St John the Evangelist
Manthorpe

Jottings – November 2026

News and views from church, village and estate

Minister's Letter

Volunteering

We are told that our country would collapse without volunteers. So would our church! The only person who is paid any money at all – and that is a nominal amount – is our administrator. And, of course, Father Stuart, our incumbent.

Most of our ministry is provided by volunteers. Joy Hobbs and June Miller lead worship together with Steve our Reader, Stuart H, Francis and myself, our retired priests.

But that is by no means all. It is volunteers who lead the church by serving on the PCC, act as PCC secretary and treasurer or church wardens. It is volunteers who serve on various committees and see to the smooth running of all aspects of church life. It is volunteers who visit the ill and housebound. It is volunteers who keep the church clean and the surrounding area tidy, who make sure that we don't run out of essential worship supplies or cleaning materials. It is volunteers who arrange flowers, act as vergers for weddings and funerals, make tea and coffee after services.

If you are involved in volunteering in the community, any of the activities I've mentioned above, or any I may have missed, thank you so much. We are all in each other's debt. Give yourselves a pat on the back!

But of course we always need more volunteers, people to take on another task, or switch from one role to another. We need volunteers for our upcoming Christmas Fayre. There is always more help needed with those practical tasks which are an essential part of our ministry to each other and to the community as a whole.

Jesus was very clear. Speaking of himself, he said, “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’

That needs to be our way of life too. Happy volunteering!

Jill Potts

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Services in November

Sunday 1st	All Saints. Morning Prayer	10.00am
Sunday 1st	All Souls Bereavement Service	3.00pm
Wednesday 4th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Sunday. Eucharist	10.00am
Wednesday 11th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 15th	Safeguarding Sunday. Morning Prayer	10.00am
Wednesday 18th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Sunday 22nd	Christ the King. Eucharist and baptisms	10.00am
Wednesday 25th	BCP Eucharist	10.00am
Saturday 28th	Wedding Drumond and Lamb	1.00pm
Sunday 29th	Christingle. Cafe Church	10.00am

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Dates for your Diary in November

Friday 6th	Quiz and fish and chip supper	5.30pm
Tuesday 10th	PCC	2.00pm
Friday 13th	Whist drive	2.00pm
Saturday 14th	Burial of ashes Margaret Shipley	11.00am
Monday 23rd	Social group meeting	10.00am
Thursday 26th	Deanery Synod at Fulbeck	7.30pm

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Harvest Lunch and Songs of Praise

It was a very enjoyable and well attended Saturday lunchtime. Jill Potts led the short celebration prior to lunch with hymns and readings from some of the 32 people who attended. Judy Hadley again led us in the hymns with her playing on the organ.

Once we had all sung for our supper, lunch was served. There was a veritable feast available with Baked Potatoes, ham, pork pies, bread rolls and a variety of salads to fill our plates. Once we had all enjoyed the main meal it was time for the desserts which were varied and enjoyed with second helpings encouraged. The raffle was drawn and there were a variety of winners, some regulars and some who were attending one of our social events for the first time.

Thank you to all who helped with the supply of the beautiful and delicious desserts. A special thanks to Cynthia for doing the large majority of the washing up, due to the failure of the dishwasher.

The social committee is a very small group who would always welcome any new members to join us in arranging the events. If you do not wish to be on the committee but would be a willing helper in the catering or assistance with setting up on the day of an event, you would be greatly welcomed. If that could be you, please see either Joan Lincoln or Linda Vincent to let them know of your interest.

Our next event will be the Fish & Chips Quiz on Friday 6th November. We look forward to seeing you there!

Linda Vincent

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Christingle



Christingle will be a little earlier this year to fit in with Cafe Church on the fifth Sunday in November. This is also Advent Sunday.

Do come along to enjoy making your Christingle and learning a little about the work of the Children's Society. Bring your family and friends. All welcome.

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Christmas Fayre

St John's Manthorpe's Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 5th December from 10:00 until 3:00. We will have a variety of stall holders in the Hall and in the Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

There will not be a charge for admission but there will be a raffle in the form of a bottle stall. Tea/coffee and a cake will also be on sale at £2.50 per person. The variety of stalls will be just the thing for finding that unusual Christmas present or stocking up on treats for the family. If you wish to be involved with any of the church stalls or want a stall of your own, please contact Linda Vincent by email at lvincent121155@hotmail.co.uk.

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A Franciscan Benediction (for the comfortable)

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers,
half-truths and superficial relationships
so that we may live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice,
oppression, and exploitation of God's creation
so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed
for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with just enough foolishness
to believe that we can make a difference in the world,
so that we can do what others claim cannot be done:
to bring justice and kindness to all our children
and all our neighbours.

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The following two articles are long and not easy reading, but it is essential that we educate ourselves and take action to protect our world for our grandchildren.

Hope for all Creation

Hope for All Creation is the House of Bishops' teaching document on the environmental crises facing our world. It seeks to equip the Church with a theological vision rooted in Scripture, worship and Christian hope. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York commend it as 'a guide to faithful living in our time' and a contribution to discerning our responsibility towards the planet we share. The report argues that climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation are not merely scientific or political issues: they are questions of discipleship, mission and witness.

