, not stop speaking about that in the weeks, months, and years to come.

So Advent is upon us. What are you anticipating? As with every church year, the Advent and Christmas seasons will offer so many opportunities to worship and praise and I pray that, in and through them, we can encourage people to join with us as we prepare to welcome Emmanuel “our God with us.” Seasons blessings to you all.
Reverend Al

Advent Exploration 2025

Our Advent Exploration for 2025 will take place in Myers House Ruskington on Tuesdays at 1030am.

2nd December - Week 1: Hope **9th December - Week 2: Peace**
16th December Week 3: Joy **23rd December - Week 4: Love**

During these standalone sessions we will explore each of these themes as we seek to deepen our understanding of Advent and experience the season in a new way - together.

The Season of Remembering around the Benefice

Remembering Our Loved Ones Services



Services were held across the Benefice for those who have been recently bereaved to spend a time of reflection, to hear their loved ones names read out and light a candle in their memory. We prayed for all of those who have been bereaved, for comfort and for peace. We continue to pray for all who are bereaved. If you wish to have time to reflect in a quiet space All Saints, Ruskington, St Andrew's Cranwell and St Andrew's Leasingham are open daily.

Acts of Remembrance



Anwick The Act of Remembrance on was marked at St Edith's. the community were welcomed, and we offered our thanks to everyone who decorated our church with a wonderful display of poppies.

A heartfelt expression of respect was read by Lorraine Curtis followed by the playing of the Last Post the two minute silence and the Reveille. The names of those who gave their lives in both wars from the Anwick Community were read out.

Thank you to everyone for making the day special. Following the Remembrance we all enjoyed tea/coffee and homemade cakes.

Cranwell Rev Rosemary led the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday the 9th of November. The Church was filled to capacity with military personnel, local groups, associations, and members of the community, including Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts as everyone came together to remember. Afterwards at the Cross of Sacrifice The Act of Remembrance was observed with prayers, the last post and reveille and the two minute silence.



Leasingham Jane Hansford led the service in church and the Act of Remembrance at St Andrew's Leasingham this year. There were so many people present to say thank you to all of those who have given their lives in defence of our nation. Thank you to everyone who took part.



Ruskington The sun shone on the Remembrance Sunday procession from All Saints Church to the Memorial Gardens in Ruskington. Reader Richard Vickers conducted the service flanked by the churchwardens, members of the church choir and a couple of ex-military members of the church. The Union Flag, the local Veterans flag and standards from the youth groups were all presented at the service. The poignant service was watched by the church congregation, the youth organisations, representatives of the veterans, Council representatives, and a couple of hundred people all wanting to pay their respects. Before the sounding of the Last Post, names of all those from the village lost in the two World Wars were read out, the bugler Ifor Davies played the last post and reveille, many wreaths were laid.



Messy Church Remembers



Our November Messy Church explored the idea of sacrifice and remembering. We explored the story of the Beatitudes and how we are blessed by God in our lives. The children made some excellent crafts; they are on display in the Winchelsea Centre and All Saints if you wish to view them. There will be no Messy Church in December. However, we do have Christingle on the 21st of December at 3pm at All Saints and that is followed on Christmas Eve with the Crib services at 3pm They will be services at 3 of our churches; St Andrew's

Leasingham, St Andrew's Cranwell and All Saints Ruskington where you can come along dressed as a character from the Nativity Story.

Benefice Community – All Sorts



The Benefice all age outreach offering continues through December on Mondays at 2pm in the [Winchelsea Centre Ruskington](#). The space is designed as a time for fellowship, activities, and conversation for people of all ages. Please come along and enjoy time with friends and perhaps make some new ones. You are always welcome.

Welcome In - A new Wednesday morning gathering.



Welcome In will take place on the 10th of December [Myers House Ruskington](#) from 10am - 12 noon. Come and join us for our games morning. We will be serving warm drinks and mince pies.



All Saints' Knitters (ASK)



All Saints' Knitters

Delighted to say the knitters created **seventy-one** Sea Farers' Beanie Hats which will be posted off with this prayer, thoughtfully suggested by Jane Hansford, inside each hat:

"Dear Lord, as our seafarers embark on their journeys, we humbly implore you to guide them through treacherous waters and turbulent storms. Grant them safe passage and may your divine light shine brightly upon their vessels. Keep them shielded from harm's way, so that they may return to their loved ones, who eagerly await their safe return. Amen."

