UNITING LOUTHESK CHURCHES

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

Week commencing 6th December 2026

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SWABY



"If you want to go fast go alone;
If you want to go far go together"
(African proverb)



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
Wendesday: Subject to change
Denise works from home Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri

SERVICES THIS WEEK ACROSS THE DEANERY

Sunday 6th

9 30am Morning Prayer at Covenham (MH)
9 30am Parish Mass at St Michael's (TS)
9 30am Holy Communion at Great Carlton (RM)
10am Morning Prayer at Marshchapel (ArHen)
10am Ministry of the Word at St James (PC)
10am Holy Communion at North Thoresby (KG)
10 30am Methodist Service at Fulstow
11am Morning Prayer at Legbourne (LB MB)
11am Morning Prayer at Saltfleetby (MH)
11 15am Holy Communion at Stewton (RM)
11 15am Parish Mass at Ludford (TS)
2pm Ashes Interment at Grimoldby (Lovesey) (TS)
3pm Evening Prayer at Swaby (MH)
3 30pm Carols with Banovallum Band at Fotherby (Own Arr)
4pm Christingle Service at North Somercotes (KG)

Monday 7th

1 30pm St Bernard's Carol Service at Trinity Church

Tuesday 8th

11am Holy Communion BCP at St James (MC)
12noon Funeral at Alford Crem (Margaret Waters) (TS)

Wednesday 9th

Thursday 10th

7pm Night Prayer/Compline
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3707749666?omn=81345669641 Code: 370 774 9666

Friday 11th

12 30pm Funeral at Swaby (Margaret Dickson) (SH)
6 30pm Carol Service at Tathwell (MH)

Saturday 12th

1pm Wedding St James (Parkison & Avevor) (TS)

Sunday 13th

8 45am Parish Mass at Wold Newton (TS)
10am Morning Prayer at North Thoresby (JG)
10am Holy Communion at St James (AB)
10 30am Methodist Service at Saltfleetby
10 30am Morning Prayer at Binbrook (MH)
10 30am Morning Worship at Grimoldby (PB)
11am Morning Prayer at Ludborough (DM)
11am Holy Communion at Belleau (KG)
11 15am Morning Prayer at South Elkington (Own Arr)
1pm Baptism at Fulstow (Pippa Grace McHamilton) (KG)
3pm Carol Service at Grainsby (DM)
3pm Crib Service at Fotherby (SW)
3pm Family Communion with Carols at Grainthorpe (KG)
3pm Christingle Service at St Michaels (TS)
In aid of the Children's Society
6 30pm Carol Service at Thorganby (Archdeacon)



Saint Nicholas

Saint Nicholas, who became the legendary Santa Claus needs no introduction even in Turkey, Nicholas' home country, which now has less than 0.2% Christian population! There is still a hunger for the spirit of generosity and goodwill epitomized by Santa and, now that Black Peter -the traditional sidekick to Santa who went about scaring the naughty children- seems to have been dropped from the cast, I think we can feel happy about St Nicholas having turned into Santa, except to be on the alert for materialism, consumerism and the idea that only 'good' children receive gifts. This last development seems to me to run absolutely counter to the foundational Christian belief in God's grace which is never merited and certainly far away from the generosity of the original St Nicholas who gave gifts to a poor family anonymously out of the kindness of his heart to save the girls from a terrible future.



So- setting this in context, the traditional Christian time of preparation for the Great Feast of Christmas- Advent- involves prayer, space and quiet to contemplate the Mystery of the Incarnation- God with Us. Sadly, we are surrounded by a build-up of busy-ness which can blind us to the true simplicity of the Advent season. This year, three of our church schools are joining with a tradition called the Posada, in which a family offers simple hospitality to The Holy Family (Mary, Joseph and their donkey) as they travel the 75 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This custom helps to bring the familiar story to life and enables the school children and their families to participate in it, reminding everyone of the real Christmas story and the challenges faced by Mary and Joseph so long ago. This may also prompt us to remember those who are homeless now or travelling in difficult circumstances and open our hearts to support wherever and however we can.



