

Amelcote Benefice

# *The Messenger*



**March-April-May 2026**

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## From the Rectory

We know all about the rhythms of the seasons as we move from winter into spring, but following the rhythms of the liturgy, the church has moved on from the birth stories of Jesus in Christmas and Epiphany towards the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus in Lent and Easter.



Sitting in the turning point between Epiphany and Lent is Candlemas (one of my favourite services of the year). The presentation of Christ in the Temple, to give Candlemas its full title occurs in the northern hemisphere on 2nd February. It is a turning point in the year, falling as it does halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Timed to supersede the pagan festival of Imbolc, it is when the first signs of spring are just becoming evident, when days are getting perceptibly longer, and the darkest nights of winter are falling away.

Candlemas bells (or snowdrops) pop up all over our churchyards and garden borders. They are such beautiful, delicate flowers and lift the spirits as the first sign of spring. I recently heard the legend of the snowdrop: According to legend, when Adam and Eve were ejected from the Garden of Eden, as they trudged out into the snow, holding hands and shivering with cold and despair, an angel took pity on them. Breathing gently on the falling snowflakes, the angel transformed them into snowdrops, whispering to Eve that these fragile flowers, the first to bloom in the cold depths of winter, would be a reminder of brighter days to come, and a reassurance that it would not be winter for ever. How reassuring is that!

As we read the papers and watch the news, I hear so often such statements as 'it's frightening, isn't it?', 'I don't know what is happening to our world'. The simple beauty of the snowdrop, flowering in what we regard as the depth of winter cold and darkness, gives us a glimpse of hope and a celebration of light before the dark purple of Lent takes up the rhythm of the seasons.

So, let us give thanks to God for all the beauty of His creation and do our part to nurture and sustain it.

Look out for what is happening in our churches over the Lent and Easter period, and come and join us.

*M. Mason*

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## Services in the Amelcote Benefice

Please join us at any of the services listed below for March, April and May 2026

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
1st March	10am	Holy Communion	Cold Higham
8th March	10am	Holy Communion	Tiffield
15th March	10am	Holy Communion— Mothering Sunday	Pattishall
22nd March	10am	Holy Communion	Gayton
29th March	10am	Holy Communion— Palm Sunday	Pattishall
2nd April Maundy Thursday	6pm 7pm	Agape Passover Meal Holy Communion with foot washing	Pattishall
3rd April Good Friday	2pm	Last hour at the Cross	Cold Higham
5th April Easter Day	10am	Holy Communion— Easter Day	Cold Higham
12th April	10am	Holy Communion	Tiffield
19th April	10am	Holy Communion	Pattishall
26th April	10am	Holy Communion	Gayton
3rd May	10am	Holy Communion	Cold Higham
10th May	10am	Holy Communion	Tiffield
14th May (Thurs)	10am	Holy Communion—Ascension Day	Pattishall
17th May	10am	Holy Communion	Pattishall
24th May	10am	Holy Communion—Pentecost	Gayton
31st May	10am	Holy Communion—Trinity	Pattishall

We have a weekly news sheet for readings, prayers and up to the minute information on services. Please email Chris Bulleid on [amelcote.info@gmail.com](mailto:amelcote.info@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

## Taizé for Lent

Holy Cross, Pattishall

Wednesdays at 7pm

25th February to 25th March



**Quiet, reflective, services for  
Lent**

## Lent course

**Holy Habits - a course on  
Prayer**

Astcote Methodist Church

Tuesdays, 7.30 - 9.00 pm

24th February to 14th April

**More information from Ann  
Atkin 01327 830097**

## Maundy Thursday

Join us at Holy Cross church on **2nd April at 6pm** for an **Agape meal** when we remember the story of the Israelite escape from slavery in Egypt, followed at **7pm** by a service of **Holy Communion** when we remember Jesus presiding at the Last Supper.

*For catering purposes, Please let Rev Marion (01327 624203) know if you are coming to the meal or if you have any special dietary requirements.*

## Good Friday

Come along to St Luke, Cold Higham on **3rd April at 2pm** for a service contemplating **The Last Hour at the Cross.**

## Easter Sunday

Family Communion  
for  
Easter Day

10am, Sunday 5th April  
at St Luke, Cold Higham



Click the 'Draw Near' logo above to access the Church of England's Lent resources. See also Bishop Debbie's article on p10

## Well Group

Well Group is a Christian ladies group which meets monthly, usually on the first Thursday of the month, from 12noon - 2pm, at Astcote Methodist Church, to share lunch and fellowship.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman  
'We are Together'

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April** Judy Andrews  
(not 2nd April) 'The Nurturing Programme'

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May** Speaker to be confirmed

All women are welcome to join us.  
Please get in touch with Ali on 01327 830770 or  
[albrierley@btinternet.com](mailto:albrierley@btinternet.com)

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, PATTISHALL

# CRAFTS & PLAY

Fridays 3.00-4.30 pm

February 27<sup>th</sup>

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>



**Crafts and toys**  
**Tea/coffee and cake**

**Everyone welcome**



A box for Foodbank donations can be found in Holy Cross church every day and in the porch at Holmeview, 8 Greenway, Eastcote, on Fridays. Please ensure that all food is non-perishable and well within sell-by date.

[Click here for items currently most needed](#)

Your generous donations are gratefully received and make a real difference. Thank you.

