



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 4th September 2025

Sunday 7th September, Trinity 12, Harvest Thanksgiving

8am **Launde Abbey** Holy Communion *Please come quietly into the chapel via the external north door to join the Abbey Community and those on retreat.*

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

10am **Skeffington** Morning Praise (Congregation led)

10.30am **Illston** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

4pm **Billesdon** Choral Evensong (Revd John Taylor)

Sunday 14th September, Trinity 13, Harvest Thanksgiving

8am **Launde Abbey** Holy Communion *Please come quietly into the chapel via the external north door to join the Abbey Community and those on retreat.*

9am **Skeffington** BCP Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)

10am **Gaulby** Morning Prayer (Hilary Painter)

11am **Billesdon** Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

Sunday 21st September, Trinity 14, Harvest Thanksgiving

8am **Launde Abbey** Holy Communion *Please come quietly into the chapel via the external north door to join the Abbey Community and those on retreat.*

11am **Billesdon** Songs of Praise (Lay led)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

6pm **Keyham** Harvest Festival (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

6pm **Skeffington** Evensong (Mike Hammond)

6pm **Illston** Evening Prayer (Hilary Painter)

Sunday 28th September, Trinity 15, Harvest Thanksgiving

8am **Launde Abbey** Holy Communion *Please come quietly into the chapel via the external north door to join the Abbey Community and those on retreat.*

9am **Skeffington** CW Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

10.30am **Hungarton** Harvest Festival (Revd Crystal McAllister)

11am **Billesdon** Harvest Festival (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

6pm **Gaulby** Holy Communion (Revd Philip Norwood)

Saturday Mornings

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Every week at 9am (meeting open from 8.55am)

All welcome. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89820297969?pwd=HD1LgagamMFBN2y1m7p226w0h2KVkj.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2029 7969. Passcode: 470000

Contact Us:

Hilary Painter: 0116 259 9752

hilarypainter@rocketmail.com

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/

07754395006 keith.evans6@btinternet.com



Sunday 7th September 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Leader and Reflection: Mike Hammond

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGl8Q.1>

Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342

Passcode: 079282

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE: T. 0203 481

5240 Enter the **Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342** followed by #

Enter the **Passcode: 079282** followed by #

Collect for Sunday 7th September

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is
afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy
to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reflection: Sunday 7th September 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity, Harvest

Thanksgiving

If we are planning to do something like buying a house
or applying for a job or emigrating to a different country,
we have to think very carefully. Our readings today are
telling us that our religion compels us to think just as
carefully about all our decisions about the way we live to
be faithful to our Lord.

Moses at the end of his life summoned the people and
issued a stern challenge. 'God has rescued you from
slavery and led you to a new home which you are about
to enter. You have a choice: obey God and prosper or
disobey the Lord and make a mess of things. Choose life
that you and yours may live.'

Paul gives a similar sort of ultimatum to Philemon, one
of his friends in Colossae: do the Christian thing and take
back Onesimus your slave who has run away, or risk
losing a brother who is truly a useful servant. The
decision may be hard but it will lead to happiness for all.
The challenges that Jesus makes are even more stark:
unless you hate your parents, family, and even yourself,
you cannot be my disciple! Unless you are prepared to
be crucified, you are not following me! He set out to
shock people into remembering his words and to think
hard about their real meaning. In that way his words
became life-transforming, influencing peoples' decisions.
The issue in each of these passages is that people can be
led to find a full and fruitful life if they make the right

decisions – the Israelites under Moses, Philemon and his family, and everyone called to be a disciple of Jesus. All are called to think very carefully about the important decisions in their lives.

For right decisions lead to fulfilment in our lives of faith, and ultimately to the management of the creation entrusted to us. At this Harvest time, let us pray for all making decisions for the welfare of the world.

Revd Philip Norwood

Bible Readings:

Sunday 7th September 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 30.15-end

15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,

18 I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,

20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Philemon 1-21

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker,

2 to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God

5 because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus.

6 I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ.

7 I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

8 For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty,

9 yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love – and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

10 I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.

11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me.

12 I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.

13 I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel;

14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.

15 Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever,

16 no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother – especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

18 If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.

19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.

20 Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.

21 Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Luke 14.25-33

25 Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them,

26 ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?

29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,

30 saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.”

31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

32 If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Additional Collect for Sunday 7th September Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Tugby Church: Revd Chris Webb

We have been so fortunate in Tugby that Chris has celebrated Holy Communion with us regularly as well as leading Christmas and Easter services, weddings and baptisms.

