UNITING LOUTHESK CHURCHES

"If you want to go fast go alone;
If you want to go far go together"

(African proverb)



Week commencing 15th November 2026

A weekly bulletin of services, notices and contact details for the deanery.

St Michael's Louth

Deanery Office Address:
The Rectory
Peppin Lane
Fotherby
Louth
LN11 0UW

PHONE
01507 610247

EMAIL
Louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org

Office Opening Hours at the Rectory: 9am – 4.30pm
Wednesday: Subject to change
Denise works from home Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri

SERVICES THIS WEEK ACROSS THE DEANERY...

Sunday 15th Nov

9 30am Holy Communion at Manby (RM)
9 30am Holy Communion at Marshchapel (KG)
10am Holy Communion at North Thoresby (PS)
10am Holy Communion at St James (MC)
11am Morning Prayer at Legbourne (MH)
11am Morning Prayer at Saltfleetby (LB MB)
11 15am Holy Communion at Fulstow (KG)
11 15am Holy Communion at Stewton (RM)
3pm Holy Communion at Withcall (KG)

Monday 16th Nov

Tuesday 17th Nov

11am Holy Communion BCP at St James (TS)

Wednesday 18th Nov

1pm Funeral at St Michael's Louth
(Frederick Desforges) (RM)

Thursday 19th Nov

2pm Funeral at Alford Crem (Jean Wilkinson) (HM)
3pm Funeral at Alford Crem (Richard Macklin) (TS)
5 30pm Commissioning of Revd Rachel Heskins and Mr David Margarson at Lincoln Cathedral
7pm Night Prayer/Compline
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3707749666?omn=81345669641
Code: 370 774 9666



Friday 20th Nov

Saturday 21st Nov

Sunday 22nd Nov

8 45am Holy Communion at Wold Newton (PS)
10am Morning prayer at North Thoresby (MP)
10am Café Church at Utterby (DM) Stir-up Sunday
10am Holy Communion at St James (Archdeacon Eleanor)
10 30am Holy Communion at Binbrook (KG)
10 30am Morning Prayer at Alvingham (AS CL)
10 30am Holy Communion at Grimoldby (JOB)
11am Morning Prayer at Tathwell (JH RH)
11am Morning Prayer at North Somercotes (MH)
11am Methodist Service at Saltfleetby
11 15am Holy Communion at South Elkington (Archdeacon Eleanor)
1pm Baptism at Manby (Brodie) (KG)
3pm Holy Communion at Little Grimsby (KG)

The tapestry of life



Year by year, we are reminded of the fragility of life as we gather to hold two minutes' silence in churches, at memorials and perhaps alone at home. During November, it is good to allow some space for reflection and not to succumb to the temptation to sweep away the sadness and emptiness and try to fill it with pre-Christmas rituals and enterprises- however worthwhile these may be. There is, of course, a place for our church Christmas markets, Advent wreath-making and choir practices, but in between, as we observe the falling leaves, the gathering mists and the first hard frosts of winter, let's allow thoughts of life's end to have their proper place and reflect on the beauty of life's meaning.

There is a powerful image of God as Master Weaver, cutting off the threads of the tapestry of life in the Book of Isaiah (chapter 38). King Hezekiah, who has been a faithful servant of God, was told by the prophet that his illness was incurable and he prayed that God would spare him; 'Like a weaver, I have rolled up my life and he has cut me off from the loom; from day until night you make an end of me.' God hears and answers his prayer by adding fifteen years to Hezekiah's life but as we know, the end comes at last. I find this image of a tapestry rug being rolled up very beautiful; it is only when it is unrolled, after death, that the interweaving of pattern and colour can be fully appreciated. During our lives, we are only too aware of the messy loose threads and knotted ends, but God sees the purposeful design which will only become truly apparent when life is finished and the tapestry complete and rolled out to see clearly. Then, if we allow ourselves time and space to contemplate the patterns, the supposedly random threads and colours come together to create something lovely, and the beauty of life as God sees it becomes apparent to us.