Mother Karen

Louthesk Deanery Intercessions
Sunday December 6th – Saturday December 12th, 2026
2nd Sunday of Advent

Today our appointed Gospel opens our reading of Mark's Gospel. John the baptizer bursts on to the scene picking up the Old Testament reading from Isaiah. He is on the frontier of the ages as God arrives in a new and decisive way, turning the world away from its past sin and bondage, toward a future of promise and freedom. John proclaims the opportunity of a reversal of the downward spiral of human history, at the revelation of the entrance of the Son of God into the world. John the Baptist is the preview, the warm-up act, the curtain-raiser. With his brusque and staccato style, St Mark tells us this version of the Old Testament Elijah, with his single-minded life and horrendous death at the hands of the principalities and powers, is a preview of Jesus. Today's Advent message is that in the suffering and death of God's servants at the hands of despots and tyrants, is made manifest the realm of God.

From 'St John the Baptist' by Malcolm Guite:
So John the Baptist pioneers our path,
Unfolds the essence of the life of prayer,
Unlatches the last doorway into faith,
And makes one inner space an everywhere.
Least of the new and greatest of the old,
Orpheus on the threshold with his lyre,
He sets himself aside, and cries "Behold
The One who stands amongst you comes with fire!"
So keep his fires burning through this night,
Beacons and gateways for the child of light.

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

Revd Alan Hayday





THE FOTHERBY AND NORTH THORESBY GROUP (Continued)

December 6th:
LITTLE GRIMSBY, St Ediths - Judith Hunter [cw] Barbara Chester [cw sec] David Bunker [tr]
LUDBOROUGH, St Marys - Janet Dixon [cw] Gill Kettle [tr] Gillian Appleton [sec]

Day 7:
NORTH THORESBY, St Helen - Joe Gibson [cw] Des Green [cw] Michael Nicholas [tr]
UTTERBY, ST Andrew's - Tina Bryan [cw] Penny Would [cw sec] Chris Marfleet [tr]

THE LEGBOURNE AND WOLDMARSH GROUP

Day 8:
BELLEAU With CLAYTHORPE, St John the Baptist - Diana Stovin [cw] Michael Lamb [cw tr]
LEGBOURNE, All Saints - Hilary King [cw tr sec] Lillian Boot [cw] Patricia Broadley (Sec)

Day 9:
RAITHBY, St Peter - Jane Pocklington [cw] Mark Pocklington [tr]
SOUTH THORESBY, St Andrew - Rebecca Morgan-Chan [cw tr sec] Nicholas Hansen [cw]

Day 10:
STRUBBY WOLD MARSH, St Oswald - Margaret Farrow [tr]
SWABY WOLD MARSH, St Nicholas - Rebecca Morgan-Chan [cw sec] Penelope Shaw [cw]

Day 11:
TATHWELL, St Vedast - Russell Howard [cw tr]
WITHCALL, St Martin - David Martin [cw sec] Nicola Smith [tr]

THE TEAM PARISH OF LOUTH

Day 12
LOUTH, Holy Trinity - Jill Trafford [Manager] Garron Edwards [Admin]
LOUTH, St James DCC - Robert Haynes [cw] [tr] Penny Crane [cw] Mary Haines [sec]

To Love and serve the Lord course is for everyone

The next To Love and Serve the Lord course will be starting in January 2027.This is for everyone and anyone who is interested in learning more about their faith. It is also the foundation course for anyone thinking of authorised lay ministry.

Mother Karen motherkaren55@gmail.com

or

Mark Hunkin markhunkin@icloud.com

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

St Michael's Church
Louth



Servcies for the Christmas period 2026

Saturday 5th December 3.00pm
Carol Concert by Phoenix Singers.
Admission £8 followed by refreshments

Sunday 6th December: 9.30am Parish Mass

Sunday 13th December 3.00pm
Christingle Service
(in aid of the Children's Society)

Thursday 24th December- Christmas Eve
3.00pm Crib Service & Carols

8.00pm Bethlehem Mass

Please come and join us.

St Mary & St Gabriel
Binbrook

Community Coffee Morning

At The Plough, Binbrook

Wednesday 18th November
Wednesday 2nd December
Special Date:
Wednesday 16th December

Time: 10am – 12 noon

Drink and Cake
£2.50
★ Raffle ★

All Welcome!

