

The North Lafford Benefice Newsletter

October 2026

Reflections from the Curate



I'm sure you've all noticed that the nights are drawing in and the evenings are feeling a little chillier, even if we are enjoying a brief return to summer as I write. Time is marching on: Autumn is here and, dare I say it, Christmas will not be far behind!

For me, the past three months seem to have passed in the blink of an eye. They have brought a whirlwind of new people to meet and new things to learn, as well as a new house, a pilgrimage to Taizé and the challenge of settling into my role here in the North Lafford Benefice. There has been much to learn, work out, pray about and reflect on, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. There is far more to come over the next few years.

Over the past few months, I've slowly begun to discover what it means to be an ordained minister here in the North Lafford Benefice: leading services across some of the churches, serving alongside Reverend Al at Holy Communion, praying with you all and learning something of your lives through conversations, usually whilst having coffee and cake! It has been a real privilege and blessing, and I hope and pray that I will come to know more of you as my time here unfolds.

As I reflect on these first few months, above all I give thanks for the way each one of you has welcomed me with love. As a community of faith, you have shown me kindness, patience and forbearance as I invariably forget to turn on a microphone, call you by the wrong name or leave at least one of my possessions behind! Day by day, you are showing what it means to be a community shaped by the teachings of Jesus and by the desire to become more like him.

St Paul expressed this beautifully in his letter to the Romans: *"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ... Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers."* (Romans 12:9, 12–13)

May we continue to grow together in love, hope, patience, prayer and hospitality in the months ahead.

Rev Jenny Hunt, Assistant Curate, North Lafford Benefice

Sunday@3 – Benefice Evensong with the Diocesan Ladies Choir

It was wonderful to welcome the Diocesan Ladies Choir to All Saints on the 20th of September for our Sunday@3 but technically it was Sunday@5! The service was led by Reverend Al, with Lee Mitton-Rooke as Musical Director and Rosemary Field as the organist and of course the wonderful Ladies choir. The service had a lovely feel to it and the 40 people who came along to worship certainly enjoyed it as fellowship lasted for a good hour after the service. Thank you to everyone who took part.



Messy Church in September

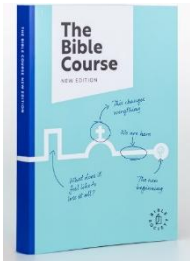
Messy Church took place at the Winchelsea Centre on the 12th of September. We were exploring the story of Harvest. We heard the story of the parable of the Sower, sang the Harvest Samba and had lots up dancing to it, we said our prayers and then went off to our activities. There was lots of talk about harvest as we made lots of different things, tractors, a mural, leaf motifs, Lego farms and lots more. Thank you to all the Mums, Dads and Children that came along and experienced that Christians can to fun and still be faithful. Next month's session will be led by Reverend Jenny, and the subject will be light.



Baptisms

It was wonderful to welcome two sets of families to our Church family in September. At Cranwell on the 13th of September we welcomed Penelope to her baptism with Mum and Dad, Tilly and Leon. At Ruskington on the 20th of September, we welcomed Azriel to his baptism along with Mum and Dad, Maddie and Sam and Azriel's big sister Florence (pictured). They were joyful occasions and we look forward to more baptisms in October at All Saints. Baby Thomas will be baptised during the service on the 18th of October and Baby Franky will be baptised the follow week when Reverend Jenny will take her first baptism service. Please keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers





Bible Study

The Bible Study is now reaching its end; the final session will be on Tuesday the 4th of October. It has been wonderful to welcome so many to the sessions. Especially so because in the reflection periods there is such discussion around the Bible, our favourite stories, and what we think.. We have had 14 people with us on this journey 8 of whom have not been to a Bible study with us previously. I do hope that this is the Genesis of more of us coming together to learn more about our faith.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will take place at Myers House on Tuesday the 20th and 27th of October at 6.30pm. These classes will explore the background to and our links to Jesus through Holy Communion. If you wish to be confirmed please contact Reverend Al by email at revdajenkins@gmail.com or speak to him at Church. You will need to have your baptism certificate and write a short piece on why you wish to be confirmed. The Confirmation service will take place at St Denys Sleaford at 7pm on Wednesday the 4th of November 2026.



Schools Work.



It has been a busy month with the schools returning back for Autumn term. There have been Governor visits, Bishop's Visitor visits, Collective Worship (formerly known as Assembly) visits. Thank you to the staff and children that have been so welcoming. Open the Book will return in November, with a bit of a new look theme and we pray that it will be received well. Richard Vickers is our lead for that, and we wish him and the team every joy as they bring the Bible Stories

to life through acting them out. It was lovely to welcome Yr 4 from St Andrew's CofE School Leasingham as they came to hear Reverend Al speak to them about the Christian initiation of baptism. The children were really engaged and asked lots of good questions. Thank you everyone.

