



Launde Minster Community

Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 11th December 2025

Sunday 14th December

Third Sunday of Advent

Attached is the MC Worship Plan for **DECEMBER 2025** (as of 11th December)

This is **your** newsletter so please use it to share your notices, events and invite others to join you.

Please send me any contributions by Tuesday before the Thursday publication.

If you know anyone who would like to be added to the list to receive a copy of the newsletter, please send me their name and email address to:

l.jones2k@btinternet.com 07851163712

You can also find the **Minster Community Worship Plans**, and the links for online services, on the website: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk>

Our Churches Online:

All of our churches have web pages on 'A Church Near You' – This link takes you to the Launde Minster Community page, where you can access each of the churches: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/our-churches-on-acny>



Every Sunday at 8am Launde Abbey Chapel

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

Morning Prayer on Zoom

Everyone is welcome

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

All welcome. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81751227280?pwd=VtUdahsUf34Vc7Bbr5gVFoeiobrOO8.1>

Meeting ID: 817 5122 7280 Passcode: 419620

 **Sunday 14th December 11am Zoom**
Launde Minster Community Zoom Church
Licensing of John Morrison as Focal Minister at Rosewood Manor *All are welcome*

Leader: Revd Crystal McAllister

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKI91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.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 #

Contact Us:

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07777 934092

Collect for Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom
of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Licensing of John Morrison as Focal Minister at Rosewood Manor Sunday 14th December at 11am **Livestream from Rosewood Manor** (See Zoom link opposite)



**Licensing of John Morrison as
Focal Minister at Rosewood Manor**
Sunday 14th December at 11am
Led by Revd Crystal McAllister

John was Churchwarden at Hungarton for many years. Since moving to Rosewood Manor, he has pioneered and led the church community there.

The Diocese of Leicester is recognising his unique role by licensing him as Focal Minister at Rosewood Manor, in the parish of Market Harborough and as an active member of Launde Minster Community's Online Church

The Service will be live-streamed on Zoom from Rosewood Manor
Do join us to show your support and encouragement (use link opposite)

Reflection: Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

At first glance this passage seems strange. John the Baptist who had proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah, in prison awaiting his certain execution begins to doubt the very message he had been given by God, so he sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he was truly the Messiah. Jesus rather than being indignant or launching into a theological sermon, simply invites John's disciples to absorb what was happening with their own eyes and report back to John. There is a key message here, we should see the kingdom of God and the work of the church through action and not words, through sacrifice and commitment not just through religious services and church buildings as important as they are. Advent is a time of waiting, a time of preparation for the re-enactment of the incarnation of the coming of God into our world, as the baby of Bethlehem yes, but also as the

saviour of the world. In this advent season we are all called to share in the ministry of John the Baptist in declaring to an unbelieving world the imminent arrival of Jesus, by whose death and resurrection death was destroyed and heaven opened for us all.

Mike Hammond

Bible Readings:

Sunday 14th December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1-10

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus
- 2 it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
- 3 Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
- 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
- 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
- 7 the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- 8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
- 9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
- 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5.7-10

- 7 Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.
- 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11.2-11

- 2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
- 3 and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'
- 4 Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see:
- 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
- 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'
- 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?
- 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.
- 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
- 10 This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."
- 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Sunday 14th December

Third Sunday of Advent

Canticle: Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

The Christmas Story – Blankety Blank Style

Sunday 21st December at 5pm, Tugby Church



Praying Pilgrims

Launde Minster Community December

As part of our ongoing support to all the parishes across the LMC, a group of us, *Praying Pilgrims*, will join together at the churches listed, to reflect and pray for the needs of the church and community.

Every Wednesday for a 9.00am start.

The rota for December is:

December 03: Skeffington

December 10: Loddington

December 17: Tugby

December 24: Owston

We would greatly welcome and encourage anyone to join us, if they can.