His last service in Tugby will be on 7th September at 6pm.

Everyone is invited to join us for the service and for light refreshments afterwards.

It would help for catering arrangements if you would let Janet know if you intend to come (07762600252)

Ride + Stride

It's the time of year when I encourage friends to sponsor me for the Ride + Stride, raising money for the LeicesterShire Historic Churches Trust to enable them to make grants for church and chapel repairs within the city and county. This year, however, I can't stride, only hobble, as I am waiting for a hip replacement. I will be visiting churches on 13 September but only by car! **However the need for funds is no less than before so please support me on my fundraising page:** https://www.goodhub.com/go/leicestershire-historic-churches-trust-200868?fbclid=IwY2xjawMZc_hleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHrRnRjhSkY2IUSVqo0OXoRW7bcu7o0vJmw5yYCW-YgwWZzu-9kegOhKtXbKzS_aem_fk4WS6XbpqEs1HO3VLSXg
Many thanks indeed. Jeff Hopewell.

Music in Quiet Places

Saturday 6th September at 7pm

St Cuthbert's Church, Great Glen

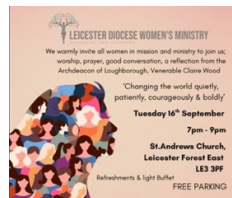
Tickets from Moira Bartlett 07713 594106

BARTLETTMOIRA@GMAIL.COM



MUSIC IN
QUIET PLACES

7:00PM ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025
ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, GREAT GLEN
TICKETS: CONCERT £15
OPTIONAL MEAL £10 (ZEPH'S BUFFET BOX)
RAISING FUNDS FOR ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
TICKETS FROM: MOIRA BARTLETT
BARTLETTMOIRA@GMAIL.COM / 07713 594106



Leicester Diocese Women's Ministry

Meeting Tuesday 16th September 7-9pm

Message from Revd Crystal McAllister

Dear Friends,

Some of you may not know that I am part of the Diocesan Women's Ministry Group. As a group, we are committed to creating a space for the women in our diocese, whether authorised, licensed, ordained, or lay, to meet, make connections and encourage one another.

Our next in-person gathering is on **Tuesday, 16th September at 7pm. At St Andrews Church, Leicester Forest East.**

The Venerable Archdeacon Claire Wood will be sharing a reflection entitled '**Changing the world quietly, patiently, courageously and boldly**'.

Bishop Martyn and Bishop Saju will be there too. If you would like to come, please book your place by 2nd September and state any dietary requirements you have.

Please RSVP to dwmg@leicestercofe.org if you wish to attend.

This is a FREE event. As part of the evening, a finger buffet is being provided.

I do hope to see some people from Launde Minster Community there.

Teas in Gaulby Church

Saturdays 2-30-4.30pm



Join us **every Saturday** until mid-September in Gaulby church for a cream tea, homemade cake, or just a cup of tea or coffee.

Teas are served between 2:30pm and 4:30pm, with optional seating outside when weather permits.

Food Bank Appeal:

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks. All donations welcome, which may be left in any of our Church porches, or you can donate online.

To make a donation to The Well's Food bank fund, by bank transfer to *The Well Kibworth*

Sort Code: 40-32-04 **Acc:** 41666959 **Ref:** 'Foodbank'
Gift Aid Forms can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.thewellkibworth.org/support-us>

Food for Thought

Wednesday 24th September 6.30 for 7.15pm start
Policing is not what you think with Uel Sandford



Food for thought

An evening with
Uel Sandford

Policing - it's not what you think

Meat and talk £16.50

Wednesday 24th September
Meet 6.30pm for 7.15pm start
Launde Abbey

Bookings (by Thursday 18th September)
mary.hooks@gmail.com / 01858 552054 / 01464 309966

About the speaker: Uel served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary for 32 years and was in Close Protection for the past 14 years where he has mostly made up of state and a police. Uel has recently moved to County.

About Food for Thought: Talks about the faith and contemporary issues, arranged by a local group of Christians, including support from Launde's St. Hilary's.

