

St John the Evangelist

Manthorpe



Jottings – April 2026

News and views from church, village and estate

Minister's Letter

The Joy of Easter: Hope in a Troubled World

As spring unfolds around us—with blossoms on the trees and longer, brighter days—Easter arrives as a profound reminder of hope, renewal, and new life. For us as Christians, it is the most joyful moment in the year: the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the victory of life over death, and love over despair.

Yet we do not celebrate Easter in a perfect world. Our news is often filled with conflict, uncertainty, and suffering. Many carry personal burdens—worries about health, family, finances, or the future. At times, hope can feel fragile, even distant.

It is precisely into such a world that the message of Easter speaks most powerfully. The resurrection is not simply a comforting story; it is a declaration that darkness does not have the final word. The events of Good Friday seemed to close the door on hope, but Easter morning flung it wide open. The empty tomb tells us that even in the face of loss and fear, God is at work, bringing life out of death in ways we may not yet see.

This hope is not naïve optimism or a denial of life's hardships. Rather, it is a steady, enduring trust that God's love is stronger than anything that opposes it. It reassures us that no situation is beyond redemption, no life beyond transformation.

Easter invites each of us to live as people of resurrection hope—to be bearers of light in dark places, kindness in a harsh world, and faith when doubt seems overwhelming. →

Small acts of love, forgiveness, and compassion become signs of the new life that Easter proclaims.

As we celebrate this holy season, may we hold fast to its promise. In a troubled world, the resurrection assures us that hope is alive, that love endures, and that new beginnings are always possible.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Fr Stuart

Holy Week Services

Monday 30th	Compline	7.30pm
Tuesday 31st	Service of Healing (Eucharist)	7.30pm
Wed 1st April	Compline	7.30pm
Maundy Thursday	Eucharist for Maundy Thursday	10.00am
Good Friday	Service of meditation at the cross	2.00pm
Holy Saturday	At St Wulfram's (see separate article)	8.00pm
Easter Day (5 th April)	Eucharist celebration	10.00am

Easter Day is so much more meaningful if you have lived thoughtfully through Holy Week

Do attend as many services as you are able.

And for the rest of April

Wednesday 8th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 12th	Easter 2 Eucharist	10.00am
Wednesday 15th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 19th	Easter 3 Morning Prayer	10.00am
Wednesday 22nd	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 26th	Easter 4 Eucharist	10.00am
Wednesday 29th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am

Holy Saturday at St Wulfram's

We begin our Easter celebrations with our friends at St Wulfram's on the evening of Holy Saturday with a family meal at 6.00pm.

(Cost £5.00, please book at St Wulfram's parish office or online.)

This is a happy, friendly occasion. At 8.00pm, we gather at the west door of the church where the Easter fire is lit. Our Pascal candles are lit from the flames and processed into the darkened church to bring in the light of the resurrection. It is a joyful service, filled with light, noise and smiles, as well as quieter moments as we renew our baptism vows. If you haven't experienced this service before, do give it a try. Those who have, go back year after year.

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Resurrection

A performance poem for Easter Day by Stewart Henderson. (c) *All rights reserved*. Find a quiet corner and read this poem aloud to yourself. Live with it and absorb it.

There was no grave grave enough
to ground me
to mound me
I broke the balm then slit the shroud
wound round me
that bound me.

There was no death dead enough
to dull me
to cull me
I snapped the snake and waned his war
to lull me
to null me.

There was no cross cross enough
to nil me
to still me
I hung as gold that bled, and bloomed
a rose that rose and prised the tomb
away from Satan's wilful doom
There was no cross, death, grave or room
to hold me.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 1st	Funeral of Derek Booles	10.00am
Monday 6th	Egg & Spoon and Easter Bonnet	10.30am
Tuesday 7th	Hall, kitchen, lobby, toilets and vestry CLOSED for oiling the floor.	
Wednesday 8th	Hall CLOSED: kitchen, toilets, vestry open am	
Friday 10th	Church Whist Drive	2.00pm
Mon 13th	Social Group Meeting	10.00am
Saturday 18th	Hall, Church and Grounds Spring Clean	9.00am
Monday 20th	Please return all annual reports to Jill Potts before this date	
25 th May	APCM (Annual Church Meeting) after morning worship	