Rev David Palmer and Rev Crystal McAllister

Cancellation of Horningold's Carol Service

Planned for on Sunday 14th December

Whilst work on the Chancel Roof is progressing there has been a delay because of the need for new coping stones. The stonemasons are working on these in their yard. (We are fortunate that they have the skills to do this and it doesn't need another contractor). However, it has meant that the interior of the church is certainly not fit for purpose to hold services. We had an emergency PCC meeting this afternoon and have reluctantly (but realistically) made the decision to cancel the Carol Service and to postpone the launch of the Village Trail. We shall be encouraging people in the village to attend the Carol Service in Hallaton, our neighbouring village. We are proposing to Martin Smith (our Heritage Activities Co-ordinator for our NLHF grant) that we launch the Village Trail on a Saturday in the early spring when (we hope) the weather will be better. This is a big disappointment, but we look forward to a Carol service in 2026 in our restored church.



St Peter's Church, Tilton:

Friday Mornings 'Coffee and Chat'

Between 10.30 – 12.00noon

Café Morrell St Michael and All Angels Church, Hallaton

Tuesday Mornings Coffee, Cake and Chat

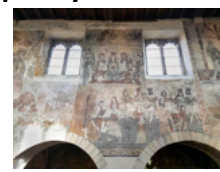
Between 10.00 to 12.30pm



Hallaton Museum – Online Talk

'Following in the footsteps of medieval church art' by Dr Miriam Gill

Tuesday 27th January at 7pm by Zoom



Miriam Gill, from Vaughan College, is an expert on medieval wall-painting. She gave an excellent talk at the Hallaton Festival of Archaeology this year, so we are delighted that she has agreed to give this talk online for us. The talk is free but donations are appreciated.

Everyone is welcome

If you would like to attend, please contact Linda Jones on L.jones2k@btinternet.com or 07851 163712

A date for your diary: Friday 6th March 2026

World Day of Prayer 'I will give you rest, come' at St Thomas Beckett Church, Tugby

The service in March 2026 has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria.



We would love you to join with us from other churches across the Minster Community to plan this special service. It is a team effort, so it is not too time-consuming. The next meeting of the Planning Group is on Friday 16th January at 10.30am in Tugby Church. Let Linda Jones know if you would like to attend:

L.jones2k@btinternet.com

Revd Stephen Bishop, Rector of Six Saints Circa Holt

The following was received from Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop's Lodge on Sunday 7th December:

With grateful thanks for his ministry and prayers of blessing for the future, we announce that The Revd Stephen Bishop, has been appointed as Chaplain of Uppingham School, in the Diocese of Peterborough.

Stephen's resignation as Rector of the benefice of Six Saints Circa Holt will take effect from Sunday 22nd February 2026, with his final Sunday in the Parish being Sunday 1st February 2026.

Revd Stephen Bishop released this statement on the same day:

I write to you all to inform you, with a mixture of gratitude and sadness, that I have submitted my resignation as Rector of The Parish of Six Saints circa Holt to take effect from Sunday 22nd February. My final Sunday in the Parish will be Sunday 1st February 2026.

After twenty-five years of ministry in this Parish, this has been an exceptionally difficult decision, impacting my family as well as myself and the Parish. It has been one of the great privileges of my life to serve the people of these villages, to share in their joys and sorrows, and to work alongside so many faithful and generous communities, volunteers, and congregations. I remain profoundly grateful for the trust placed in me and for the support I have received throughout my ministry here.

I have recently been appointed Chaplain of Uppingham School, and after much prayer and discernment I believe this is the right next step in my vocation. I am excited by the call to serve within the school community, while also deeply aware of the affection, stories, and shared ministry that make leaving the parish so poignant. With the agreement of the Bishop of Leicester, I will continue to serve as Acting Chaplain from 3rd January 2026 until half-term, formally beginning my new role after half-term.

Please be assured of my prayers for the Parish and its village communities; for the Deanery; and for the Diocese, as the Parish begins the process of transition and looks ahead to future ministry.

It has been a great privilege to serve in the Diocese of Leicester for over thirty-three years, and to be Rector of Six Saints circa Holt for over twenty-five years. It has been a blessing and an honour.

**The Reverend Stephen Bishop, MA,
Rector of The Parish of Six Saints circa Holt**

Christmas Carols at Gaulby Lodge Farm Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm



Food Bank Appeal: The Well

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 Bank Appeal: Jubilee Foodbank

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks.

Jubilee Foodbank Market Harborough

You can drop off donations at **Hallaton Church** or to Linda Jones at **25, Eastgate, Hallaton at any time**. Please note that all food collected is non-perishable, long-life or tinned.