Ruskington Pop Up

Ruskington held its 3rd Saturday of the month Pop Up market on the 19th of September. There were all sorts of crafts, coffee and cake. Outside we had Marie was there with her knitted goods, Dan with his photography skills, Michelle and the vegetable stall and the bric-a-brac under the control of Di and Chrissy. Inside we had jewellery for sale, Dave the coaster maker and of



course more coffee and cake. Thank you to everyone who helped set up, kept everything moving and of course taking everything down. If you would like to help with any of that please contact Di Holt our churchwarden. We even managed to get Reverend Al (pictured with his wife, Jayne) to make the bacon butties whilst Carol who is the Queen of Butties is away.



Remembering Our Loved Ones Service

On Sunday the 1st of November we will be holding our annual service to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We call it "Remembering Our Loved Ones". During the service, we read out the names of the people who have died, either recently or in the past, and a candle is lit for each one of the names, as they are read out.

The services will be held at All Saints Ruskington (including St Edith's and St Mary's), St Andrew's Cranwell and St Andrew's Leasingham. All of the services begin at 3pm. If you cannot attend the service and would wish to have the name of your loved one read out please let Corinna know at our Admin Office (northlafford@gmail.com) and we will arrange that for you. With every blessing. Reverend Al.

Bishop of Lincoln Resignation

You may have read that our Diocesan Bishop has resigned from his post. We do not now have a Diocesan Bishop and will not have one for a little while yet, as there are several processes to be undertaken before an appointment. Might I ask you to pray for Bishop Nicholas as he continues to be Acting Bishop for our Diocese. If the news of the resignation causes you any concern please let me know. Yours in Faith. Reverend Al.

News from Anwick



It's been a busy month at St Edith's, starting the month with the coffee morning, once again a good turn out, and the new bric-a-brac stall being a good attraction. This was then followed on the Monday evening with a Bingo, which is always well supported from villages round about. The proceeds being

shared with the church.



Our evening with Shana for the third-year running was once again a joyous evening of popular music which all could join in and sing. During the interval there were light bites and drinks for all.



Finally we held our Harvest Service, this year for the first time on a Saturday evening and had the pleasure of Rev.Jenny and her husband attending .After the service we had tea/coffee and homemade cakes which always go down well.
Thank you to all for the wonderful support for the Sleaford Food Bank .

News from Leasingham

Leasingham and District Horticultural and Craft Show which took place last Sunday at Leasingham Village Hall. It shows Rev Nigel presenting the Leasingham St Andrew's Church's Cup which is awarded to the competitor who gained the most points from across the classes at the show and this year it was won by a Leasingham resident Don Ridley. It was a very well attended community event with quite a number of entrants and well supported by members of our congregation - some of which also won recognition for various entries. Thanking Rev Nigel and June for supporting the event and presenting the awards - it was so good to see many organisations locally taking part and enjoying themselves.



News from the Belfry

On Sunday the 13th Sep, 6 of the Lincolnshire young bell ringers team met for a practice at All Saints Church, Ruskington.

The ringers were aged from 10 to 18 and, supported by adult helpers, rang rounds, call changes, plain hunt and Plain Bob. We stopped halfway through for a well deserved cake break. The ginger cake was tasty.



Many thanks to All Saints Church and David Cooper for supporting us.



DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS TALK IN RUSKINGTON

On the evening of the 10th September we were visited by Katie from EDAN Lincs who came to talk to us about domestic abuse.

We gained understanding about the ways in which domestic abuse affects families and individuals and how we can support.

Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service are always available to help, in many ways, anyone who is being or who has been impacted by domestic abuse. They are friendly and approachable and can make a difference.

Information about the services offered by LDASS can be found on www.ldass.org.uk and their support hub can be contacted on 01522 510041.

Also all the churches in our Benefice have a Safeguarding Officer who can assist in finding help. Her details are on purple posters in every church and in the Winchelsea Centre.

If you are in immediate danger call 999.



Ladies Club Charity for the Year" Hope for Tomorrow"



All Saints Ladies Club invited Liz, who is a fundraiser and advocate for the charity Hope for Tomorrow to come along and give a talk and accept a cheque with money raised over the last year. The charity operates all over England and provides very expensive (£130,000) custom made buses that are fitted out as a hospital ward, with all the kit, to provide for four patients to be able to receive chemotherapy treatment. The NHS provide the driver who sets up the bus when it gets to its destination and two specialist trained cancer nurses to provide the care and

the drugs. There are nine buses named after people remembered for various reasons and are sited with hospital trusts and "ours" called Elaine operates in Lincolnshire. She will travel to places such as Skegness or Spalding, where the treatment is not available nearby, saving patients from travelling hours to receive treatment during what is already a very stressful time. It was a very informative talk about a very worthy charity, that some ladies had not heard of before being suggested as the charity of the

year. Pictured is Rose Foot Chairlady All Saints Ladies Club having handed over the cheque to Liz, who we realised used to be a consultant oncologist at Lincoln County Hospital.

NEWS FROM CRANWELL



On Saturday 5th September St Andrew's Church, Cranwell celebrated 15 years of coffee mornings, with a fundraising stall selling handmade cards for all occasions. All attendees shared in a delicious birthday cake, candles being blown out by two ladies who were present at the very first



coffee morning.

