

# The North Lafford Benefice

## Newsletter

### March 2026



#### Reflection from the Rectory

The month of March sees us well and truly into the season of Lent. Hopefully we will all have settled into the routine we wished to establish for the season.

Whether that is giving something up as a discipline along the idea of fasting or doing something extra for someone or a charity. For Christians we should be taking time to pray a little longer, to read those Bible stories which inspire us in our daily faith. Perhaps it might be Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus or the Samaritan woman by the well (both in John's Gospel).

Whether it is a small shift in our daily lives or, for some, a larger one, it is about seeking the opportunity to deepen our spiritual lives, commit more time to God in what we are doing for him in our communities. Overall Lent is a time of self-reflection on how we live our lives through Jesus's commandment to love one another. This year our Lent Exploration will concentrate on finding our voices within our faith, what shape that might take, for each of us will do it differently, the important thing is that we try to do so.

We will also be holding Lent Lunches for the whole period of Lent (details below). A time to come and eat, frugally, and more importantly to have conversation with one another. It will not be lost on you that our Lord spent many evenings sitting down with friends and strangers at a meal and having conversation with them, learning about them and just spending time with others. Jesus spent his time in the wilderness deepening his connexion with God, he suffered all manner of hardships, hunger, thirst, wild beasts and temptations. Yet when he came out of that time soaked in prayer, he was ready for what was to come, even though it would lead to the cross.

I pray that each one of us will do something which will bring us closer to God this Lenten season, through more committed prayer time, and learning more about the Christian story and coming together as people of God in our praise and worship. Blessings. Revd Al.

## **Sunday@3 – The Love of Jesus**

Sunday@3 focussed on the Love of Jesus. We considered his acts of service through the washing of his disciples feet and his redemption of St Paul on the road to Damascus. Following a time of praise and prayer we sat down together to decorate some heart shaped biscuits which included an excellent Noah's ark and the name above every name, Jesus. There will not be a Sunday@3 in March as it falls on Mothering Sunday, but we will return in April.



## **Lent Exploration**

This year there will be a new Lent Exploration based on the film The King's Speech, called Finding a Voice. **The sessions will take place at the Winchelsea Centre at Ruskington on Tuesday's at 11.15am from the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.** I hope that you will find time to come along and explore with us, you are always welcome. You can text Revd AI on 07961 654486 or email him at [revdajenkins@gmail.com](mailto:revdajenkins@gmail.com) if you are interested. Please use Lent Exploration at the beginning of your message. **Remember this is not a course, it is an exploration through which we will all learn more about ourselves and our Christian story.**



## **Messy Church**

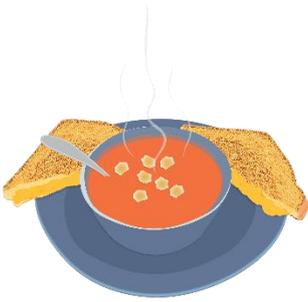
Messy Church in February was all about light and love. We learned about Jesus being the light of the world and how we can reflect that light into our lives and communities. There were lots of activities, candle making, heart-shaped biscuit creations (it was Valentine's Day!) even Rev AI received an anonymous card! There was some excellent singing and dancing and the recreation of the Candlemas story by Erin, Alexis and Caitlin was wonderful. Thank you to everyone who came along, and we look forward to seeing you on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March in the Winchelsea Centre at 2pm. (Photos of the day are on the boards at All Saints and the Winchelsea Centre).





### **Wednesday Benefice Evening Holy Communion**

Our Benefice Mid-week evening Communion returns on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 at 6.30pm at St Mary's Evedon. This service is an opportunity for us all to gather together and support one another in our faith across the whole Benefice. Please encourage those who have yet to come along, or have not yet visited the beautiful church of St Mary's



**Lent Lunches** Lent Lunches are simple fare, soup (a few different recipes), bread with some cheese and tea or coffee where we meet in fellowship and conversation during the season of Lent. **They will take place at the Winchelsea Centre at Ruskington on Tuesday's from 12.30-1330 beginning on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2026.** Please come along, you can book on by putting your name on the list at All Saints

church or email [allsaintslentlunches@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintslentlunches@gmail.com) If you are able please consider making a small donation which will go towards our young people outreach

### **Bishop Stephen's Visit**

Bishop Stephen the Bishop of Lincoln visited the Benefice on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2026. The Bishop preached and presided at the Benefice Eucharist, at All Saints, as we celebrated the Presentation of Christ at the Temple, known to most of us as Candlemas. A full church enjoyed a time of praise and worship together and lit our candles as the lights were dimmed.