Skeffington Church Cream Teas

Saturday 27th September 2.30-4.30pm



Prayer Desks

Billesdon Church have 2 spare Prayer Desks

If any church would like one, contact Keith Evans:

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/ 07754395006

keithevans6@btinternet.com

Discover Horninghold's Heritage

Sunday 21st September 2-4pm



Our Churches Online:

All have web pages on 'A Church Near You'

Billesdon <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3500/>

Hungarton <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4708/>

Keyham <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4709/>

Skeffington <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3502/>

Goadby <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14444/>

The Gaulby Group

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4699/>



Information about the Zoom services (*including the Link*), and **other information**, can be found on **The Launde Deanery and Minster Community Website** at: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk>

Launde Minster Community August and September Services

You can now find the services throughout the Launde Deanery/ Minster Community on the website: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk> under the Tab: 'SEPTEMBER SERVICE TIMES'

NOTE: Back copies of Newsletters available on Launde Minster Community website

Do you want to have a look for something in previous editions of the Gaulby and Coplow, and the Hallaton, Whatborough and Loddington Newsletters?

Back copies can be downloaded from the Launde Minster Community website at: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/newsletters>



Creationtide – Peace with creation

1st September to 4th October

Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of Life.

It is a month of unity, when Christians around the world celebrate the beauty and wonder of creation and commit to caring for our common home.

This year, we are called to be peacemakers with creation, all people and God, based on Isaiah 32:14-18.

The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between people and God.

This description of devastated cities and wastelands reveals how human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored.

There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth.

To hope does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, repentance and solidarity.

Care for God's creation is part of our everyday faith as Christians. We honour God when we care for his creation.

We show love to our neighbours, near and far, when we

care about the environments in which they live. And we

work for justice when we seek to tackle climate change and halt the loss of nature.

During Creationtide, that call feels all the more significant and is a great time to start, or expand upon our eco-conscious endeavours.

Take action and read more here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/creationtide-2025--peace-with-creation.php>

East & Southeast Asian Heritage Month



September is East & Southeast Asian (ESEA) Heritage Month. During the month we are called to consider the theme 'Reframing Resilience'.

This week, Jessie Tang, our Intercultural Ministry Director, reflects on her familial journey and celebrates the stories of many others who've migrated into our cities and worshipping communities.

See also a video featuring Jessie's story and some words from Revd Pak Kwong Yip of Leicester Chinese Christian Church.

Find out more here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/east-southeast-asian-esea-heritage-month.php>

Growing Deeper in Faith and Fellowship



As the new school year begins, so too does the next chapter of our diocesan Journey in Faith (JiF) course.

If you are seeking to grow in your knowledge of the Christian Faith, deepen your relationship with God and explore how to live out your faith in your whole life, the JiF is a great place to start.

Members of the JiF group in East Gosgote recently gathered for their final session, sharing a meal together and reflecting on their journeys with course leader, Revd Ros Harper.

Talking about their year and sharing something of the group's growth and depth of discipleship, Revd Ros said: "It

has been a real joy and a privilege to be a tutor on the course this year. I was keen to be involved as the JiF course was the start of my own vocational journey.

"The East Gosgote JiF were a lively and friendly group who quickly formed a strong sense of community. It has been wonderful to see how they supported and encouraged each other on their journey and they have made friendships which will last well beyond their year together... "It has been a real privilege to walk alongside them... to see their faith grow and deepen as they begin to explore where God might be calling them."

Journey in Faith is a course open to anyone wanting to take the next step in their discipleship.

The course, which is delivered over three terms, starts this month. Find out more:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/growing-deeper-in-faith-and-fellowship.php>

Prayer Diary - September to December 2025

Our latest prayer diary is now available for you to use as part of your Everyday Prayer.

If you would like to receive a paper copy but are not on the mailing list, contact James Pickersgill, Bishop's Chaplain: Bishops.Chaplain@LeicesterCofE.org

View a digital copy here:

<https://d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffd8a9f6aa/content/pages/documents/prayer-diary-sept-dec-2025.pdf>

Pray For Our Diocese Visit to Tanzania

This week a group from our Diocese, led by Revd Dave Rollett, will be travelling to Tanzania to visit our link partner dioceses of Kilimanjaro and Kiteto.

Their time in Tanzania will be shaped around three core aims:

1. To strengthen our diocesan links.
 2. To engage in a learning exchange.
 3. To equip each participant with fresh insight and tools.
- Please pray for their safety, good health, energy and wisdom in the face of the unexpected and pray that they find joy in learning the richness of faith expressed in a different culture.

Cathedral Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Saturday 20 September 4pm – Leicester Cathedral

The Dean and Chapter of Leicester Cathedral invite you to join them for a Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving following the restoration of Leicester Cathedral and the construction of the Heritage & Learning Centre.