LOUTH CHAMBER CHOIR
LINCOLNSHIRE CHAMBER PLAYERS
(Leader: Chris Rogers)

Sarah Billings & Gudrun Sharpley (sopranos)
Will North (tenor) Allan Smith (baritone)

Conductor: Frederic Goodwin

A FEAST OF MUSIC FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

J S Bach:
Cantata 140: Sleepers, wake
Christmas Oratorio (Part 4)
Brandenburg Concerto No. 1

MacMillan: O radiant dawn
Howells: Here is the little door
Leontovich: Carol of the Bells
Walton: All this time this song is best
Vaughan Williams: This is the truth
Goodwin: Sweet was the song

ST JAMES'S CHURCH,
LOUTH
SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER,
7.30 pm

Admission by programme,
price £15.00, from members of
the choir or at the door.
Accompanied children free.

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
Faith, Worship, Community
THE PARISH OF LOUTH

St. Peter's
Saltfleetby

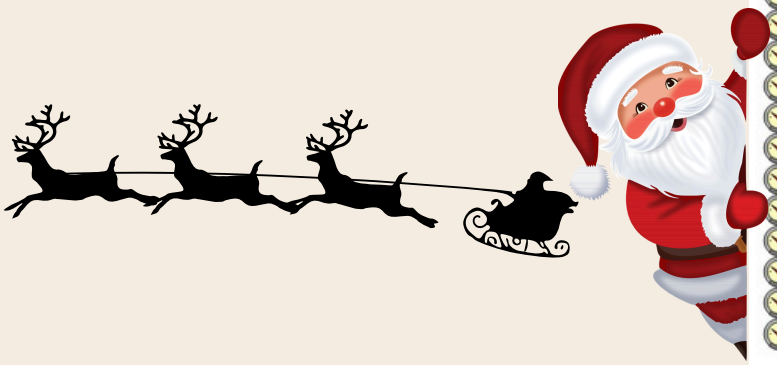
CAROL SERVICE



24th December at 6.00 pm.

Free Mince Pies and Mulled wine
after the service

EVERYONE WELCOME



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

St John the Baptist Church,
Belleau

Welcomes everyone to come
along and join us for



Carols by Candlelight

on

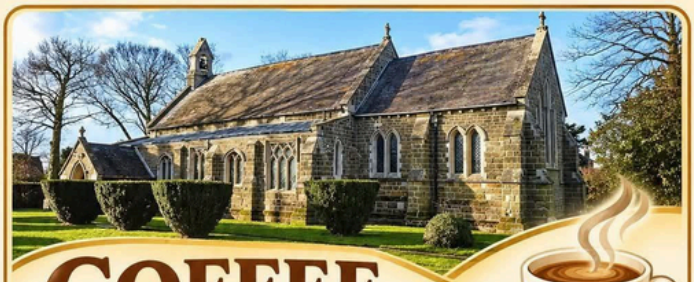
SUNDAY 20TH DEC

Starting at 6pm

Followed by refreshments

Funds go towards the church





COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday

St Peter's Church, Saltfleetby



10.30am until noon

Everyone is welcome!

Please come along.

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
jamescarrier397@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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Phoenix Singers

Join us for the Phoenix Singers Christmas Concert, supporting Bob's Brainwaves and Fulstow St Lawrence Church.

EVENT DETAILS

Saturday, 12th December 2026

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Fulstow Village Hall

TICKET PRICES

£10 for adults · £5 for children

Tickets can be purchased from:
Lesley Thornes at 07825 293389.

St James Church Christmas Servcies



CHRISTMAS & ADVENT SERVICES

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

December 20th - Morning
Advent 4
The Ven Aly Buxton

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



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.

St. Peters, Saltfleetby.

Regular Events

Each Monday 9:30am to 12:30pm *Craft Group*.
Each Wednesday (except the first Wednesday of the month) 9:00am till Noon *Art Group*.