Mother Karen

Louthesk Deanery Intercessions
Sunday November 15th – Saturday 21st, 2026
2nd Before Advent

Tuesday (November 17th) is St Hugh's day, when the Diocese of Lincoln celebrates one of its great saints. Hugh was Bishop of Lincoln from 1186 -1200. Lincoln Cathedral building, as we know it today, is due largely to his influence and personal involvement. Hugh was a strict Carthusian monk influencing not just bricks and mortar but the behaviour of contemporary kings (Henry II and Richard 1st) and renowned for the pastoral care of his clergy and the justice and wellbeing of the ordinary people of his vast diocese as it was then. 800+ years later we have a lot to thank God for in Hugh's life and example and to learn from.

Collect for St Hugh

Holy God,
who endowed your servant Hugh of Lincoln
with wise and cheerful boldness,
and taught him to commend the discipline of holy life
to kings and princes:
Grant that we also, rejoicing in the Good News of your mercy,
and fearing nothing but the loss of you,
may be bold to speak the truth in love,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Praying for the world and each other in the Spirit of Unity, Peace and Love

THE MIDMARSH GROUP

Day 15

ALVINGHAM, St Adelwold: Katherine Mansfield [tr] Elizabeth Morriss [sec]

GREAT CARLTON, St John the Baptist: Carol Carter [ALM] [cw] Kathy Crust [cw] Margaret Smith [tr] Marion Blowman [sec]

Day 16

GRIMOLDBY, St Edith: Pete Bates [cw] [sec] [tr]

MANBY, St Mary: Roger Green [cw] Dita Lacey [cw] Dorothy Selfe [tr] Susan Price [sec]

Day 17

SALTFLEETBY, St Peter: June Spetch [cw] Duncan Archer [cw] Peter Hatton [tr] Susan Handley [sec]

SOUTH COCKERINGTON, St Leonard: Rebekah Cox [tr] Diane Bell [sec]

THEDDLETHORPE, St Helen [Exploring Closure]

NORTH SOMERCOTES AND MARSHCHAPEL GROUP

Day 18

CONISHOLME, St Peters [Exploring closure]

GRAINTHORPE, St Clements: Major Bark [cw] Sally Johnson [sec]

Day 19

MARSHCHAPEL, St Mary: Olivia Hurton [cw] [sec] Christel Henderson [cw] Lesley Collins [tr]

NORTH SOMERCOTES, St Mary: Linda Rose King [cw] Melanie Drewery [tr] Christine Wells [sec] Linda Dobson [PCC],

THE WIDER CONTEXT OF LOUTHESK DEANERY

Day 20

Those who serve our local churches:
All PCC and DCC members
Organists and Choirs
Vergers
Those exercising pastoral care
Those exercising a welcome ministry
Bell Ringers,
Flower arrangers
Church cleaners and maintenance of buildings
Those caring for churchyards and gravediggers
Fund raisers
Organisers of after-church refreshments, coffee mornings, lunch clubs, afternoon teas, food hubs, community larders and warm spaces

Day 21

Officers of the Deanery:
Archdeacon: Eleanor Robertshaw
East Lindsey Area Dean: Vacancy
East Lindsey Lay Dean: Paul Brewster
Assistant Area Dean: Terry Steele
Deanery Lay Chair: Stephen Woodcock
Deanery Treasurer: Matthew Pettifer
Deanery Administrator: Denise Bell
Deanery Synod Secretary: Anita Samaan
All members of the Deanery Synod

The Donald Witney Memorial Fund



GRANTS AVAILABLE

This charitable fund was set up in the memory of Donald Witney, an eminent Louth citizen and Christian, one-time Headmaster of King Edward VI School.

The Louthesk Deanery Synod, who are the trustees of the fund, are able to consider applications for funding from those of school-age and up to 25 years, who reside within the Louthesk Deanery. Grants can be given to assist them in the costs of such activities as attending Christian conferences or courses, carrying out expeditions to underprivileged parts of the world, or advancing their studies or skills e.g. undergoing an organ scholarship.

Applications in writing are now invited, which should detail the activity to be funded, and how the amount applied for will be used.

Please apply to: The Deanery Secretary,
Dr Anita Samaan at samaan@doctors.org.uk .