The Foodbank has **MOST URGENT NEED of:**

Crackers, Fray Bentos pies, Tinned vegetarian meals.

They also need:

Cereal, Tinned Ham, Pasta sauces, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Sweetcorn, Baked Beans with Sausages, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), Tinned chicken, Hot Dogs (Tins or jars,) Tinned red meat, Tinned Carrots, Corned Beef, Tinned meatballs, Chicken in sauce, Dried potatoes (Smash), Marmalade, Jam, Biscuits, Tinned potatoes, Crisps, Tinned tomatoes, Tinned chickpeas, mixed chilli beans, lentils, Custard, Tinned rice pudding, Sachet meals (pan or microwave), 'No Cook' meals for the homeless, Cordial, Coffee (small jars), Pasta sauce, Tinned soup, Cup of soup, Sugar (500g), Tinned peas, Meals that do not need cooking e.g. John West Fish and rice meals, Snacks and cereal bars, Fruit squash/ juice, Microwave puddings, Peanut butter, Tinned Pasta, Sandwich paste, Teabags, Tuna, ALPRO yoghurts (long-life, for the shelf not fridge), Long-life meals, Robinsons minis or similar for families (small squash concentrates), Small cartons of long life milk (for homeless people or someone without a fridge)

The list of food always required is on the website:

<https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk>

Where possible and available, consider giving tins with a ring-pull as these can also be used for homeless people where the food is appropriate (e.g. fish, tinned fruit, etc)

Celebration of Christmas in words & music

Saturday 20th December at 7.30pm

St Dionysius Church, Market Harborough

Conductor: Charlie Pann, Accompanist: Andrew King with
Dan Antoolski, BBC New Comedy Award Winner

Tickets £16 or £9

Box Office: 01858 467463 j.r.balme@btinternet.com



Easyfundraising – How to get free donations for your church

Sign up your church to easyfundraising, encourage your congregation and friends to sign up too and get free donations to help your church

easyfundraising turns your everyday shopping into money for your organisation. Over 8,000 retailers are available to shop with including: Amazon, eBay, Argos, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, Trainline, Boots and many more. It's completely free to use!

Check out the helpful guidance:

<https://easyfundraisingemail.s3.amazonaws.com/2025/CRT/StarterPackMarch25.pdf>



Extracts from Diomail

8th December

For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 8th December:

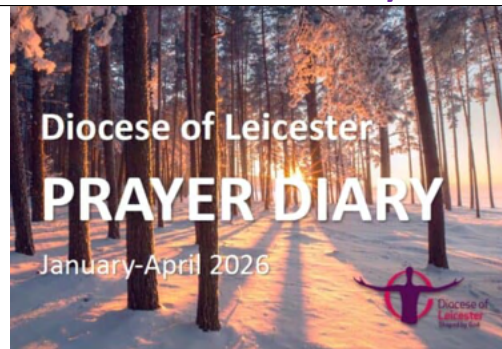
https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-8-december-2025/?newsletter_email=l.jones2k@btinternet.com

You can subscribe to receive the weekly

Diomail here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/diomail/>
<https://leicester.anglican.org/calendar/>

New Format For Our 2026 Prayer Diary



We are encouraged in 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 to 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you'.

Our Prayer Diary offers daily prayer requests to help us 'pray without ceasing' for those across our diocese and the world. Our new diary for January – April 2026 is now available.

In our responsibilities as an Eco Diocese, our commitment to be net zero carbon by 2030, as well as weighing up staff time and the cost of printing and postage, we have taken the decision to cease production of the Prayer Diary in a printed booklet format.

Instead, you can access a printable, digital version on our **Prayer Diary webpage:**

<https://leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/prayer-diary/>
or at this link:

<https://d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffd8a9f6aa/content/pages/documents/prayerdiary-jan-apr-2026.pdf>

Advent Calendar



Open the doors to discover inspiring scripture, things to make and do, a pause for reflection, faithful festive music, and events to attend – all themed around Peace, Faith, Hope and Love.

Find details here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/countdown-to-christmas-on-a-journey-of-peace-faith-hope-and-love.php>