

The North Lafford Benefice Newsletter

August 2026



Hello, I'm Jenny, and for those of you who haven't met me yet, I'm the new curate who has come to train and learn here in the North Lafford benefice, alongside Revd. Al. It has been an absolute joy coming here and beginning to get to know you all.

The last few months have been busy ones for me and my family. Preparing for Ordination, and everything that entails, moving house, a daughters graduation, and, by the time this newsletter goes to press, completing all my studies for a degree in theology (spoiler alert, the more you learn about our all-knowing, all-encompassing God, the more you realise there is to know...).

In my first sermon here in the benefice, I spoke about Jesus' words where he says 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' Since then, I have been thinking on that last word, Rest. What does it mean to find rest in the busyness, in the mundaneness, in the demands of our lives? How often do we feel truly rested? With all that this world throws at us, how often do we stop, take stock, and just be?

In the Gospels, we frequently see Jesus taking time to rest, time to be, despite the myriad demands of his ministry, which, let us not forget, took place over just a few short years. He does this in many different ways. Sometimes he retreats to quiet places, either by himself, or just with a few trusted friends, disciples, to pray. To find quiet, to find rest. Other times we see him spending time with his family and friends, at weddings, festivals, celebrations. Jesus reminds us in so many ways that our lives are meant for more than just work and busyness.

Over the summer months, we often find ourselves making time and space to spend with family, to go on holiday, to find rest. That can mean being in joyful settings with the ones we love, but it can also mean finding time, space to be with God. For me, my summer holiday this year will be joining the Lincoln Diocese pilgrimage to Taizé. Retreating from our busy world filled with demands, emails, and, dare I say it, assignments. Here, with my phone and the busyness of my life left behind, I hope and pray to rest. Rest in the knowledge that I am held by our all loving Father.

My prayer for you all this summer, is that it brings moments of true rest, whether in a garden with friends, by a pool or beach on holiday, or, like me, in quiet or on retreat. September, with all it brings, will come soon enough. For now, may this be a time to enjoy, to breathe, to take stock, and to rest.

With my hopes and prayers for a restful and restorative summer for you all. Jenny

Benefice Stories

Churchwardens admitted to office.



On Monday the 20th of July the Archdeacon's Visitation service was held at St Denys Sleaford. This service is the annual admission to office for newly elected Churchwardens. Everyone enjoyed the service, except perhaps for a couple of quite different music choices for well-known hymns! Pictured are our new wardens along with those who came to support them. Please keep your Churchwarden(s) in your prayers as without them our Churches would be all the poorer.

Sunday@3 – Knowing Our Story – The Boy Jesus in the Temple

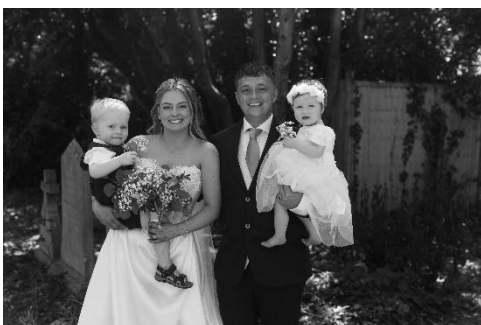
Sadly there was no Sunday@3 in July. However it will be back on the 16th of August when we will be exploring the story of Jesus remaining behind at the temple and all that follow that. If you would like to come along it would be lovely to see you this gentle All Age Service with song, praise and activities begins at 3pm.



Messy Church in July

Messy Church in July was part of the Finley Fundraising Day at Ruskington playing fields. There was lots of activities across the even and Messy Church offered the children the chance to talk about Jesus and love and decorate some air ambulance biscuits. A great time was had by all. Our next Messy Church will be on the

Wedding



On the 11th of July Liam and Ellie were married at All Saints Ruskington where they received God's blessing. The service also included the baptism of the couple's two children, Jack and Lily, which only added to what was the most joyous of days. Please pray for Liam and Ellie as they begin their married life together.



U3A visits to St Mary's and St Edith's

Both churches were delighted to receive the U3A (University of the Third Age (for those of more mature years!)) Church Group on Wednesday the 22nd of July. The day started with a visit to St Mary's Evedon wonderfully hosted by Tony and Carole Wright to view the building and its surrounds and hear about its history. The group then moved off for lunch and then visited St Edith's at Anwick. They were welcomed by Reverend Al and Yvonne Allenby. Reverend Al gave a talk on the history of the church and then invited the group to look for some interesting items within and without the building including the 3 men in a boat and the

laughing pig (perhaps you can have a look the next time your visit St Edith's (Hint: you do not need to enter the building to find them!). A member of the group commented "The visits were excellent. Full of details that demonstrate the wide variety of architecture and our rich Christian heritage and history over 1,000 years and more." Thank you to all who took part. The photo is of the group during their visit to St Edith's.

