

St John the Evangelist

Manthorpe



Jottings – March 2026

News and views from church, village and estate

Minister's Letter

If We Had the Sense of a Goose

Here are a few facts about why geese fly in V-formation.

Fact 1:- Each wing flap creates an uplift for the following bird. A V-formation enables 70% more flying range than for a lone bird.

Basic Truth 1:- *People who share a common sense of purpose get where they are going more quickly and easily because they travel in mutual trust.*

Fact 2:- If a goose falls out of formation it feels the drag of trying to go it alone and quickly returns to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

Basic Truth 2:- *If we have as much sense as a goose we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way as we are.*

Fact 3:- When the lead goose tires, it goes to the back and another takes the lead.

Basic Truth 3:- *It pays to take turns doing hard jobs; with people as it does with geese.*

Fact 4:- Geese honk from behind to encourage the leaders to keep up their speed.

Basic Truth 4:- *We need to be careful that when we honk from behind, we are always encouraging.*

Final fact:- When a goose is sick or wounded, two geese follow it down to the ground and stay with it until it is either able to fly or until it is dead. Then they launch out with another formation.

Final Truth:- *If we have the sense of a goose we will stand by each other in times of difficulties.*

Who would have thought we could learn so much from geese?

Services for March

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Sunday 1st | Lent 2 morning prayer | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 4th | BCP Eucharist | 10.00am |
| Sunday 8th | Lent 3 Eucharist | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 11th | BCP Eucharist | 10.00am |
| Sunday 15th | Mothering Sunday morning prayer | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 18th | BCP Eucharist | 10.00am |
| Sunday 22nd | Passion Sunday Eucharist | 10.00am |
| Wednesday 25th | BCP Eucharist | 10.00am |
| Sunday 29th | Palm Sunday morning prayer | 10.00am |

Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------|
| Tuesday 3rd | PCC meeting | 2.00pm |
| Friday 6th | Funeral and Wake of David Irish | 1.00pm |
| Friday 6th | World Day of Prayer service at Finkin Street (see separate article) | 2.00pm |
| Friday 6th | No whist drive | |
| Saturday 7th | Church whist drive | 2.00pm |
| Wednesday 11th | Funeral of Wendy Roberts | 12.30pm |
| Wednesday 18th | Talk by Rob Dixon Grantham Dementia Café | 10.45am |
| Wed 25th | Burial of ashes: Jean Harvey | 10.30am |
| Mon 6 th April | Egg & Spoon races & Easter Bonnet competition | 10.30am |



World Day of Prayer



Each year, on the first Friday in March, Christians around the world gather together in their own locality for an ecumenical service. It is a powerful expression of our international unity and oneness. Each year the service is written by the women of a different country and reflects their culture and circumstances. This year, the service has been written by the women of Nigeria. This is how the service is described in their publicity:

The 2026 World Day of Prayer materials from Nigeria bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. It shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

The service this year is on Friday 6th March at 2:00pm. There are two venues available for you to attend. In Grantham it will be held at ChristChurch, Finkin Street. An alternative is offered at St Vincent's, Caythorpe. All will be welcome at either venue.

Margaret Booles adds:- Personally I am so pleased to support this and perhaps to remember Pat Shipley and Do Clark who were such staunch supporters and who took an active part in the service for many years. Of course Manthorpe has hosted the service many times. I urge you to go.

Lent Studies

This year there will be a choice of two series of Lent Studies to choose from – or you could attend both.

***Notes on an Execution* by Rhidian Brook**

Revd Francis Mason will be leading a study group at St Wulfram's on Tuesday mornings. It will be looking at the book *Notes on an Execution* by Rhidian Brook (Published 2025 by SPCK, priced £10.00.) Participants would need to acquire the book.

Dates 24th February; 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March
10.45am – 11.45am, followed by Holy Communion at noon.

Notes on an Execution is a book of Lenten reflections that retells the last days and execution of Jesus from a fresh, immediate perspective, placing the reader in the moment as an eyewitness, focusing on the confusion, hope, and shock of those first encountering the story without the hindsight we enjoy.

The Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem writes:

“This book is not merely a recounting; it is an invitation to inhabit the story, making it a vital companion for anyone seeking a more immediate and heartfelt understanding of Christ's Passion and resurrection.”

Mixed Media Study Group

Fr Stuart will lead a weekly group which will use mixed media in our response to our Lenten journey.

Music—Thursday 26th February—7.30pm at Grantham House
Participants to share a piece of music that has been meaningful in their life.

Art—Thursday 5th March—7.30pm at Grantham House
Participants to share a piece of art (e.g. picture, photograph, painting) that has been meaningful in their life.