RSVP essential by Friday 5 September 12pm to

Cathedral.RSVP@LeicesterCofE.org – 0116 261 5389

Opening Churches & Church Security Webinar

Wednesday 3 Sept, 7.30pm-8.30pm – Zoom

Would you like to open your church building more to the community, occasional visitors or tourists, but are worried about the safety and security implications or how to manage it? Heather Ford, Church Support Manager with Ecclesiastical will lead this session and take you through the steps and measures you can undertake to protect the building and its contents.

Busting the myths and sharing positive examples of opening churches.

To sign up, email ChurchBuildings@LeicesterCofE.org

This is part of a series of free webinars from the Church Buildings Team in partnership with Ecclesiastical Insurance. The final webinar will be on Climate Change & Net Carbon Zero, Thursday 9 October 7.30-8.30pm – Online

Eco Church Conversations

Saturday 6 September, 9.30am-12.30pm – All Saints with Holy Trinity Church, Loughborough

A time to consider the Eco Church Award and next steps for your own church communities. We would love you to participate with prayer and action this Creationtide.



NEW DATES - Minster Community Process: Check-in and Chat

Selected Tuesdays, 12.30pm-1.30pm – Zoom

Upcoming dates: 9 September, 23 September, 7 October, 4 November.

The Minster Community process is rolling out across our diocese. You may have lots of questions around the process, such as what's happening, when, and why? To help with your understanding of the process and listen to your perspective Beth Cluer, the Facilitation Lead for Minster Communities, is holding some 'Check in and Chat' sessions over Zoom. Please do feel free to come and chat with Beth.

[Use this link to join the meetings.](#) (Link remains the same)

You can also email Beth.Cluer@LeicesterCofE.org

You may find answers to your questions in our [Minster Communities FAQs](#)

Mental Health First Aid Training

Wednesdays: 24 September, 1, 8 and 15 October, 9.30am-1pm – The Cube on Symingtons, Market Harborough

Training aimed at leaders, paid or voluntary, who work with young people and want to develop how they support young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Training is free but spaces are limited, so we do ask that you only sign up if you can make all 4 dates. **Book here:**

<https://mhfaengland.org/course-booking-form/?id=d3e657ca-2c41-f011-8779-7c1e52208a30>

OWL Conference - Pray and Play in Creation

Saturday 27 September, 9.30am-3.30pm – Launde Abbey

For anyone interested in exploring outside worship, this is a day to pray, play and worship our Creator God within creation, set in the beautiful grounds of Launde Abbey.

Tickets £12, including lunch. Young leaders £8, under 12's free. **See full details and book here:**

<https://htl.churchsuite.com/events/rr1eu611>

View the poster:

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffd8a9f6aa/content/pages/documents/owl-conference-2025.pdf>

For more details, please contact AnneScott@htl.church

Chaplaincy Celebration and Recommissioning

Sunday 28 September, 3.30pm – Leicester Cathedral

A special time to give thanks to God for the enormous contribution of our chaplaincies across the Diocese. All are warmly invited to attend this service.

NEW - Parish Buying Supplier Expo

Monday 29 September 10am-3pm – St Martin's Church, Birmingham

Meet over 25 Church of England approved suppliers and hear from leading industry experts, covering all your parish needs. **Book your free ticket which includes lunch:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parish-buying-supplier-expo-st-martins-church-birmingham-tickets-1509571702599?aff=oddttdtcreator>

For further information email ann-marie.childs@churchofengland.org

NEW - Church Treasurer: Insights Into the Role and Responsibilities

Tuesday 30 September, 7-8pm – Online

This course from ACAT is for new church treasurers, trustees looking for a new treasurer and those who have been asked to take on the role of church treasurer. Get a brief insight into the role and responsibilities of the role. Hear some things that you need to think about and ask the questions you need to ask.