Forthcoming Bible Study

Reverend Al and the ministry team will be leading the **Bible Course** at 7pm on Tuesday's beginning on the 18th of August. We have offered course previously, but it has been

updated and we are excited to offer it to you once more. We are hoping that those who are seeking confirmation as well as those who wish to deepen their growing faith will attend. However if you have undertaken the course before, you may wish to revisit it and continue to deepen your knowledge of scripture. Please email revdajenkins@gmail.com to register your interest. Here is what one church group said about the new course. *We have people in our group who have been studying the Bible for decades and others who are new to it ... it's accessible to everyone within the group.* Come one come all! Further details to follow.



Lego Club

On Thursday the 6th of August from 1pm-3pm we are going to try a Lego Club. Lego will be supplied! The aim is to get the community together and to have a break from tablets etc. and enjoy each other's company and have fun. It will be in the Winchelsea Centre Ruskington. Our photo is of Annabelle's house, which she built on our trial day at Pop-Up. Please come along and take part.

Pop-Up with Crafts

Pop this month included some new things including trying a craft and Lego Club (trial).

The event was well supported from across our communities, and it was wonderful to hear people talking, experimenting with new things and just enjoying each other's company. There are cakes and coffee, a fresh veg stall and lots of other bits and pieces. Perhaps you might wish to come along to the next one. It is always on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Winchelsea Centre Ruskington. See you there!



End of Year Services for our Church Schools

It was with both joy and sadness that we celebrated the end of the school year with our Church schools. Both Chestnut Street (Ruskington) and St Andrew's (Leasingham) came to their respective churches to thank God for their school year through reflection, story, music and prayer. It was especially poignant for the Year 6s who will now fly off to Secondary school. Please hold them all in your prayers for a restful summer and for the Year 6 children as they begin their new journey.



Liz and Mike Kennedy celebrate 60 years of married life together.

On Sunday 12th July Liz and Mike Kennedy from All Saints Church were presented with a special card and flowers in celebration of their Diamond Wedding anniversary, which was the previous Friday. Corinna wished them continued happiness together and hoped they would celebrate many more anniversaries along the way. Liz and

Mike have been stalwart regulars at church for many of those 60 years. Mike said they were very touched to be remembered and thanked the congregation for their best wishes. They are now the second couple to celebrate 60 years of married life together in the past couple of weeks.

All Sorts



Would you like to meet up with friends or make new ones? All Saints is a Benefice initiative to help us do that. It is held at the Winchelsea Centre Ruskington on Mondays between 2pm and 4pm. We hope that as many people from across our communities will come along to enjoy fellowship, craft, activities and more. Please come along or if you want to volunteer please drop Reverend Al a line.



Please remember to send your Newsletter article to northlafford@gmail.com

Articles should be submitted by the **20th August** to ensure its inclusion in **September edition**



August Coffee Mornings around the Benefice

Do you enjoy a coffee and some good conversation on a Saturday morning? With a warm welcome, stalls to tempt and a hot drink to quench your thirst, why not tour the Benefice?

1st August Anwick Village Hall at 10.00am

1st August Cranwell Village Hall at 10.00am

8th August Leasingham Village Hall 10-11.30am

15th August Ruskington Winchelsea Centre at 9.30am – noon

St Edith's Anwick



Sunday 16th August we will have the church open to welcome anyone who would like to call in for tea/coffee and homemade cakes from 10.30am -12.30.

Once again, we are having another Musical Evening with Shana on Friday September 11th, 6.30pm for 7.0clock Ticket £10 including drinks and nibbles. The Tickets can be purchased from

Yvonne Allenby 01526832721 and Cherith Needham 01526834083. Please come and support this occasion as it's good to have sing song.

NEWS FROM CRANWELL



On Saturday 4th July St Andrew's Church, Cranwell held their usual coffee morning when the Charity stall for the month was St Barnabas Hospice, along with a Bottle fundraising stall for the Church.

The next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 1st August when the Charity stall for the month will be supporting the Lincolnshire Greyhound Trust.



On Sunday 28th June some of the organisers and helpers from the monthly Coffee Morning managed to get together for a luncheon and a bit of socialising. It was lovely to be able to chat to each other – there's never a spare moment at the coffee mornings.

July saw Margaret the Organist at St Andrew's, Cranwell celebrate a special birthday, with a parishioner very kindly having baked her a cake, which she shared around.



St Andrew's Church, Cranwell has been given the long-term loan of a lovely painting of the Church, showing how it used to sit next to the local pond and monument. This was painted in the 1970's by a parishioner John Bangay, who is buried in the Churchyard.

News from the Belfry

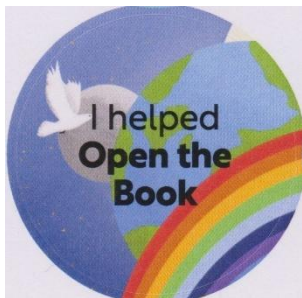


Ann Grimsley

Ann Grimsley lived in Ruskington and joined All Saints bell ringers as a beginner in Nov 2021. Ann progressed through Levels 1 and 2 and was elected a member of the Lincoln Guild of Bell ringers. She rang regularly for Sunday services and visited many local churches, ringing Lincoln Cathedral bells in Aug 23 and 24.