Authorised Ministry in our Deanery

We invite all who may feel that they are discerning a call to Authorised Ministry in our Deanery to be in touch with
Mother Karen motherkaren55@gmail.com
or
Mark Hunkin markhunkin@icloud.com

We shall be starting the next course for ALM ministry
January 2027

The Rectory, Peppin Lane, Fotherby, Louth LN11 0UW.
Hope your journeys are going smoothly.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Louthesk Deanery Study and Prayer Group

Louthesk Deanery Study and Prayer Group

The group meets monthly, beginning with drinks and biscuits, and the sessions last between one and one and a half hours. All are welcome. In November and December the group will follow the Diocesan Advent course materials, entitled "What does the Lord require?"

Sessions are to be held:

Tuesday 17 November 2 pm
St Peter's Church Saltfleetby

Tuesday 15 December 10 am
St Mary's Church Fotherby

Please indicate any prayer requests to
stephen.woodcockmbe@gmail.com

Demonstrator Project Update - St James's Louth

As a Demonstrator Church we were enabled to assess the options for our future energy policy and related heating solutions. Being a Grade 1 listed building of dramatic proportions, it has always been a challenge to achieve a comfortable temperature in the colder months for visitors, congregations, staff, and volunteers.

The actual award of Stage One to St James's was for just short of £18k which funded a full energy survey, solar panel survey, roof survey, and Bat survey in addition to focused technical support and specific fund-raising support. The findings of the various surveys were useful in establishing a clear picture of the condition and longevity of the systems currently in place and making the decision about whether and how to move to Stage Two, the actual implementation of a new energy vision.



What we did not expect was to discover that the lead on the roof of the Nave and Chancel was not of the required thickness and had deteriorated to such an extent with the extremes of temperature fluctuation in recent years, that water is beginning to threaten the roof timbers meaning we would need to prioritise the replacement of the lead. As has been seen recently at Southwell Minster, ignoring maintenance can result in serious problems.

A fund-raising initiative has been started and the first event, an indoor Festive Food & Crafts Market will take place on November 14th at St James's Church open 10-3pm with refreshments and lots of local producers with exciting Christmas products ideas to share - so come & join us and help us get the project underway.

LINCOLNSHIRE CHURCHES TRUST

AUTUMN PARTY 2026

WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER

AT HUTTOFT CHURCH HALL LN13 9RD

A talk will be given by members of The Friends of St Margaret's Church Huttoft, and Huttoft Parochial Church Council, to explain how they saved their parish church from threatened closure, successfully raised funding and obtained approvals to carry out very much needed fabric repairs to bring the building back to life and, as a result, successfully returned the ancient church to its rightful place at the centre of their rural community's life.

This is a church which was much loved by poet John Betjeman

John Betjeman's second Lincolnshire poem, 'A Lincolnshire Church' is based on St Margaret's at Huttoft. The poem reflects on the poor state of the churchyard, a local woman and an American connection, the inadequate restoration of the church building at that time and the postwar drabness of England. But when he enters the church, all is light and beauty, and he is somewhat taken aback because there he meets Rev Theophilus Caleb, an Indian born Christian priest, vicar of Huttoft, quite a surprise in deepest rural Lincolnshire.





GATHER at 11.30am followed by TALK at 12 noon TWO COURSE LUNCH served at 1.00 pm

£25 per person

Please notify any special dietary requirements when booking

To book please contact Henrietta Reeve

07889 540605 leadenhamhouse@googlemail.com

St James Christmas Tree Festival 2026

Thursday 3 December to Wednesday 9 December 2026

We are delighted to announce that the St James Christmas Tree Festival 2026 will take place from Thursday 3 December to Wednesday 9 December 2026.

This year, the festival forms part of our appeal to raise £500,000 towards essential roof repairs at St James Church. By taking part, you will not only help create a wonderful festive display for the community but also support the preservation of one of Louth's most treasured historic buildings for future generations.

We warmly invite local schools, businesses, organisations, community groups and individuals to decorate and display a Christmas tree.

Festival Programme

Thursday 3 December
Schools and Community Choirs evening.

Friday 4 December
Launch night Tickets £5.00 to be opened by our very own west end Star Nikki Wheeldon.

Saturday 5 December
Open 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Sunday 6 December
Open 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm

Monday 7 December
Open 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Tuesday 8 December
Open 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Wednesday 9 December
Open 10.00 am to 1.00pm Raffle will be drawn at 1.00pm

Last year's festival was enjoyed by hundreds of visitors and helped bring our community together in celebration of the Christmas season. We hope that this year's festival will be even bigger and better as we work towards raising the funds needed to secure the future of St James Church.