Cost: Free if you sign up through the diocese. **Sign up here:**
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jlbsCEtcMUW8FlpkvvNgxqhadxq4bQFGIUefVkhmr4tUM0hFNIFXNOVKRjIYWkRSRkg4WVBaSElaUi4u>

NEW - Being a Treasurer: The Basics

3 Sessions: Thursdays 2, 9 and 16 Oct 7-9pm – Online

A course from ACAT to equip new and experienced treasurers with the core knowledge needed to carry out their role. Designed for all those who are church treasurers new to the role or just need a refresher. Also for those who support church treasurers and would like to know what is involved. Cost: Free if you sign up through the diocese. **Sign up here:**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jlbsCEtcMUW8FlpkvvNgxqhadxq4bQFGIUefVkhmr4tUM0hFNIFXNOVKRjIYWkRSRkg4WVBaSElaUi4u>

NEW - Digital Giving at Christmas

Tuesday 14 October, 12-1pm – Online

Join us in this webinar to learn about how to maximise your digital giving during the advent period, the Church of England's Christmas theme for 2025 and be inspired by some Christmassy campaign ideas. **Register here:**

https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0mUGOPPtTdCe3WCkyIOKnw#/registration

NEW: Gift Aid: Maximising the Benefits and Reducing the Pitfalls

Monday 24 November 6.45pm-8.45pm – Online

This course from ACAT will enhance your understanding of the complexities of Gift Aid and the small donations scheme (GASDS). Be guided through the jargon and find answers to those questions you always wanted to ask about Gift Aid. Cost: Free if you sign up through the

diocese. **Sign up here:**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jlbsCEtcMUW8FlpkvvNgxqhadxq4bQFGIUefVkhmr4tUM0hFNIFXNOVKRjIYWkRSRkg4WVBaSElaUi4u>

Revd Chris Webb

After 11 brilliant years at Launde Abbey, some of them also so as Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, the Revd Chris Webb (Deputy Warden) will be leaving in mid-September to be Priest-in-Charge of St Cuthbert's Church, Blyth, in the Diocese of Newcastle, and to be nearer to his family in the north.

Revd Alison Myers, Warden of the Abbey, writes: "He, and his ministry here, have been loved by many and we are very sad to see him go. I have valued, personally, his companionship and his deep prayerfulness as we have led the Abbey together over the last four years. We know that he will be equally loved and valued in his new post, and he and Sally have our support and prayers for the transition."

There will be an informal opportunity to pop-in to the Abbey to say farewell to Chris between 2pm and 5pm on Thursday 18 September.

Please let the Abbey know via info@launde.org.uk if you intend to drop by that afternoon, and you are welcome to stay to Evening Prayer at 5pm.

If you would like to contribute to a thank you gift for Chris then please contact accounts@launde.org.uk for details of how to do so.

Ride+Stride - Church and Chapel List Now Available

The list of 310 churches that will be open for Ride+Stride (so far) on Saturday 13 September is now live.

Visit the website: <https://www.lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

If you have not yet registered, there's still time. Use the form half way down the same web page.

The Trust is very grateful to all local church organisers for their help and support!

The Ride+Stride fundraising platform is in full swing at: <https://www.goodhub.com/go/lhct-ride-and-stride>

Everything is gearing up for a very successful Ride+Stride – opening churches and chapels for the day and raising funds for repairs and improvements.

Save the Date: Safeguarding Sunday 2025

On Sunday 16 November 2025 and over the following weeks, thousands of churches and worshipping communities from diverse backgrounds and traditions will join together to shout about safeguarding and help protect vulnerable people.

This initiative, spearheaded by Thirtyone:eight, invites communities to come together to reflect on their safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places. **Find out more:**

<https://safeguardingsunday.org>

'Stepping Into the Bible' Retreat

Monday 20 to Thursday 23 October – Launde Abbey

For many people, including Christians, the Bible is a bit of a closed book; this retreat opens it up.

Step into the world of the Bible and discover an evolving story in which people struggle with the same questions as we do, and where old ideas are discarded and are replaced by new.

The retreat will be led by Canon Dr Peter Sills, an experienced and engaging spiritual teacher and pilgrimage guide. **See full details here:**

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/steppingintothebible/>

Heartedge Conference: Living God's Future Now

Tuesday 28 October, 10.00am-19:30pm – St Martins House

Led by a team from St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, discover practical tools and fresh perspectives to invigorate your parishes' mission and ministry in both rural and urban contexts. Through workshops, theological insights, and moments of worship, this day aims to equip your church to flourish in compassion, creativity, and community engagement.

Tickets are £25 including lunch. Bring friends for an additional £10 each.

Followed by an Evening Concert by St Martin's Choral Scholars at St Nicholas Church – 6.30pm-7.30pm. (Can be booked separately.)