Ann moved to Scopwick and died suddenly on 21st May aged 65.

In her memory, on 1st July, on the eve of her funeral, we rang 2 performance pieces; 30 mins of Called Changes followed by a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles,
Rest in peace.



Open the Book

We started 2026 by telling the story of Cornelius the Gentile centurion and Peter's eating problem from the book of Acts, chapter 10.

We followed this at the end of March with the story of Paul and Barnabus who were chased out of Iconium and went to Lystra. There they healed a man's feet so he could walk. After the healing

the people of Lystra treated them like Greek gods. Finally, the people of Iconium caught up with them and attacked Paul. You can read the account in Acts chapter 14.

At the end of May we told the story of Paul and Silas who travelled to Philippi. There they drove out an evil spirit from a slave girl and were then put in jail. Then there was an earthquake and they were free. You can read the bible story in Acts chapter 16.



We finished the academic year with the story of the ascension of Jesus from the Mount of Olives from Mathews gospel chapter 28 and Acts chapter 1. There were lots of "Hellos" and "Goodbyes" in the story which the whole of the schools participated in actively.

All four schools St Andrews, Leasingham, Winchelsea primary, Chestnut Street and Cranwell primary really enjoy our stories and some of the youngsters join us in telling of the stories by dressing up as different characters as required. The rest of the school provide any sound effect or reactions we need.

We were a happy group of five storytellers, but Jan has stood down after our last performance, so we are looking for any volunteers to join us as storytellers. They will have to be DBS checked and we will follow the Diocesan safer recruitment policy.



Events around the Benefice

Winchelsea Centre

August

Lego Club – Every Thursday afternoon in August 1pm – 3pm

Pop up Market with Craft – Saturday 15th August at 9.30am

September

Gingo - Friday 4th September doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7pm cost £5

Talk on Domestic Abuse – Thursday September 10th at 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Messy Church – Saturday 12th September starts at 2pm

Pop up Market – Saturday 19th September 9.30am

Diocese Ladies Choir – Evensong in All Saints Church Sunday 20th September at 5pm

Harvest Pick up Box – Sunday 27th September at 12.30pm eat in or takeaway cost per box £7

St Edith's Church Anwick

Sharna – an evening of music Friday 11th September doors open at 6.30 cost per person £10

Harvest Service – Saturday 19th September at 7.00pm

Service of Healing and Wholeness – Sunday 27th September at 3pm



Reverend Al has asked that if you would like to continue to receive the Benefice Newsletter directly to your inbox would you please email Corinna at northlafford@gmail.com to confirm this. From August we will only send out the Newsletter from the Benefice Office. This is to ensure that we are fully complying with our responsibilities in protecting your personal information. With every thanks.

Readings for August 2026

	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday 2 nd August Trinity 9 Green	Isaiah 55:1-5	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Sunday 9 th August Trinity 10 Green	1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
Sunday 16 th August Trinity 11 Invitation Sunday (Holy Spirit) Red	Ezekiel 36. 22-32	Acts 4 23-31	John 14. 15-31
Sunday 23 rd August Trinity 12 Green	Isaiah 51:1-6	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
Sunday 30 th August Trinity 13 Green	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

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Services for the Month of August 2026 – North Lafford Benefice

Date	Ruskington	Service
02 August 2026	11am	Holy Communion
09 August 2026	11am	Morning Praise
16 August 2026	11am	Holy Communion
16 August 2025	3pm	Sunday@3
23 August 2026	11am	Morning Praise
30 August 2026	11am	Benefice Holy Communion
Date	Anwick	Service
02 August 2026	11am	Morning Praise with St Mary's at Evedon
16 August 2026	9.30am	Holy Communion with St Edith's at Anwick
16 August 2026	3pm	Sunday@3
30 August 2026	11am	Benefice Holy Communion
Date	Cranwell	Service
02 August 2026	11am	Morning Praise
09 August 2026	11am	Holy Communion
16 August 2026	11am	Morning Praise
16 August 2026	3pm	Sunday@3
23 August 2025	11am	Morning Praise
30 August 2026	11am	Benefice Holy Communion
Date	Leasingham	Service
02 August 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise
09 August 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise
16 August 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise
16 August 2026	3pm	Sunday@3
23 August 2025	9.30am	Holy Communion
30 August 2026	11am	Benefice Holy Communion
Date	Evedon	Service
02 August 2026	11am	Morning Praise with St Mary's at Evedon
16 August 2026	9.30am	Holy Communion with St Edith's at Anwick
16 August 2026	3pm	Sunday@3
30 August 2026	11am	Benefice Holy Communion

Blue Ruskington All Saints
Brown St Edith's Anwick

Pink St Andrew's Leasingham
Green St Andrew's Cranwell

Yellow St Mary's Evedon

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

The Ministry Team

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