Theme I: Learning to See Clearly

The document begins with an honest appraisal of the environmental challenges facing humanity, supported with scientific evidence. Christians are called neither to denial nor despair, but to truthful attention. The environmental crises reveal the consequences of broken relationships, with God, with one another and with the wider creation. Christians are challenged to listen carefully both to scientific understanding and to the experiences of communities most affected by climate disruption. How well do we as churches understand the environmental realities experienced in the communities we serve or in communities further afield?

Theme 2: Caring for creation is a Gospel Issue

The report firmly locates environmental concern within the heart of Christian faith. Creation is not merely the backdrop to salvation history; it is God's beloved creation. Drawing on Scripture and Christian tradition, the document presents humanity as called to care for God's world, not exploit it. The environmental crises are therefore matters of worship, justice and neighbourly love. The Church's response flows from its understanding of God as Creator and from the reconciling work of Christ. This challenges any tendency to regard environmental action as an optional interest rather than a dimension of faithful discipleship. How might creation care become more deeply integrated into the worship, mission and vocation of the Church?

Theme 3: A distinctively Christian hope

A fundamental aspect of this report is its insistence on Christian hope. Christian hope is neither optimism nor confidence in technological solutions. It rests in the God who created, sustains and will ultimately renew all things through Christ. The report repeatedly points to God's faithfulness and the promise of the renewal of creation. Christians therefore engage with environmental challenges not because success is guaranteed, but because faithfulness is required. As Church we are called to embody signs of that coming renewal through our worship, teaching, pastoral care, advocacy and practical action - locally and globally, individually and together. What might Christian hope look like in contexts where people feel anxious, are grieving or powerless in the face of environmental challenges?

Takeaway thoughts...

As God creates, sustains, loves and promises to renew the whole creation through Jesus Christ, so Christians are called to repent of our sinful ways and participate in the care, healing and restoration of the earth as an essential outworking of the Gospel.

Hope for All Creation therefore calls us to:

• action rooted in worship
• justice sustained by Christian hope
• mission shaped by God's promised renewal of all things.

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Bishop's Study Day

In response to the publication of the House of Bishop's report "Hope for all Creation" the Acting Bishop of Lincoln organised a study day for clergy and other church leaders in Lincoln on 17th October.

The event started with a panel of three speakers giving a theological reflection on the nature of the Christian response to the environmental crisis that is facing the world. Some comments that I noted were:

 We are accountable to God for our use of creation
 Salvation is not restricted to the spiritual realm
 Christian Hope is vital in an overwhelmingly difficult crisis

 “God will not forsake what God has made”
 The essential connectivity of the whole created order

This was followed by a second panel of “secular” experts giving their take on local, national and global environmental issues. This panel included: The Head of Conservation of the Lincolnshire Wild Life Trust; a director of the Lincoln Institute of AgroFood Tech; the co-ordinator of the Greater Lincolnshire Food Partnership; the Area Director of the Environment Agency; and the Professor of Rural Health and Social Care at the University of Lincoln. The message, again, was of the vital need to change our ways to avoid disaster.

We were then shown the documentary film “People’s Emergency Briefing” which is a 50 minute British documentary designed to explain the climate and nature crisis in accessible terms. Building on a late-2025 presentation to UK lawmakers, the film features nine leading scientists detailing how environmental breakdown impacts UK food security, extreme weather risks, public health, and energy costs. Host Chris Packham joins members of the public and notable figures to discuss the evidence, balancing stark scientific warnings with actionable solutions.

The documentary is clear in its warnings, and shows how the rapid rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide is impacting adversely on all aspects of life on this planet. We are left in no doubt as to the human responsibility for this crisis and the devastating consequences of not taking action. The documentary ends with a summary of the mitigations that are possible with existing technologies to prevent the world becoming uninhabitable within a few decades.

The solutions exist but the social, commercial and political will to implement them is often missing. The church has a role in stimulating the soul of the nations to prevent the gift of creation from becoming cataclysmic.

A primary role for the church is to make citizens aware of the true situation, and to promote solutions which are fair and equitable to all peoples.

Steve Potts

In order to educate ourselves, the film can be ordered to be shown to groups within the church and community.

Manthorpe Preschool Playgroup

♻️ OUR NEXT BAGS2SCHOOL COLLECTION – TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER! 👕♻️

Our next Bags2School collection will take place on Tuesday 10th November, so now is a great time to have a clear-out and gather any unwanted items! All items collected will be weighed, and all proceeds will go directly towards supporting our preschool charity

You can include items such as:

👚 Good quality adult and children's clothing
👟 Paired shoes (tied together)
👜 Handbags and accessories
🧣 Hats, scarves and belts
🧸 Soft toys and bedding (no duvets or pillows)

For a full list of what can and cannot be included, please visit: https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect

Every bag makes a difference, so if you have anything you no longer need, we would be so grateful for your support!
Thank you, as always, for helping our little preschool community.