Easter Monday 10.30am



Egg and Spoon Races and Easter Bonnet Competition

Boys and Girls 0-6; Boys and Girls 7-11, Boys and Girls 12-adult,
Mums, Dads, Seniors
Refreshments £2.00



Don't forget your hard boiled egg
and your entry for the Easter Bonnet Competition
Held at the church



Wendy Roberts (1940 – 2026)
a brief friendship fondly
remembered

There are seasons in life when friendships are unexpectedly and rapidly made and which surprise us with their impact on our lives. Such was it with Wendy. Although our friendship lasted only a handful of years, for that short period our times together were important fixtures in the weekly calendar. I met Wendy in August 2021. Some months previously I'd been introduced to St. John's



Manthorpe by Jean Alvey and joined the Wednesday morning post-service coffee gathering at Belton Garden Centre. One week Wendy came along, we got chatting and soon afterwards we were meeting at other times for coffee, meals and shopping trips. I believe that Wendy had not long had the dementia diagnosis at this point and was still coming to terms with what it might mean for her. She was still largely self-reliant and able to live unassisted in her house on Peascliffe Drive.

I soon realised that among Wendy's passions were her family, gardening and charity shops. The last of these was an unknown world to me so she was my tutor and I have wardrobe items I now hold dear from those 'crawls' round the discount outlets of Grantham and surrounding towns. In time a regular pattern developed which was to pick her up on a Wednesday morning for the Manthorpe service, go for coffee and maybe a bit of shopping then drop her at the Dementia Cafe in Finkin Street.

In time, as the dementia began to be more evident, she had a carer come daily to her home. In March 2022 Wendy had a brief respite stay at the newly-opened Royal Windsor care home, being only one of two residents at that point. Of course we didn't realise then that this was to be where she would spend the final months of her life.

Life continued in a settled pattern until just before Christmas 2023 when Wendy had a bad fall going to the St. Wulfram's Christmas Concert. This was the point when she could no longer live unaccompanied so was admitted on a permanent basis to Royal Windsor. From then on her dementia rapidly got worse and soon she was moved upstairs to the secure area. In time, conversation with her became difficult with her sentences making little sense. In 2025 she had a serious fall and then in January 2026 another fall resulting in a broken hip and broken back. She was very poorly and on my last visit, four days before she died, she was receiving pain management and end-of-life care and remained unconscious throughout.

Wendy was loved by her friends and the testimony at her funeral showed just how much her family was devoted to her, especially grandchildren and great-grandchildren. What was also very evident was how fondly she was regarded by staff at the care home. 'We all love Wendy' was something I heard on several occasions. I suspect it was her chirpiness and cheeky smile. I never knew Wendy in her earlier professional role but once when our 'Wednesday afternoon' band went to entertain at the Royal Windsor soon after Wendy's permanent admission there, I arrived late and found my bandmate David and Wendy chatting like two old friends. It turned out that they had been colleagues working for Lincolnshire Social Services with Wendy somewhat the more senior. David rated her very highly in her job performance. In his opinion, despite her cheeky smile she could be a force to be reckoned with.

So, a life comes, a life ends, friends are made, things are done and the ripples spread out. Just a short friendship but a special one. I thank God for the gift of having had Wendy as a friend.

Jenny Shaw

Our Lent appeal

for the Beehive Dementia Cafe in Finkin Street
is still open.

Many thanks to Rob Dixon for his informative talk.

Derek Booles

A friend and neighbour of Dovedale Close for over 50 years. A lovely kind man who shared in many occasions and celebrations with the Close. With his steady and laid back attitude he was always available to help. Derek will be truly missed.

Cynthia and Dave Dobney

Memories of Derek Booles

As we remember with great sadness the passing of our dear friend and colleague Derek we can look back on a life full of happy memories.

