



Launde Minster Community

Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 4th December 2025

Sunday 7th December

Second Sunday of Advent

Attached is the MC Worship Plan for **DECEMBER 2025** (as of 4th 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=VtUdahsUf34Vc7Bbr5qVFoeiobrOO8.1>

Meeting ID: 817 5122 7280 Passcode: 419620

Sunday 7th December 11am Zoom

Launde MC Zoom Church All are welcome

Leader & Reflection: Madeleine Wang

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.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

Collects for Sunday 7th December

Second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge
and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

Reflection: Sunday 7th December

First Sunday of Advent

Some people think the rulers of Russia, North Korea, China and the United States are the best rulers in the world. Other people think they are terrifyingly bad. In the same way, some people came to see Jesus at the time of his ministry as nothing less than God in human form, and other people saw him as just a dangerous troublemaker who had to be got rid of.

How do we think of Jesus? That is the challenge of the Advent season. Many first-century Jews saw Jesus as the person prophesied by Isaiah in the 8th century BC, a descendant of Jesse the father of the great King David, and a leader full of God's Spirit who would rule the people with justice and compassion and who would create a kingdom of peace and harmony.

John the Baptist got himself dressed up to look like the prophet Elijah, who was expected to re-appear when the Messiah was on his way. John saw Jesus as the man to challenge everyone with the truth about themselves, and to be inspired by God's powerful Spirit when they got to know him. John made people pay attention and be ready to make up their minds about Jesus.

Paul saw Jesus as the one to draw everyone to the love of God - people from every race and nation, yet standing in the tradition of the people chosen by God and witnessing to Him in the Scriptures.

During this Advent season, as we are drawn towards the distant light shining from a hidden stable in Bethlehem, may we find ourselves thinking much more about what we believe about Jesus - so that the Festival of his birth might not be just a succession of parties, events and traditions, but a time of growth in understanding and commitment.

Revd Philip Norwood

Bible Readings:

Sunday 7th December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11.1-10

- 1 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- 2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not
judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he
shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and
the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.
- 9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of
the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
- 10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to
the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his
dwelling shall be glorious.

Romans 15.4-13

- 4 For whatever was written in former days was written
for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the
encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

- 5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another, in
accordance with Christ Jesus,
- 6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has
welcomed you, for the glory of God.
- 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the
circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that
he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
- 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his
mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you
among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name';
- 10 and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his
people';
- 11 and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him';
- 12 and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the
Gentiles shall hope.'
- 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3.1-12

- 3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the
wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
- 2 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'
- 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when
he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'
- 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather
belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild
honey.
- 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going
out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,
6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan,
confessing their sins.
- 7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees
coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of
vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance.
- 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have
Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from
these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
- 10 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees;
every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut
down and thrown into the fire.
- 11 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one
who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not
worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and fire.
- 12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his
threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the
granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable
fire.'

Psalm for Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent

Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
- 2 Then shall he judge your people righteously
and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people.
- 4 May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the
oppressor.
- 5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wonderful things.
- 19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever.
May all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Joyous Music and Christmas Carols

Sunday 7th December at 3pm in Gaulby Church

Tickets £15 Phone 079707

hilarypainter@rocketmail.com



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

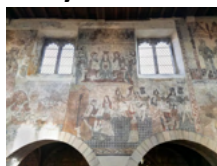
Tuesday Mornings Coffee, Cake and Chat

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

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

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:**

Pasta sauces, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Sweetcorn, Baked Beans with Sausages, Cereal, Tinned Ham, Crackers.

They also need:

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) Fray Bentos pies, Pasta sauce, Tinned soup, Cup of soup, Sugar (500g), Tinned peas, Tinned vegetarian meals, such as veggie chilli, 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)

Licensing & Commissioning Services of Revd Crystal McAllister

What a special week this was. More about the services in next week's newsletter. Meanwhile, did you leave this cap in Hallaton Church on Monday evening? *It's in the church waiting to be collected.*



Celebration of Christmas in words & music

Saturday 20th December at 7.30pm

Tickets £16 or £9

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



Licensing & Commissioning of Revd Crystal McAllister – A special week for us all

Our blessings and prayers to Crystal as she leads us as our Oversight Minister in the Launde Minster Community.

Crystal's Licensing as Rector of the Coplow Benefice and Priest in Charge of The Gaulby Group; The Whatborough Group; Hallaton and Allexton with Horninghold, Slawston, Tugby and East Norton; The Langtons and Shangton; and Welham, Glooston, Cranoe and Stonton Wyville took place at Skeffington as part of the Deanery Minster Community Service on Sunday 30th November. Crystal was then commissioned as Oversight Minister by the Bishop of Loughborough, on Monday 1st December 2025 at Hallaton.

This event was a very special one, an evening of prayer, sharing, commitment and laughter. It was good to see so many in church to share this occasion and demonstrate their support for Crystal; those who could not attend in person joined online by Zoom.

In the Order of Service, Crystal wrote:

Reflecting on her new role, Crystal says: "I long for a church where the next generation inherits not exhaustion but hope — a community rooted and grounded in prayer, learning to dwell, discern, and explore together. I am excited about moving forward, together with those in the Launde Minster Community, as we seek to form communities of hope, where we travel together in faith, waiting, stopping, and listening for the Spirit's guidance. Jesus always said, 'Follow me'; he didn't ask, 'What can I do for you today?' In that obedience, my heart has always been to connect those outside the church walls with those within, asking not only how to fix or reform and encourage the 'new', but how to live and sing the Lord's song in this place."

I am grateful to Revd James Pickersgill, Bishop's Chaplain, for sharing these wonderful photos of the service.



Did you leave this cap in Hallaton Church on Monday evening? *It's in the church waiting to be collected.*



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

1st December

For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 1st December:

https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-1-december-2025/?newsletter_email=l.jones2k@btinternet.com

You can subscribe to receive the weekly Diomail here:

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

Leicester Diocese - Events and Training:

<https://leicester.anglican.org/calendar/>

Countdown to Christmas on a Journey of Peace, Faith, hope and Love



Monday 1st December heralded the first day of our diocesan digital mixed media 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>

We invite you to join us on this journey, daily on our diocesan social media channels, and in Diomail each Monday between now and the birth of Christ!

Facebook: Diocese of Leicester

Instagram: leicestercofe

X: leicestercofe

Bishop Martyn Welcomes End of Two-Child Limit

Following the announcement in the Budget on Wednesday 26 November, the Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Revd Martyn Snow, the Church of England's lead bishop for child poverty issues, said:

"I warmly welcome the Government's decision to remove the two-child limit from next April. This will make a profoundly positive difference to hundreds of thousands of children and their families.

"The Church of England has long called for this day as we believe in the equal and unsurpassable worth of every single child.

"As we celebrate the end of the two-child limit and commend the Government for taking action, we will continue to draw attention to the barriers – such as the household benefit cap – which still prevent many families from accessing vital support for their children."