Our November meeting was a little sparse. However more turned up at church on Wednesday morning to collect the items and now I only have 3 bags left. Each bag will make 5 pigs to be turned into pigs-in-blankets containing a surprise for the Christmas lunch. We are aiming for seventy-five pigs, so trotters crossed!

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 21st February 2026, when we will be looking toward Easter chicks and bunnies.

Until then a very peaceful Christmas to you all and keeeeeeeeeeeep knitting! **Stella**



News from around the Benefice

News from St Andrew's Church Cranwell



On Saturday 1 November St Andrew's Church, Cranwell held their monthly coffee morning which included the ever popular Children's Tombola and Treasure Hunt along with Linda from Scentsy.

The coffee morning next month is on Saturday 6 December when they hold their Annual Charities Coffee Morning, with stalls from St Barnabas, Lincolnshire Greyhounds Trust, Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance, Sleaford Museum, 1st Cranwell (RAF)

Beavers, 1st Cranwell Rainbows and the RAF Benevolent Fund. There is a 50p charge on the door which goes in its entirety to the name of the charity pulled out of a tub at the end of the morning.



Safeguarding Sunday

On Sunday 16 November St Andrew's Cranwell joined over 5,000 other churches for Safeguarding Sunday – Actions Speak Louder than Words. A poster board is displayed in the church, which can be added to as time goes.

Christmas Tree Festival

St Andrew's Cranwell will be holding their first ever Christmas Tree Festival, over the weekend of the 12th/13th December between 9 – 4pm. The plan is to hold a musical celebration with mulled wine and mince pies, on the evening of the 12th December to accompany the numerous trees crafted by local groups, businesses, and organisations. Everyone is very welcome to come along to view the beautiful trees and admire all the work involved.



Fundraising event for the Church.



A huge thanks to Stephen Hallam for his Halloween House 2025 fundraiser for St Andrew's Church. A massive £174.22 was raised through donations and everyone marvelled at his original display, which made a lot of children and adults jump! Stephen is currently working on his plans for Cranwell Christmas 2025, which promises to be entertaining and inventive. We are all looking forward to it.

News from St Andrew's Church Leasingham



Monday 1st December 3-7pm Living Advent Calendar Leasingham Church fundraisers will be having a tombola stall and the chance to win a food hamper at the **Duke of Wellington Pub's event the Duke Jingle** which is the launch of the village's Living Advent Calendar when they turn on their outdoor garden Christmas decorations and lights. This makes the start of the community participation when other residents put on a special window display of their own for Advent. The event is on Monday December 1st between 3pm and 7 pm in the pub grounds with stalls from village organisations, the school choir singing, festive refreshments and Santa with his sleigh and the switch on at 6pm.

Friday 12th December 6pm At the Duke of Wellington Leasingham Church choir and congregation members will be singing carols at the Duke of Wellington pub from 6pm to 6.30pm and then a short interval for refreshment and singing again from 6.45pm to 7pm or longer depending on people there.

Christmas Coffee Morning 13th December in Leasingham Village Hall from 10am – 11.30am with a homemade cake stall, serving fairtrade beverages, various other stalls including the chance to win a food hamper.

News from All Saints Church Ruskington

Winter Fair All Saints Church 9:30am to 3pm Saturday 6th of December 2025



The Fair will be held across the Church and Winchelsea Centre Church Hall, High Street Ruskington

Come and enjoy a get together with family and friends and enjoy a drink and snack in either the church or the Winchelsea Centre.

*In **Church** will be displays, activities and music plus*

Grand Raffle with Christmas hamper plus more

*In the **Winchelsea Centre** both inside and out, there will be stalls selling crafts, Christmas gifts, a tombola stall, food, and drink.*

December Coffee Mornings around the Benefice



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?

6th December Anwick Village Hall at 10.00am

6th December Cranwell Village Hall at 10.00am

13th December Leasingham Village Hall 10-11.30am

13th December Ruskington Winchelsea Centre at 9.30am - noon

20th December Ruskington, Winchelsea Centre at 9.30am- noon serving bacon butties & hot drinks!

News from the Belfry



[Ruskington Tower visitors 25th Oct 25](#)

This is an annual reunion outing for the last weekend in October when the clocks change. It started as a gathering of people who used to ring the bells at St Mary's in Portsmouth, when many were students.

Each year someone in the group volunteers to pick an area of the country and organise the outing. This year, by kind permission of Rev AI, Ruskington All Saints Church has been chosen.

Over the years the group has changed a bit to include children and other friends, but it remains an opportunity for friends who don't normally get the chance to ring together, to gather for that purpose.