Following the service a busy and enjoyable time of fellowship took place with representatives from all of the Parishes chatting away and catching up with one another.





In the afternoon the Bishop visited St Andrew's Cranwell Village where following a short service in church everyone gathered in the churchyard as the Bishop rededicated the reinstated Commonwealth War Graves and blessed the splendid new North Wall to the churchyard, built by master stonemason Christ Robinson. Representatives from across the country and county visited and a fine selection of

cakes were offered as everyone gathered at Cranwell Village Hall in celebration. Thank you to everyone who helped organise what the Bishop described as a "Splendid Day!".



### **Palm Sunday 2026**



Palm Sunday this year will fall on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. We will be holding a Benefice Service at All Saints. As we begin Holy Week I do hope that you will come and join in as we worship together and celebrate our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. A programme of Holy Week and Easter services are below.

<b>Services for the Benefice of North Lafford for Palm Sunday and Holy Week</b>			
<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
Sunday 29 March	11am	Palm Sunday - Benefice Holy Communion	Ruskington
Monday 30 March	6pm	Evening Prayer	Ruskington, Cranwell and Leasingham
Tuesday 31 March	6pm	Evening Prayer	Ruskington, Cranwell and Leasingham
Wednesday 1 April	6pm	Evening Prayer	Ruskington, Cranwell and Leasingham
Thursday 2 April	7pm	Maundy Thursday - Benefice Holy Communion with the Watch	Ruskington
Friday 3 April	11.30am	Good Friday - Service of Reflection and Prayer	Ruskington, Cranwell and Leasingham

Saturday 4 April	6pm	Easter Saturday - Tenebrae – A Service of Light and Dark	Ruskington
Saturday 4 April	6pm	Evening Prayer	Cranwell and Leasingham
Sunday 5 April	6.15am	Benefice Dawn Service	Ruskington
Sunday 5 April	9.30am	Easter Morning Praise	Leasingham
Sunday 5 April	11am	Easter Morning Praise	Cranwell
Sunday 5 April	11am	Easter Holy Communion	Ruskington

### **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.

### **News From St Andrew’s Church, Cranwell Village**

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February St Andrew’s Church, Cranwell held their usual coffee morning where attendance showed many parishioners welcomed the opportunity for a gentle catch up and chat with friends and neighbours over a drink and cake.

We welcomed back the lady selling her Scentsy products. There was also a stall fundraising by a local young lady, a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cranwell Scout Troop. She has been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027 and has to raise a substantial amount in order to be able to attend, so had had a mammoth clear out of toys, games and books. There was also a Guess the Granny game to participate in. Everyone fully supported both stalls.



The next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March when the Charity stall for the month will be SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity.

Following the new Cranwell Community Choir's splendid contribution to the Christmas Tree Fest a new concert in aid of church funds is in preparation. The SPRING SOUNDS MUSIC FEST will be held in Cranwell Parish Church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm so please keep this date free in your diary. Full details will be available at the next Coffee Morning and the event will be advertised in all the usual ways.

## **News from the Belfry**

### ***Anwick Church Bells to ring again?***

*We think it's definitely possible quite soon but it would be good to know if you would like your bells to ring for church services, weddings etc.*

*Please let me or Rev Al know your views, and especially if you want to learn how to ring the bells. We can teach you everything you need to know.*

*David Tower Captain*

[ruskington6bells@gmail.com](mailto:ruskington6bells@gmail.com)

## **Racial Justice Sunday – Love your neighbour 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**



Jane and Di, two of the Benefice ALMs attended the Racial Justice Service. The service for Racial Justice Sunday was held in Lincoln Cathedral on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. The theme was all about “love your neighbour”.

All creation belongs to God, the world and all God's children, interspersed by fitting hymns. Prayers led by Bishop Nicholas asked for forgiveness for all the choices we make that make us complicit in their evil and when we choose hate over love and violence over peace.

Children from the Church of England Primary School in Scunthorpe did a small dramatization of the “Good Samaritan” parable ending with the hymn “When I needed a neighbour, were you there? And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?”

Then there was a dialogue between Revd Canon Sudharshan Sarvananthan and Lois Delong who is the Community Connector and Young Adults and Intergenerational Lead at Alive Church Lincoln.

From questions posed, Lois explained about her background, why she ended up in Lincoln and how she had been helped to integrate into the community and how she now could welcome others. Prayers were led by Revd Georgie Machell and Revd Yuce Kabakci and he finished by singing the Lord's Prayer in Turkish, his native

language. Bishop Stephen then led the Act of Commitment and a blessing “to seek unity and to work for justice; to break down walls of prejudice and divisions that are before us.”

