

St John the Evangelist

Manthorpe



Jottings – February 2026

News and views from church, village and estate

Minister's Letter

“Angels from the realms of Glory, Wing their flight o'er all the earth”

After we have celebrated the glorious and moving services of Christmas, our heads and hearts must be full of the stories of Angels visiting earth, advising, comforting, warning and giving good news. They visited Mary -to tell her she was to bear the Christ child; Joseph – advised in a dream not to abandon Mary when he found out she was pregnant, and later warned after the child's birth to flee to Egypt; Shepherds – who saw the sky filled with Angels proclaiming Christ's birth; The Wise Men – warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, but to return home by a different route.

What I wonder do we think of Angels?

Are they wondrous winged creatures, clothed in shining white, or is it possible that for us, they could look like ordinary people who seem to be present for us at times of sadness or need? I do think that Angels can still appear, as I have never forgotten that my father, who many years ago told us about a vision that he saw at a low point in his life. On a dark night, in a dark place, he saw a shining figure appear to him – giving him re-assurance and hope for the future. This was wonderful for him and comforting, as sometimes our lives do not always go as we planned and God can seem far away.

But Angels can cross our paths in many different ways – maybe not shining or singing, but saying, “May I help you carry that load?” “Can I give you a hand?” or “Come in and rest for a while – have a cup of tea”.

It seems that we too can be helping Angels to people in need in many practical ways and even the voices of Angels to those who long for comfort or consolation – showing they are not alone, and perhaps helping them to re-connect with God at difficult times: a visit to a neighbour – a friendly greeting in the street, can tell them “I care”.

So as the festivities and echoes of Christmas Carols heralding the birth of Jesus fade until next year, I will close with a prayer by Margaret Silf.

“May we hear the angel voices that sing of God’s love when we need it most, and may we be the angel voices to those who long to be consoled”

Joy Hobbs

Services for February

| | | |
|----------------|--|---------|
| Sunday 1st | Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Candlemas | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 4th | BCP Eucharist | 10.00am |
| Sunday 8th | 2 before Lent | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 11th | BCP Eucharist | 10.00am |
| Sunday 15th | Next before Lent | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 18th | Ash Wednesday | 10.00am |
| Sunday 22nd | Lent 1 | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 25th | BCP Eucharist | 10.00am |

Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------|
| Wednesday 4th | Worship Committee | 11.00am |
| Friday 6th | Church whist drive | 2.00pm |
| Monday 9th | Social Group | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 11th | Interment of Ashes - Bodil Clayton | 11.00am |
| Saturday 21 st | Soup & roll lunch in aid of Lent Appeal | 12:30pm |



Looking back to Christmas

On the 4th Sunday in Advent Nick Kerry joined us at the 10 o'clock service and as always introduced a new idea into his sermon. Did Joseph and Mary really head towards Jerusalem for the census (which is documented for six years later). Or did kind, gentle Joseph decide to take Mary who was nearly full term, away from the gossips and finger pointers to where his family resided? A long and dangerous journey, so that the scriptures could be fulfilled? It was a rather small congregation possibly because people were readying themselves for the Carol Service



The Church looked wonderful as the flower ladies had decorated on Saturday. Stuart Hadley was in charge with Judith taking charge of the organ: thank you to both of them. The service was of 7 readings and carols. We welcomed quite a few new faces as well as our usual congregation most of whom enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies. A warm start to the festivities.

We did not go to the Christmas Eve Communion but we were sidespeople on Christmas morning. Oh what Joy...a full church helped by Irace's daughter bringing 11 house guests who filled four pews! Frances Mason did the honours in an excellent service having arranged for Adrian Charity to play the organ (with the help of his son). It was a really happy service and thank you to all those who took part.

The tree and flowers will stay in place till the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple at the end of January, and with this cold weather will probably stay quite fresh! My 81st Christmas well celebrated with a little more illumination.

Happy New Year. Margaret Booles

and Epiphany

Thank you Ina.... the sharpest frost of the winter saw the radiators in the church cold! Linda and Joan decided to move the service to the warm hall. Good move. We were warm and comfortable and Steve and Joy led a very good service. Linda was able to control the Music as if we were in church. Well done team.



Margaret Booles



and forward to Lent

So far we've been looking back. Now it's time to look forward to Lent which begins this month.

Originally Lent was kept by only two groups of people: candidates for baptism – those who had made a commitment to follow Jesus, but had not yet been initiated into the faith; and those whose behaviour had caused a rift with the church.

They would spend forty days of preparation and fasting before either their baptism on Easter Day, or their re-admittance as full members. But very soon it was realised that everyone would benefit from spending that time of preparation.

So how should we keep Lent this year? Should we give up a favourite food or pastime? Should we take on more work for the church or our favourite charity? Should we spend more time in prayer and Bible study? How about borrowing (and reading!) a book from the church library?

How we decide to observe Lent is not important. What is important is that we do what is right for us to grow in our faith and prepare our hearts for Easter.

Jesus never leaves us: his love is constant and unchanging. It's us who leave him and wander away in thought, word and deed. Lent is a good opportunity to get back on track, back into a right relationship with God, ready for the great celebration of Easter.