Craft—Wednesday 11th March—7.30pm at St Wulfram's Church
Physically making something can be a prayerful experience in fellowship with others. Come along and be creative in your Lenten journey.

Keeping Lent



When I was young, back in the dark ages, I remember my mother singing, “Spring will be a little late this year.” In case, like me, you only know the words of the first line, it's a song about someone who's lover has left. Life feels empty at the moment. They know it will begin again, but not quite yet: so “spring will be a little late this year.”

And now I keep hearing “Easter is early this year.” And of course if Easter is early then Lent must be early too! How's that for stating the obvious?

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 fellowship of the church; 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 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.

Of course, unlike the lover in the song, 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 ourselves back on track; back into a right relationship with God, ready for the great celebration of Easter.

Lent Appeal



Our Lent Appeal this year is 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 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

Thanks to all who attended the Soup and Roll Lunch which was also raising funds towards the Appeal.

Christina Banks



Wendy Roberts

It was very sad to hear of the death of Wendy Roberts. Wendy was a regular at the Wednesday service and always enjoyed staying for coffee and conversation. My fondest recollection of her is of the first Christmas Fayre to be held in the Hall when she was so pleased to be asked to join the Kitchen Team and ended up staying the whole day.

Margaret Booles

Casserole Lunch

After days of rain, the Saturday of the lunch was a glorious morning and the Hall looked so cheerful when we arrived at 12.30. It was good to see friends, especially the ladies from the Whist Club. What a delicious selection of home made casseroles to choose from accompanied by mashed potatoes and peas with a bread roll followed by apple crumble or a delicious pumpkin flan and hot custard. We were then offered tea or coffee to round off the most pleasant lunchtime. Derek and I were hugely entertained over lunch by the company of Ann Bramley who regaled us and the Potts with recollections of the Manthorpe Village of her childhood some 80 years ago. Those who won a raffle prize also had a bonus! The Social committee has very few members but my goodness they work hard and thank you very much for such a good lunch. We shall now look forward to the Soup lunch in aid of the Lent Appeal on the 21st February.

Margaret Booles

Lent Soup Lunch

On a warm Saturday lunchtime 32 people gathered in the Community Hall to enjoy a wonderful variety of soups with bread rolls and butter. This was followed by apples crumbles and custard, Lemon merengue pie, trifle and gluten free cake. If there was still room in their tummies for more - seconds were on offer with a cup of tea or coffee.

A big thank you to the Social Committee ladies for their imagination in creating and supplying these tasty soups and puddings.

Thank you to all who donated a good choice of raffle prizes

A stall selling home created cards and home made marmalade made a good profit.

The proceeds of the Event and the stall will be donated to the Dementia Cafe at the B-Hive venue.

Joan Lincoln

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 March

17th Lent course 7.30pm

29th Private booking 3.00 to 5.00pm

Parish Matters

Vicar: Father Stuart W. Craddock 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 February

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Baptisms | None |
| Weddings | None |
| Funerals | None |
| Burial of ashes | Bodil Clayton |

Cleaning rotas for March

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Church | |
| 2nd | Margaret & Cynthia |
| 16 th | Rev & Mr Potts |
| 30 th | Mr & Mrs Hamlyn |
| Brasses | Joan Lincoln |



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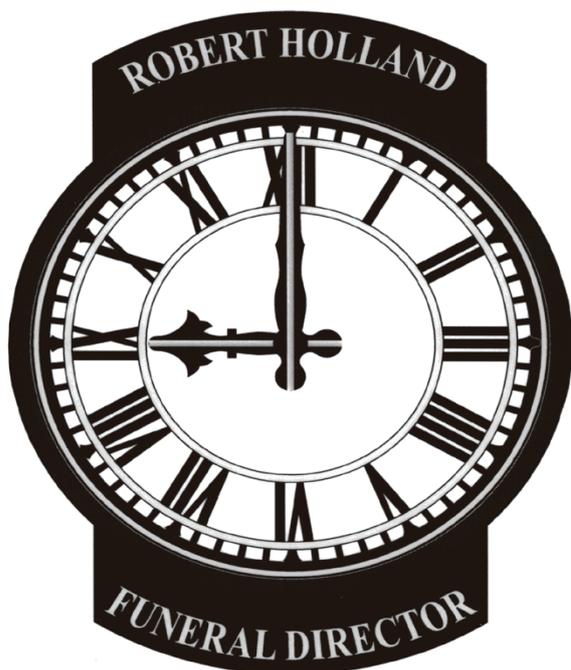
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To ensure entry to the following
month's Jottings, please send
reports, social events and any
news and information to
jilldallygate@gmail.com
by the 18th of each month.

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