After the service, warming Afro-Caribbean food and a hot drink was available in the Chapter House with time to meet up and chat.

There was also an exhibition of prayers and messages on the theme of Racial Justice from pupils across Church of England schools in Greater Lincolnshire.

## **Safeguarding**

### **Fraud and how it is prevalent today**



Speaker Sharon Hall from Lincolnshire Police

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm

Winchelsea Centre

Invitation to all members of our Benefice Church Communities welcome to attend

Should you wish to attend or have any queries please contact our safeguarding officer  
Kath Lawrence beforehand.

Email address, [stableyard100@gmail.com](mailto:stableyard100@gmail.com)

## **New Benefice Administration Office Opening Hours**

**Monday 9.15 – 11.15 am**

**Tuesday 9.15 – 11.15am**

**Thursday 9.15 – 11.15am**

**Friday 9.15 -11.15am**

Email [northlafford@gmail.com](mailto:northlafford@gmail.com)

**Telephone 07359 617325**

## Readings for March 2026

	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel Reading
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent <b>Purple</b>	Genesis 12:1-4a	Romans 4:1-5,13-17	John 3:1-17
8 <sup>th</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent <b>Purple</b>	Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
15 <sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday <b>Purple</b>	Exodus 2:1-10	Colossians 1:3-7	John 19: 25b-27
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent <b>Purple</b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 Palm Sunday <b>Red</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21.1-11

## Monthly Sunday Service Planner - North Lafford Group - March 2026

Date	Time	All Saints Ruskington
01 March 2026	11am	Holy Communion - 2nd of Lent
08 March 2026	11am	Morning Praise - 3rd of Lent
15 March 2026	11am	Holy Communion - 4th of Lent - Mothering Sunday
15 March 2026	3pm	Sunday @ 3 Ruskington
18 March 2026	6.30pm	Benefice Wednesday Evening Holy Communion Evedon
22 March 2026	11am	Morning Praise - 5th of Lent
29 March 2026	11am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion - Palm Sunday
Date	Time	St Edith's Anwick
01 March 2026	11am	Morning Praise - 2nd of Lent - with St Mary's at Evedon
15 March 2026	9.30am	Holy Communion - 4th of Lent - Mothering Sunday with St Mary's at Anwick

15 March 2026	3pm	Sunday @ 3 - Ruskington
18 March 2026	6.30pm	Benefice Wednesday Evening Holy Communion Evedon
29 March 2026	11am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion - Palm Sunday
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>St Andrew's Cranwell</b>
01 March 2026	11am	Morning Praise - 2nd of Lent
08 March 2026	11am	Holy Communion - 3rd of Lent
15 March 2026	11am	Morning Praise - 4th of Lent - Mothering Sunday
15 March 2026	3pm	Sunday @ 3 Ruskington
18 March 2026	6.30pm	Benefice Wednesday Evening Holy Communion Evedon
22 March 2026	11am	Morning Praise - 5th of Lent
29 March 2026	11am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion - Palm Sunday

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>St Andrew's Leasingham</b>
01 March 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise - 2nd of Lent
08 March 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise - 3rd of Lent
15 March 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise - 4th of Lent - Mothering Sunday
15 March 2026	3pm	Sunday @ 3 Ruskington
18 March 2026	6.30pm	Benefice Wednesday Evening Holy Communion Evedon
22 March 2025	9.30am	Holy Communion - Lent
29 March 2025	11am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion - Palm Sunday

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>St Mary's Evedon</b>
1 March 2026	11am	Morning Praise - 2nd of Lent with St Edith's at Evedon
15 March 2024	9.30am	Holy Communion - 4th of Lent - Mothering Sunday with St Edith's at Anwick
15 March 2026	3pm	Sunday @ 3 Ruskington
18 March 2026	6.30pm	Benefice Wednesday Evening Holy Communion Evedon
29 March 2026	11am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion - Palm Sunday

### The Ministry Team

Revd Al Jenkins, Priest in Charge  
Work Mobile: 07961 654486  
[revdajenkins@gmail.com](mailto:revdajenkins@gmail.com)

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

The North Lafford Benefice Office is located

At **Myers House** (next to the Winchelsea Centre)  
Ruskington

Opening hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.15am – 11.15am

Email [northlafford@gmail.com](mailto:northlafford@gmail.com)

Telephone during office hours 07359 617325