Lent Appeal

Our Lent Appeal this year will be for the Grantham Dementia Café (MSRG) based at the Bhive Community Hub in Finkin Street. It offers help, advice and guidance to those who have dementia and also to those who care for them day in and day out. Practical information is also provided about benefits, suitable activities and respite care.

Mr Rob Dixon, from the group, will give a talk about their activities on Wednesday March 18th following the Communion service. Light refreshments will be available. Please invite any interested friends

Christina Banks

Jean Harvey

We were very sad to hear of the death of Jean Harvey daughter of the late Bill Harvey, who many will remember was a very active member of St. John's congregation and a Reader. She was 93 and in spite of increasing infirmity led an active life. Rest in peace Jean.

Margaret Booles

A Good Read

Bored in the afternoons? Don't forget our newly replenished bookcase in the vestibule outside the Hall. Just a small donation will secure an opportunity to be transported to the world of espionage or to a romantic encounter.

Margaret Booles

Play Group

Pupils took part in the Big School's Birdwatch in their forest garden.



St John's Community Hall

To book the hall please contact

Joan, Administrator 07434 516116

Regular bookings

2nd Mon. am New Layers of Stitch, Mary Bomphrey 07715 171808

3rd Mon. am U3A STEM, John Down 07468 696029

4th Mon. am Bobbin Lace Group, Jean Breckenridge 07929 990708

Mon pm weekly Daisy Chain Yoga, Rachel Metcalfe 079200 96439

Mon eve weekly Pilates, Kristina Hammond 577796

2nd Tues eve Manthorpe W.I., Judy Payne 07913 536 698

Tues weekly Sch.hols ConexusTuition, Karen Shaw 07701 096842

3rd Tues eve bi-monthly Breast Friends, Sara Green 07738 786743

Last Tues eve Grantham Sunflower W.I., Ann Kilroy 07933 0244233

Wed. pm monthly National Trust, Paul Skelton 07818 435 808

Wed. pm weekly Parkinsons UK, Ian Askew 01400 282712

Thurs am weekly Dansana Yoga, Helen Vyse 07513 901 454

1st Thurs pm U3A Psychology, Steve Potts 07434 464712

3rd Thurs pm National Trust, Paul Skelton 07818 435 808

4th Thurs pm U3A Exploring AI, Steve Potts 07434 464712

Thurs pm term time Conexus Tuition, Karen Shaw 07701 096842

Thurs. eve weekly Bridge Club, Peter Simpson 01949 842481

Friday am weekly Daisy Chain Yoga, Rachel Metcalfe 079200 96439

1st Fri pm Church Whist Drive, Joan Lincoln 07434 516116

4th Fri pm U3A Gardening, Caroline Bowman 01476 566411

2nd Fri eve Lincs Wildlife, John Chadwick 01476 561413

4th Fri eve Realize Sound, Liz Langford 07971 400769

Sat am weekly term time First Class Learning, Patricia Newman 07528 800300

One-off bookings for February

Saturday 7th Melismata 10 – 17.00

Saturday 7th First Class LEARNING in Church 11 – 13.00

Parish Matters

Vicar: Father Stuart W. Cradduck 01202569582

Church warden: Linda Vincent

PCC secretary: Rob Vincent

Safeguarding officer:

Parish Administrator: Joan Lincoln 07434516116

www.stjohnmanthorpe.org.uk Email: stjohnmanthorpe@gmail.com

Registers for January

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Baptisms | None |
| Weddings | None |
| Memorial Services | Michael Sydall Bodil Clayton |
| Burial of ashes | Michael Sydall |

Cleaning rotas for February

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Church | |
| 2nd | Mr & Mrs Hamlyn |
| 16th | Mr & Mrs Storey |
| Brasses | Joan Lincoln and Caryll Braunton |



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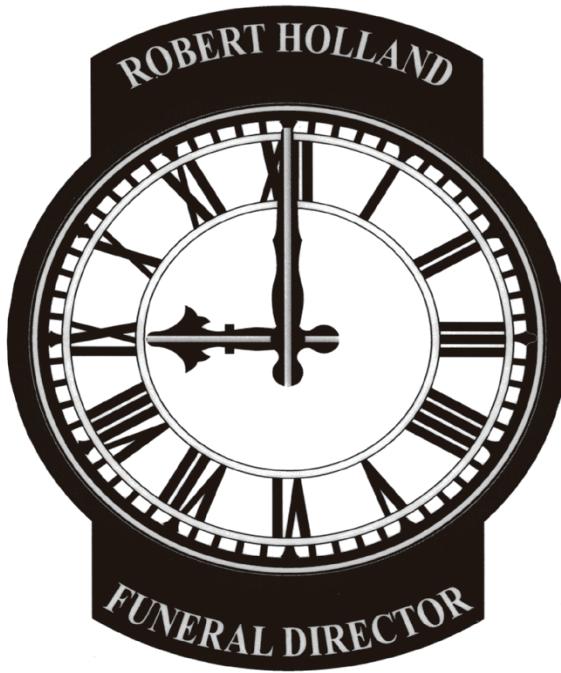
Articles for Jottings

To ensure entry to the following month's Jottings, please send reports, social events and any news and information to jilldallygate@gmail.com by the 18th of each month.

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Don't forget!

If you wish to mark a special anniversary, birthday or remember a loved one, you are welcome to put flowers in our memorial window.



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