Derek was a quiet, unassuming, intelligent man and Margaret's rock and soul mate. Loving Father to Tom, Rachel and daughter-in-law Hollie and doting Grandparent to Peter, Millie and Tommy. He enjoyed his football and doggedly supported Leicester City Football Club through it's ups and downs, but was not averse to taking Peter to a Nottingham Forest match – a cause of much leg pulling!

For many years Derek organised the Ramblers and would once a year take Church members on a most enjoyable walk around the Grantham countryside. The picnic half way around was for many the highlight of the day!

As a Governor at Cliffedale School, his quiet support helped guide the school to become what it is today. In later years Margaret and Derek joined Steve Potts' team at the Grantham Indoor Bowls Club until their recent health problems overwhelmed them.

Both Derek and Margaret have been long term valued members of St John's Manthorpe, Derek serving for many years on the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Development Group organising the new build, and as a sidesperson and lesson reader.

Derek would sit in a Meeting listening to the proposals and discussions for and against and say nothing until he had had the chance to mull it over in his mind. He would then quietly voice his thoughts or proposal.

We will always remember Derek with great affection and respect. His life and dedication to his Family and Church are a great tribute to his memory and will never be forgotten. Joan Lincoln

Kindness

This was written by Margaret the day after Derek died

In the past few days we have experienced such kindness and love. Bill Harvey in one of his final homilies spoke of God's lack of hands, a voice or eyes on earth and how important it is that we should be those things.

From the humour and kindness of the Ambulance Team who took us to the new A and E Department at Boston Hospital and the reception staff and nursing staff who took such gentle care of Derek. The Consultant who told us they would get to the bottom of his lethargy and weakness...all as they would tell you, "doing their job". BUT it is the way they do it with such Kindness. To the Receptionist who checked me in at the nearby Premier Inn and realising I was exhausted and walking with a stick changed the room to the Ground-floor and made up an extra bed. "Do you have essential toiletries?" And went off for an emergency pack containing soap, toothbrush etc. to the complementary breakfast the next morning. To the palliative care team who dealt with us all with such gentleness and kindness. The Health care assistant who found a put-you-up bed for Tom to stay in Derek's room. Which by now was on the 6th floor of the main block with huge windows looking out across fields to The Stump. Constant offers of refreshment from the kitchen staff.

On Saturday the magnificent sunset which followed hours of heavy cloud and rain (a metaphor for life?) and that final hour, just the four of us, it was like the last exquisite bars of a piece of classical music, the Conductor with baton in one hand and the fingers of his other touching his lips urging the orchestra to slow down and play extra, extra quietly to accompany Derek's slowing breathing until the silence. I shall not be scared of death again and it brought me and the children closer together. All because we experienced KINDNESS. I had felt disappointed that my prayers had not been answered for Derek to make a complete recovery but they were answered by people using their hands, voices and eyes to do God's work in a situation which could not be cured.

Manthorpe Pre-School Playgroup enjoying World Book Day



2026 HALL / CHURCH / GRAVEYARD SPRING CLEANING

SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026

09.00am

**This year our Spring Cleaning day will include the Hall,
Church and Graveyard.**

**If you can help in anyway – please come along for a few hours
on the day or any another time.**

**Linda and Joan will create a list of jobs - just add your name
IT DOES NOT ALL NEED TO BE DONE ON THE SATURDAY**

Church of the Ascension (Edinburgh Road NG31 9QZ)

in the Church Hall

Frauds and Scam Information and Action Session

Talk given by Sharon Hall, Lincolnshire Police

14th April 2026 2pm-4pm

Refreshments

Please book by contacting Penny on pjallenasclon@gmail.com

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 hall bookings for April

Sunday 12th Melismata Choir rehearsal 7.00 to 9.00pm

Friday 17th Hall booked for Ashwin Wake 1.30 to 3.00pm

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 March

Baptisms	None
Weddings	None
Funerals	6 th David Irish 11 th Wendy Roberts
Burial of ashes	25 th Jean Harvey

Cleaning rotas for April

Church	
13th	Mr & Mrs Storey
27th	Margaret & Cynthia
Brasses	Christine Gibson



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Articles for Jottings

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

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Don't forget!

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



RH

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