*Jean Pugh*

## Jean's work as an Anna Chaplain

*This time last year Jean Pugh, our Lay Pastoral Minister, wrote about her training and commissioning as an Anna Chaplain, a ministry with older people in our churches and communities. Since then Jean has continued her valuable work visiting those experiencing a difficult time, perhaps through loneliness, grief, or illness. Inspired by her training Jean also led a series of 'Messy Vintage' services at Holy Cross. The gentle worship, craft activities and tea and cake were much enjoyed by everyone who came along. Here is Jean's latest update. **MB***



### **Jean writes...**

On the 15th of February, Saint Peters Church Oundle hosted an Anna Chaplaincy quiet day. After a welcoming coffee, the day started with prayer then Revd Canon Becky Dybal (the Bishop's missionary) discussed how Peterborough Diocese was supporting Anna Chaplaincy and how the numbers of Chaplains are growing. We discussed how our existing ministry could combine with Anna Chaplaincy and there was a discussion about how each of us present were offering our ministry to older people in the Diocese. Most of the themes were about going into care homes and residential homes. As we do not have these in our Benefice, I discussed home visiting and Messy Vintage services.

After a short break and fellowship, we were guided into a Spiritual exercise and meditation, thinking about "What is Jesus asking you", "What did Jesus ask of the people he met?"- questions that you may like to think about.

The day ended with prayer.

If anyone would like to become involved with helping the senior generation as either Anna Chaplain or Anna Friend please talk to me.

Jean Pugh, Pastoral Minister; Anna Chaplain, 07711 329664

# Winter Warmer Lunch



Holy Cross Church

12 - 2 pm

1<sup>st</sup> March

Do join in with our varied and popular social events. A great way to relax and enjoy yourself whilst helping to raise much needed funds for our churches.



*The*  
**NATASHA THOMPSON**  
*Quartet*

Smooth Jazz on a  
Sunday afternoon

**April  
19**

Double Bass and Vocals -  
Natasha Thompson  
Piano - Sam Montero  
Guitar - Jamie Glew Osborn  
Drums - Sam Round

3pm Holy Cross Church Pattishall NN12 8NB  
£15 (under 18's free) Refreshments available

To book your tickets contact: Ali - 07794 742286  
Jean - 07711 329664 Wendy - 07906 077055



**TEAS ON SUNDAYS**



**Holy Cross, Pattishall**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

(then every first Sunday in the month)

**3.00-4.30 pm**

Teas, coffee, cakes  
and a friendly natter

**Please come!**



**Saturday 9th May**

**7.30 pm**

**Holy Cross, Pattishall**

**Ploughmans £12.50**

Tickets: Wendy or Jean

01327 830583

01327 830909

**Tiffield Open  
Gardens**

**Bank Holiday**

**Monday,**

**May 25th**

**12 – 5pm**

**£6 for 11 gardens**



Refreshments,  
Plants for sale

Mini-bus transport available

All proceeds to  
Church repairs

St Mary's Church Gayton NN7 3EY

**GAYTON OPEN GARDENS  
AND ALLOTMENTS**

**SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1-5PM**



Tickets and map from the church  
(Family Tickets Available)

**Gardens Open**

**Homemade Teas in the church**

**Car Parking**

## Lent 2026 - 'Draw Near'

Lent is traditionally a time when Christians take time to reflect what it means to be a follower of Jesus and to prepare for the celebrations of Easter. This year, the Church of England has produced some materials under the heading, 'Draw Near', to help us develop some life-giving habits that will help us in our daily lives to draw nearer to Jesus.

Throughout the bible we read of people who encounter Jesus in amazing ways and whose lives are transformed. Often the story ends there, but of course, that is just the start of the journey. As followers of Jesus, we know that the journey continues as we build on our relationship with and understanding of God. Central to the journey lie certain habits that can help us: worshipping together, praying, reading and exploring the bible, sharing communion, offering service to those around us, and sharing the good news we have come to discover.

I wonder, this Lent, what you might focus on to deepen your own discipleship



and nurture your spiritual life. As we draw near to God, he draws near to us and we can know his presence with us more fully. As Richard of Chichester prayed: *'may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day.'*

+ Debbie

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin  
Bishop of Peterborough

Information on Draw Near and related resources can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/2v49arbb> or by scanning the QR code below.



Diocese of Peterborough - Magazine Resource - March 2026  
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Tel: 01733 887000 Email: [communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:communications@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)  
[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk)



Click the link for the latest updates from the Diocese

[News from the Diocese](#)

### **Pastoral Matters**

If you are in need of  
someone to talk to,  
or would like to pray with someone, please contact

Jean Pugh,  
Lay Pastoral Minister on  
01327 830909  
or mobile 07711329664



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers



Please send items for the Jun/Jul/Aug Messenger to  
Margaret Bulleid by email, [amelcote.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:amelcote.messenger@gmail.com)  
by 18th May

Thanks for reading

## Who's Who in the Amelcote Benefice

### Rector

Revd Marion Reynolds  
01327 624203

### Lay Pastoral Minister

Jean Pugh  
07711 329664

### Churchwardens

Cold Higham	Pauline Pearson	01327 830287
Gayton	John Rogers	07973 836387
Pattishall	Alison Brierley	01327 830770
Tiffield	Mike Dean	01327 350077
	Rachel Holloway	01327 353172

### The Amelcote Benefice

St Luke, Cold Higham: St Mary, Gayton:  
Holy Cross, Pattishall: St John the Baptist, Tiffield