There were 13 ringers, from West Sussex, Hampshire, London, Yorkshire and even one from France. Ringing abilities ranged from basic to very experienced

They expressed delight at our lovely bells and beautiful church and left a donation to the work of our church.



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

Articles should be submitted by the **19th of December** to ensure its inclusion in **January edition**

Sunday Bible Readings for December 2025

Day	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday 7 th December Advent 2 Purple	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday 14 th December Advent 3 Purple	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday 21 st December Advent 4 Purple	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-end
Christmas Eve Holy Communion Services (Set III) White	Isaiah 52.7-10	Hebrews 1.1-12	John 1.1-14
Christmas Day (Set I) White	Isaiah 9.2-7	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-20
Sunday 28 th December Christmas 1 Red	Jeremiah 31:15-17	1 Corinthians 1:26-29	Matthew 2:13-18



The North Lafford Group of Parishes - Services for December 2025

Date	Ruskington	Service
07/12/2025	11am	Advent 2 - Holy Communion
14/12/2025	11am	Advent 3 - Morning Praise
19/12/2025	7pm	Traditional Carols and Readings
21/12/2025	11am	Advent 4 - Holy Communion
21/12/2025	3pm	Benefice Service - Sunday @ 3 -Christingle
24/12/2025	12noon	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
24/12/2025	3pm	Crib Service
24/12/2025	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25/12/2025	11am	Benefice Christmas Morning Service All Saints/St Ediths/St Marys
28/12/2025	11am	Benefice Holy Communion

Date	Anwick	Service
07/12/2025	11am	Advent 2 Morning Praise with St Ediths at St Mary's
19/12/2025	7pm	Traditional Carols and Readings with St Mary's at St Edith's
21/12/2025	9.30am	Advent 4 - Holy Communion with St Mary's at St Edith's
21/12/2025	3pm	Benefice Service - Sunday @ 3 -Christingle
24/12/2025	11.30pm	Benefice Midnight Mass
25/12/2025	11am	Benefice Christmas Morning Service All Saints/St Ediths/St Marys
28/12/2025	11am	Benefice Holy Communion

Date	Cranwell	Service
07/12/2025	11am	Advent 2 - Morning Praise
14/12/2025	11am	Advent 3 - Holy Communion
19/12/2025	7pm	Traditional Carols and Readings
21/12/2025	11am	Advent 4 - Morning Praise

21/12/2025	3pm	Benefice Service - Sunday @ 3 -Christingle
24/12/2025	3pm	Crib Service
24/12/2025	9.30pm	Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion
25/12/2025	10am	Christmas Morning - Service of the Word
28/12/2025	11am	Benefice Holy Communion

Date	Leasingham	Service
07/12/2025	9.30am	Advent 2 - Morning Praise
14/12/2025	9.30am	Advent 3 – Morning Praise
19/12/2025	7pm	Traditional Carols and Readings
21/12/2025	9.30am	Advent 4 - Morning Praise
21/12/2025	3pm	Benefice Service - Sunday @ 3 -Christingle
24/12/2025	3pm	Crib Service
24/12/2025	9.30pm	Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion
25/12/2025	10am	Christmas Morning Praise
28/12/2025	11am	Benefice Holy Communion

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07/12/2025	11am	Advent 2 Morning Praise with St Ediths at St Mary's
19/12/2025	7pm	Traditional Carols and Readings with St Mary's at St Edith's
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21/12/2025	3pm	Benefice Service - Sunday @ 3 -Christingle
24/12/2025	11.30pm	Benefice Midnight Mass
25/12/2025	11am	Benefice Christmas Morning Service All Saints/St Ediths/St Marys
28/12/2025	11am	Benefice Holy Communion

An opportunity for the purchase of an affordable home

Ruskington Parish Council have been asked by North Kesteven District Council to help publicise an opportunity for local residents to purchase affordable homes in Ruskington. As part of the Flaxwell Fields development, three two-bedroom bungalows with wet rooms are available at a discounted price of **£139,440** (66.2% of market value).

Priority will be given to those with a local connection to Ruskington or adjoining parishes. Eligible purchasers must be approved by NKDC.

Further details:

- Contact Winkworth (Matt Bouch) on **01529 303377** or mbouch@winkworth.co.uk
- More information is available at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

Thank you for helping us ensure that local people are aware of this opportunity. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



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



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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**Christmas Wishes and Blessings to you all from the Ministry
Team**