For more information contact
June Spetch on 07961 424988
or Pete Hatton on 07443 508055

St. Adelwolds
Alvingham
CAROL SERVICE



27th December at 10.30pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

St. Peters, Saltfleetby.



Christmas Sing-Along

Sunday 13th December 2026

For more information contact
June Spetch 07961424988 or Pete Hatton 07443508055

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

St. Edith's Church.
GRIMOLDBY ART GROUP

Alternate Fridays at St. Edith's
2.00pm - 4.00pm



EVERYONE IS WELCOME, BEGINNERS TOO.

Donations for refreshments welcome.

During the very cold months we will use the Pavilion, Grimoldby where a small charge will be made to cover costs.

For more information call Peter Bates on 07743350542

St. Marys Manby



CAROL SERVICE



With Rev Kieth Dally

Sunday 20th December at 4.00pm
Carols followed by Mulled wine and mince pies

EVERYBODY WELCOME

St. Peters, Saltfleetby.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT



Tuesday 29th December

For more information contact
June Spetch 07961424988 or Pete Hatton 07443508055

St. Edith's Grimoldby
CRIB SERVICE



THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER
commencing at 4.00pm

Refreshments
ALL WELCOME

Merry Christmas

Joyful Hands presents our FREE Family Activity Session

at St Mary's Church
Saturday 12th December
10am – 12pm

This will be a Christmas craft session where you can come along and make some:



- Beautiful Christmas Cards
- Novelty Character Sweet Jars
- Yule Log Table Decorations
- Angel Tree Toppers
- Magic Wax Paintings
- Decorate a Xmas Biscuit

Cosy Corner for when you're all crafted out!

Refreshments Stand Selling hot drinks and homemade goodies to help you re-energise!

Small Fundraising Stall selling pocket money friendly items and craft sets.

Please remember to wrap up warm as the church can be a little chilly in the winter!

These stalls will help fund future events for Joyful Hands and the wider community!

SUPPORT ST MARY'S CHURCH & CHURCH HALL!
NORTH SOMERCOTES

HELP US FUNDRAISE FOR OUR NEW & EXCITING EVENTS!

ALL YEAR ROUND

TOMBOLA & RAFFLE PRIZES!



ADULTS & CHILDREN'S PRIZES: NEW ITEMS, GIFTS, TOYS, TOILETRIES, CHOCOLATES, WINE, VOUCHERS, GAMES, ETC.

JOYFUL HANDS CHILDREN'S CRAFT SUPPLIES!



FOR OUR CRAFT EVENTS: PAPER, CARD, PAINT, BEADS, FABRIC, GLITTER, YARN, ETC.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ANY DONATIONS!



DON'T FORGET TO LIKE, SHARE AND FOLLOW BOTH FACEBOOK PAGES TO HELP SUPPORT US AND KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST EVENTS WE HAVE PLANNED!

DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO:

- THE CHURCH ON SERVICE DAYS
- THE CHURCH HALL ON THE BIG BREAKFAST DAYS

OR ALTERNATIVELY YOU CAN CONTACT:

LINDA ROSE-KING	MELANIE DREWERY	CHELSIE AUCKLAND-FOX
07847 035773	07985 526245	07749 313075

The Children's Society

St Mary's Church
North Somercotes

Christingle Service

Sunday 6th December at 4pm

All Welcome



If you would like to get involved, please contact Linda Rose-King on 07847035773 or Melanie Drewery on 07985526245

All Saints Church
South Elkington

Carol Service

with members of the
Louth Chamber Choir

6.30pm
Sunday 20th December 2026

All Welcome

Refreshments will be served after the service



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Test your festive Bible knowledge.

1. Which two Gospels include birth narratives?

2. Which Gospel alone records the visit of the Magi?

3. What was the Roman governor named in Luke's census account?

4. Which prophet is quoted on the virgin birth?

5. Which ancestor links Jesus to Israel's royal line?

6. Why did the Magi avoid returning to Herod?

7. Who was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth?

8. What sign did the angel give the shepherds?

ANSWERS

1 Matthew and Luke · 2 Matthew · 3 Quirinius · 4 Isaiah · 5 David · 6 A dream · 7 John the Baptist · 8 Lying in a manger