See full details and book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/living-gods-future-now-making-your-churchs-heart-sing-tickets-1425700060259>

Getting Started With Contactless Giving

Monday 15 September, 12pm-1pm – Online

Interested in offering contactless giving in your church but not sure where to start? This webinar will guide you through things to consider, the different devices currently available via Parish Buying, what the next steps are and where to find more information and support. **Register here:**

https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hbINcCTfQXSqNix2hbclPA#/registration

Church Wardens and Church Officers Training Day

Saturday 20 September, 9am-1.30pm – St

Andrew's Church, Leicester Forest East

With the support of diocesan staff, the Registry, a DAC Architect and Ecclesiastical Insurance, the Archdeacons' Office invite you to the annual Churchwardens and Church Officers Training Day.

Further details will be sent to Churchwardens at the beginning of September.

Paul and Antisemitism Seminars

Tuesday, 9 September, 10am – St Philip's Centre, Leicester

A series of seminars on Apostle Paul and Antisemitism with Rev Dr. Tom Wilson and a Jewish colleague.

The sessions will be held on the following dates:

– Did Paul stop "being a Jew" Tuesday 9 September, 10am

– Did Paul lie when evangelising? Tuesday 14 October, 10am

– Did Paul call Jewish people dogs? Tuesday 11 November, 10am

– Who were the weak and the strong in Corinth? Tuesday 9 December, 10am

All are welcome to attend.

Ven Richard Worsfold, Archdeacon of Leicester

We are holding a collection towards a gift for Richard which will be presented to him at his farewell service on 15 September to thank him for 30 years of ministry in this Diocese.

If you would like to contribute, you can do so by bank transfer, using the reference 'RW Gift' as follows:

– Sort code: 20-49-37

– Account number: 90577103

– Account name: Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance

Alternatively, you can send a cheque payable to 'Leicester Diocesan Board of Finance' to:

Sonal Pankhania, Finance Office, **St Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ.**

Please write 'RW Gift' on the back of the cheque.

Farewell Service for The Venerable Richard Worsfold

Monday 15 September, 5.30pm – Leicester Cathedral

All are invited to attend this service of thanks for Richard's 30 years of ministry in Leicestershire as he moves to be Area Dean of Salford and Leigh in the Diocese of Manchester.

Vocations Conversation

Saturday 11 October, 9.30-11am – Bishop's Lodge

Join Bishop Saju and Revd Sue Willetts for an informal vocations conversation. **Watch Bishop Saju's invitation here:** <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/st-wistan-said-yes--who-else-might-god-be-calling.php>

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Claire.Stapleton@LeicesterCofE.org

Getting the Most Out of Contactless Giving

Tuesday 10 October, 10-11am – Online

Explore the ways to get the most out of your contactless device: top tips from successful churches, advice on reporting and Gift Aid, and more. **Register here:** https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CmLyGfErT62jh-ikoiqaeA#/registration

Generosity Week is a celebration of God's generosity that is lived out in our churches and parishes. It gives us an opportunity to engage with and support the wider community as we celebrate the generosity found. This isn't a celebration of 'our' generosity but God's, which is found within the church and outside it.

To start planning and promoting Generosity Week, take these three steps:

1. **Pick a week – the national week runs from Sunday 28 September to Sunday 5 October** but if another time works better for you, do it then.

2. Choose what to do – think what your church needs and look through the resources available (see below).

3. Plan your Sundays – two Sundays works well as it gives you one chance to explore gratitude and one to consider generosity. To get you started, there are service outlines, sermon starters and prayers – all generosity themed.

If you would like to find out more or would like support in planning a Generosity Week in your church, contact our Parish Giving Officer at Laura.Taylor@LeicesterCofE.org or 07897003488. **Find resources and more information:**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/generosity-resources/generosity-week/generosity-week-resources-churches>

Bishop's Lecture 2025: Professor Lord Tarassenko

Thursday 30 October, 5.30pm-7.00pm – Loughborough University

The lecture will be given by the Professor Lord Tarassenko entitled *'Will we still need God when we reach Artificial General Intelligence?'*

Professor Lord (Lionel) Tarassenko CBE FREng FMedSci is the first president of Reuben College. He is a world-leading expert in the application of signal processing and machine learning to healthcare, with a strong track record in translation to clinical medicine. He was appointed as a non-party-political peer in the House of Lords in May 2024.

Further information and booking details:

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/chaplaincy/chaplaincy-events/2025/bishops-lecture-2025/>

Part of the 'Chaplaincy Lectures', a joint initiative between the Bishop of Leicester and universities in Leicester and Loughborough.