For further information please contact
jamescarrier597@yahoo.com
Friends of St James's Charity number 1100085

Thank you for your support. We look forward to welcoming you to St James this Christmas.

Medieval Vespers for the start of Medieval Advent

Worksop Priory, Priorswell Road, S80 7BU.

Sunday 15th November at 4pm

WHAT IS IT?

Sung Evening Prayer - Vespers – in the form used in medieval times (Advent starting mid-November)

First Vespers of Advent, in English

- Singing led by the Priory choir
- Instrumentalists from City of Lincoln Waites, and Sixteen-Eighty-Five

other content from a broad range of traditions, including

- Processional Entry, representing the arrival of Christ
- Reading of the Truce (keeping of the peace)
- Lighting of the lamps at sunset (Lucernarium)



Photo: Rachel J Wood

All Saints Church
Legbourne

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 28th November 10-12
In
Legbourne Community Centre

Raffle
Tombola
Cakes
Gift draw
Bric a brac
Guess the weight of the cake
And lots more

Coffee & Mince Pies





Café Church

Good coffee • Great company • All welcome

Sunday 22nd November at 10.00am

Also

Stir Up Sunday

Everyone shares a chance to stir the Christmas pudding!



Come along for coffee, cake and friendship

St. Edith's Church, Grimoldby.

"START THE WEEK"

COFFEE MORNING

With SEW & SEW

EVERY 3rd MONDAY of the month

Starting 22nd June

10.00am till 12.30pm.



FREE



Come along, bring your sewing or other craftwork and meet our happy bunch of thirsty sew & sews. Or just pop in for a friendly chat.

NO SKILLS NEEDED

A warm welcome to everyone

THE COMMUNITY LARDER NEEDS YOU!

WE ARE RUNNING REALLY LOW ON DONATIONS

Please help us support local families & individuals in need by donating to our **food bank.**

ITEMS WE URGENTLY NEED:

- Beans
- Soup
- Sugar
- Pasta or Curry Sauce
- Rice Pudding
- Cuppa Soup
- Milk
- Tinned Mushrooms/ Sweetcorn
- Tinned Ravioli or Macaroni Cheese
- Tinned Fruit
- Jam or Marmalade
- Tinned Peas & Carrots
- Tinned Potatoes/ Instant Mash
- Tuna
- Biscuits
- Tea or Coffee
- Pasta & Rice
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned Meat
- Cereal or Porridge



Drop off non-perishable food & hygiene items at the Trinity Centre Mon–Fri 9am–12pm

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY | HELP FAMILIES IN NEED | EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE | TRINITY CENTRE EASTGATE, LOUTH

Thank you for your kindness & generosity

Trinity Centre

St. Mary's Church
Covenham

Christmas Fair

Saturday,21st November

2.00p.m.

Variety of stalls to include:

cakes, crafts, jewellery, & more

Christmas Draw (£50 first prize)

Refreshments

A warm welcome is extended to all

You and your friends are invited to

the commissioning of

Revd Rachel Heskins and Mr David Margarson BEM

as Diocesan LGBTQ+ Chaplains

by The Acting Bishop of Lincoln, Rt Revd Nicholas Chamberlain.

Thursday 19 November
during the service of Choral Evensong in Lincoln Cathedral at 5.30pm.

All are welcome to celebrate this special occasion.



Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS & ADVENT SERVICES

December 18th · 6:00pm
Carols for All
Led By Penny Crane

December 20th · Morning
Advent 4
The Ven Aly Buston

December 24th · 4:00pm
Crib Service
Led by Penny Crane

December 24th · 11:30pm
Midnight Mass
Revd Mark Carroll

December 25th · 10:00am
Christmas Morning
Revd Chris Lilley

December 27th · Morning
Christmas 1
Ministry of the Word, led by Penny Crane

All are warmly welcome

THE PHOENIX SINGERS

Christmas Concert

Carols, hymns & choral music

St Michael's Church



Saturday 5th December · 3.00pm

Admission £8

Tickets by phoning

07486 316043 or 07981878648

Seasonal refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle.



