

ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

Love God – Love People – Follow Jesus

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DIARY

Services during the winter will take place in the Pega Chapel at the back of church except for the Carol Service and Crib Service which will be in the main church. Please wrap up warm though for these as we are still having problems with the heating.

Sunday 7th December – Advent 2

11.00 am Christingle Service *in aid of the Children's Society*

Monday 8th 7.30 pm Advent Group 2 in the Pega Chapel

Wed 10th 7.30 pm RoadHoG Bus on the Playing Field

Sunday 14th December – Advent 3

6.30 pm Holy Communion

Mon 15th 7.30 pm Advent Group 3 in the Pega Chapel

Thurs 18th Fishtoft Academy in church for Christmas concert

Sunday 21st December – Advent 4

4.00 pm Carol Service – Joy!

Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24th December

3.30 pm **Crib Service**

10.00 pm **Midnight Mass – Holy Communion for Christmas night**

For those unable to get to church we have an **online Christmas service** with spiritual communion, available from 10pm on Christmas Eve on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. This will remain available to watch any time afterwards on Christmas Day or at a time to suit you.

Services in the Cluster between Christmas and New Year (*no services at Fishtoft*):

Christmas Day – 10.00 am Christmas Morning Service at Butterwick Church

Sunday 28th December – 10.30 am Cluster Service of Holy Communion at Leverton Church Hall

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sunday 4th January 2026 – Epiphany

11.00 am Holy Communion

Wed 7th 7.30 pm RoadHoG Bus on the Playing Field

Sunday 11th January – Epiphany 1 – Baptism of Christ

6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 18th January – Epiphany 2

11.00 am Holy Communion

Mon 19th 7.30 pm PCC Meeting

Sunday 25th January – Epiphany 3

10.30 am Cluster Plough Sunday Service at Wrangle Church *with Agricultural Chaplain and Coastal Community Choir*

6.30 pm Celtic Evening Prayer at Fishtoft

Sunday 1st February – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/Candlemas

11.00 am Holy Communion

Sanctum: We keep the church open from 10am – dusk Mon – Sat (closed Thurs mornings for cleaning) as a place of peace and prayer for anyone to drop in.

ROADHOG (youth bus) parks up near the Pavilion on Fishtoft Playing Field every other Wednesday from 7.30 – 8.30 pm and welcomes on board those in school year 6 and above for crafts, games and quizzes and free hot drinks. Please note that the bus will take a break over the Christmas period.



Pilgrimage Walk – Thank you to those who joined in our first pilgrimage walk to Fishtoft Memorial and back for refreshments. We hope to repeat this in the Spring so please watch out for details if you would like to join in.

New Garden of Rest – you may have spotted the faculty notices that have gone up in the porch and the noticeboard outside church. The PCC is asking permission from the Diocese to create a new Garden of Rest just to the side of the current one, which is now rapidly running out of space. We hope to have the faculty through and the work completed during 2026.

Diocesan News - During November, the diocese has been hosting a number of strategy conversation events to engage with as many people as possible about the ongoing creation of a 10-year “Time to Grow Together” strategy. Revd Marc and members of our own PCC attended an event at St Nicholas Church with the Archdeacon and Bishop of Grantham where we had the opportunity to contribute our thoughts on different challenges faced by the church and comment on the priorities being put forward. The final recommendations are expected to be refined and shared with the Diocesan Synod and the Bishop's Council in early 2026 followed by the full launch.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in decorating the church for Christmas. It always looks so lovely this time of year and is much appreciated.

And also a **very big “THANK YOU”** to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair in November. We raised £1351 for church funds which is an amazing result and reflects everyone’s support and hard work. A special thanks to Liz and the fundraising team who did a great job as usual in organising and running the event.

Our **Advent Bible Study** course will continue on Mon 8th and 15th December at 7.30pm in the Chapel. We are looking together at the Lincoln Diocese course - "Set our Hearts on Fire". All are very welcome to join us - each session is stand-alone so don't worry if you can't get to all of them or have missed the first one. The whole course is actually 8 sessions and is designed to be picked up again during Lent when there will be five more sessions.



The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: **JOY!** The great joy of Christmas, of course, is the good news the angel declared to the shepherds - the news of Jesus' birth as Emmanuel (God With Us).

Celebrate the Joy of Christmas in our services this year:

Christingle Service – 11am Sunday 7th December – *celebrating the Light of Christ coming into the World at which you will receive your own Christingle orange. This is a family-friendly service in aid of the Children's Society.*

Carol Service - 4pm Sunday 21st December - *A more traditional service with carols and readings. Followed by refreshments.*

Christmas Eve Crib Service - 3.30pm Wednesday 24th December - *This is a fun, informal celebration service suitable for all ages from babies upwards.*

Late night Communion Service for Christmas- 10pm Wednesday 24th December *A midnight mass service only a little earlier - full of the mystery of this Holy Night.*



Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!