The next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 3rd October when the Charity table will be the Cranwell WI.



On Saturday 12th September Trevor Bush gave a history talk in the Church entitled 'The People of Cranwell'. The Church was full, with everyone enjoying freshly baked scones with jam and cream.



Also on Saturday 12th September Lincolnshire Churches Trust held their annual Ride & Stride event and this year St Andrew's Church Cranwell were represented by four members

of the community, covering 35 miles apiece and visiting numerous churches in the process.



On Wednesday 16th September 1st Cranwell (RAF) Beavers spent their evening meeting in the Church, learning about the layout and exploring the Churchyard, including bulb planting and rubbings.

Harvest Festival was celebrated at St Andrew's, Cranwell on 13th September and this year a number of Community Groups pulled out all the stops to help decorate the Church. There was a range of both fresh and knitted/crocheted vegetables and fruit, with displays by Cranwell WI, Craft Group, Village Hall Committee and the 1st Cranwell Beavers. Together with beautifully arranged flowers as always. All donations of produce were donated to Sleaford Community Larder.



All Saints Ruskington Gingo Night



On the 4th September All Saints held another asked for – we must be popular – Gingo Night. For those that don't know what Gingo is, well I shall explain. It is a fun night for the cost of £5 where you get several bingo cards, a drink of Gin or other drink of your choice (alcoholic or non alcoholic), nibbles, interesting prizes and hopefully lots of fun. Luckily many of the people from the village and beyond did come along, including a lovely young baby with mum, dad and gran. Last time they came, mum was

actually due to give birth that night. She didn't but it was lovely that they came back and even won a prize. So next time we hold one do come along for a fun, fun night, nothing serious and a rubbish caller (I think I am improving)?

All Saints Church Clock



All Saints Church clock has been in need of a service and a bit of TLC for some while. To the rescue came Spike Sheldon who is a horologist (knows about clocks) and is now the official church clock winder and looker after. Talking to Ruskington Parish Council who “own” the clock, he spoke to his wife Lydia, a Parish Councillor and found there was money to pay for repairs and a recommendation for William the man to do the job. William lives at Long Sutton and

arrived with his friend to help but Spike asked if he could assist to learn the ropes in all senses of the job.

Pictured is Spike on the left with William Watson a very experienced horologist.

October Coffee Mornings around the Benefice



Coffee Fellowship

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?

3rd October Anwick Village Hall at 10.00am

3rd October Cranwell Village Hall at 10.00am

10th October Leasingham Village Hall 10-11.30am

17th October Ruskington Winchelsea Centre at 9.30am – noon



Help wanted!

Can you bake a cake or help out at one of the many stalls at the Ruskington Popup Coffee morning. Every 3rd Saturday from 9.30 – 12noon

If you can help please contact Jayne Jenkins on jayneallen016@gmail.com

All help is valued in the raising of funds



Events around the Benefice

Winchelsea Centre

October

10th Messy Church

17th Pop Up including craft

18th Church at 3

25th Lunch and Pudding at Winchelsea 1pm

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 October** to ensure its inclusion in **November edition**

Readings for October 2026

	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Sunday October 4 th Trinity 18 Green	Isaiah 5:1-7	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Sunday October 11 th Trinity 19 Green	Isaiah 25:1-9	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-4

Sunday October 18 th Luke the Evangelist Red	Acts 16.6-12a	2 Timothy 4.5-17	Luke 10.1-9
Sunday October 25 th Last after Trinity Bible Sunday Green Clocks go back!	Nehemiah 8.1-4a,8-12	Colossians 3.12-17	Matthew 24.30-35

Monthly Sunday Service - North Lafford Group - October 2026

Date	Ruskington	Service
04 October 2026	11am	Holy Communion
11 October 2026	11am	Morning Praise
18 October 2026	11am	Holy Communion with Baptism
18 October 2026	3pm	Sunday at 3
25 October 2026	11am	Morning Praise
25 October 2026	1pm	Baptism

Date	Anwick	Service
04 October 2026	11am	MP with St Edith's at St Mary's
18 October 2026	9.30am	HC with St Mary's at St Edith's
18 October 2026	3pm	Sunday at 3

Date	Cranwell	Service
04 October 2026	11am	Morning Praise
11 October 2026	11am	Holy Communion
18 October 2026	11am	Morning Praise
18 October 2026	3pm	Sunday at 3
25 October 2026	11am	Morning Praise

Date	Leasingham	Service
04 October 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise
11 October 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise
18 October 2026	9.30am	Morning Praise
18 October 2026	3pm	Sunday at 3

25 October 2026	11am	Holy Communion
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Date	Evedon	Service
04 October 2026	11am	MP with St Edith's at St Mary's
18 October 2026	9.30am	HC with St Mary's at St Edith's
18 October 2026	3pm	Sunday at 3

Church Key

Ruskington - All Saints	Come and join us You will always be welcome
Anwick - St Edith's	
Cranwell - St Andrew's	
Evedon- St Mary's	
Leasingham- St Andrew's	

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