Advent: Darkness to Light Carol Service

with the Grimoldby Singers

Saturday
28th November 2026
at
St. Edith's,
Grimoldby
6.00pm

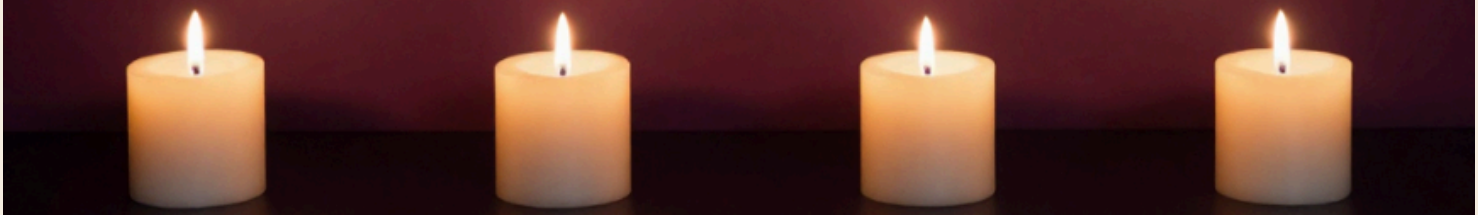
All are welcome to join us as we begin the journey towards Christmas

Seasonal refreshments will be served after the service

Darkness to Light

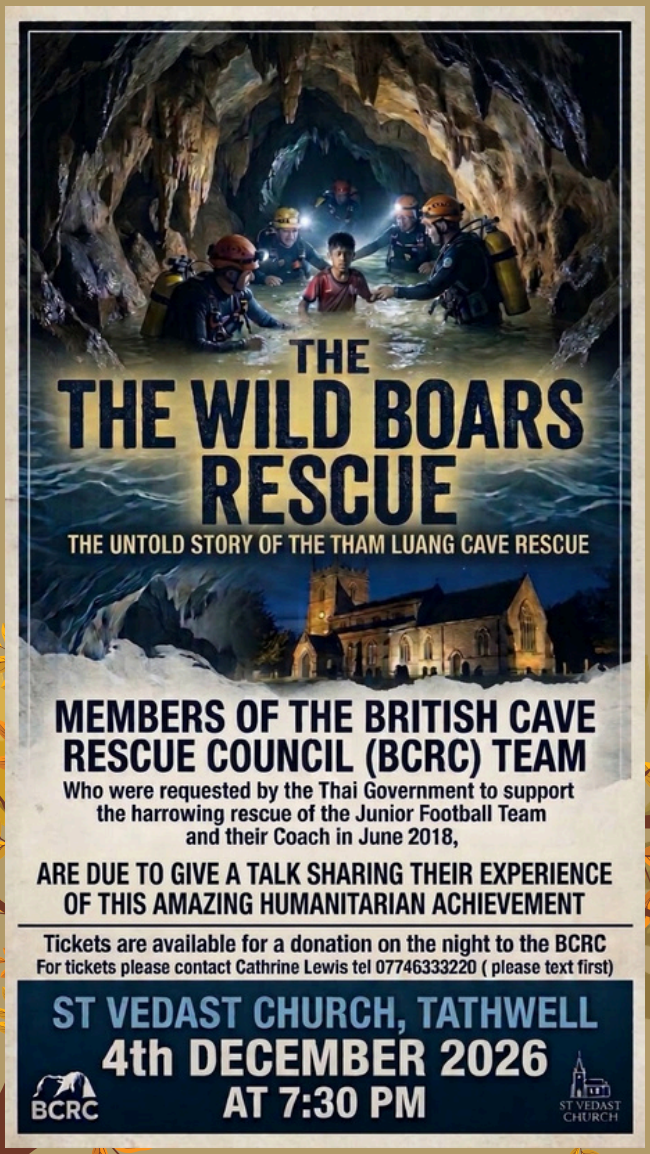
A Service of Carols and Readings for Advent

St James Church
6pm Sunday 29th November















Picture for Reference Only

On behalf of Alvingham St Adelwold. Our green altar frontal is becoming increasingly worn through age and regular use and is now starting to fall apart. Unfortunately, the cost of a replacement is beyond our current means, and we do not have anyone locally with the skills to make a new one.

If anyone is able to help, or knows of a green altar frontal that may be available, please contact the Louthesk Deanery Office on:
01507 610247
louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org.

We would be very grateful to hear from you.