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🍂 Thinking about childcare for your little one? 🍂

Come along to Manthorpe Preschool Playgroup for our FREE Autumn Stay & Play session! 💚 It's a lovely opportunity to explore our setting, meet our friendly team and let your little one enjoy some play while you have a cuppa and a chat.

🗓️ Friday 6th November 9:30–10:30am
🧸 For children aged 9 months to preschool age
☕ Tea, coffee and biscuits provided

Whether you're starting to look at childcare options or simply curious to see what we're all about, we'd love to welcome you!

📩 Spaces are limited, so please book your place by messaging us on Facebook or emailing manthorpe.psp@gmail.com.

This helps us make sure we have the right number of staff available and can give everyone a lovely, safe session.

Please share with any local families who might be interested! 🍂💚

MANTHORPE
PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Autumn Stay & Play

Come and discover a little world of play, learning and fun.

Explore our setting, meet our friendly team and enjoy a relaxed morning of play together.





Friday
6th November

9:30 – 10:30am

For children aged
9 months to preschoal age

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided

St John's Community Hall

Our hall is busy with various clubs and societies.
If you would like to book the hall please contact:

Joan, Administrator 07434 516116

Regular bookings

2nd Mon. am monthly Layers of Stitch Mary Bomphrey 07715 171808
3rd Mon. am monthly U3A Science & Tech John Down 07468 696029
4th Mon. am monthly Bobbin Lace Group
Jean Breckenridge 07929 990708
Monday pm weekly Daisy Chain Yoga Rachel Metcalfe 079200 96439
Monday eve weekly Pilates Kristina Hammond 577796
2nd Tues pm monthly St John Fellowship
Jenny Twycross 075300 60541
2nd Tues eve monthly Manthorpe W.I. Judy Payne 07913 536 698
Tues weekly Sch. hols Conexus Tuition Karen Shaw 07701 096842
Last Tues eve monthly Grantham Sunflower W.I.
Ann Kilroy 079330244233
Wed. pm monthly National Trust Paul Skelton 07818 435 808
Wed. pm weekly Parkinson's UK Ian Askew 01400 282712
3rd Thurs pm monthly National Trust Paul Skelton 07818 435 808
4th Thursday monthly U3A Global Governance
Steve Potts 07434 464712
Thursday 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
Friday pm monthly U3A Gardening Caroline Bowman 01476 566411
1st Fri pm monthly Church Whist Drive Joan Lincoln 07434 516116
2nd Fri eve monthly Lincs Wildlife John Chadwick 01476 561413
4th Fri eve monthly ReaLize Sound Liz Langford 07971 400769
Sat am weekly First Class Learning Patricia Newman 07528 800300

One-off hall bookings for November

Sat 21st Quilters group 9.30am

Sat 28th Sunflowers group 2.00pm

Parish Matters

Vicar: Father Stuart W. Cradduck 01476 569582

Church warden: Linda Vincent
PCC secretary: Rob Vincent
Safeguarding officer: Fr. Stuart Cradduck
Parish Administrator: Joan Lincoln 07434516116

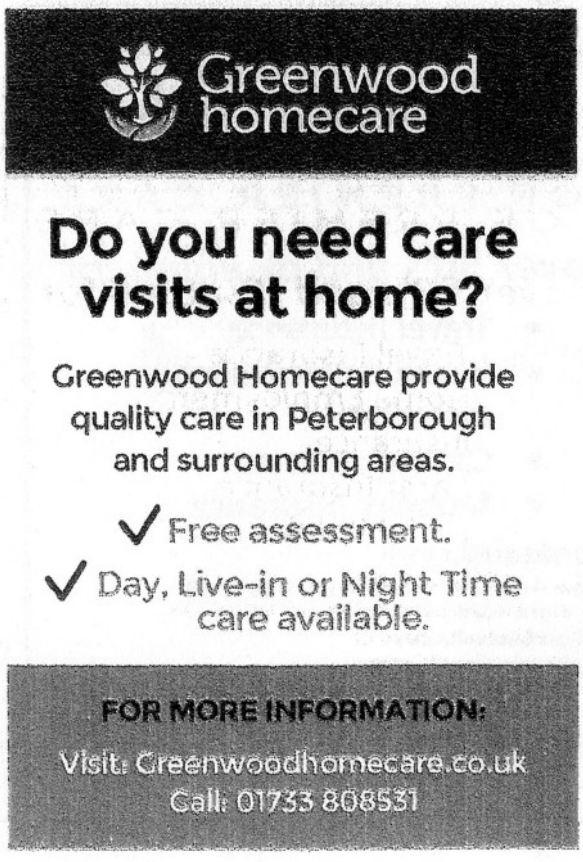
www.stjohnmanthorpe.org.uk Email: stjohnmanthorpe@gmail.com

Registers for October

Baptism	Flynn Gene William Hamilton-Rutter
Wedding	Richard and Marianne Lloyd
Funerals	Alan Wright John Beaty (crem.)
Ashes Burial	Peter Edley

Cleaning rotas for November

Church	
9th	Mr& Mrs Hamlyn
23rd	Mr & Mr Storey
Brasses	Twiggy Aspland



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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