

# Launde Minster Community Newsletter



Edition Date: Thursday 22nd January 2026

## Sunday 25th January

### 3rd Sunday of Epiphany, Conversion of Paul

Attached are the MC Worship Plans for **JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2026** (as of 22nd January)

**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@btconnect.com](mailto:l.jones2k@btconnect.com) 07851163712

You can also find the **Minster Community Worship Plan**, 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. See Worship Plan for details*

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## 💻 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=VtUdahsUf34Vc7Bbr5gVfoeibrO08.1>

Meeting ID: 817 5122 7280 Passcode: 419620

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## 💻 Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 11am

### Launde Minster Community Online Church

### **All are welcome**

**Leader:** Mary Twidell

**Reflection:** Archdeacon Richard Trethewey

**To join the livestream, click on this zoom link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQK191dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.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:

Crystal Mcallister [pioneerocrystal136@gmail.com](mailto:pioneerocrystal136@gmail.com)

07890 020012

Wendy Lewis [wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org](mailto:wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org)

07777 934092

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## Collect for Sunday 25th January

### 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

### Conversion of Paul

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;  
through 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

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## Reflection: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January

### 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

### Conversion of Paul

## Acts 9: 1-22

This week we celebrate the feast of the conversion of St. Paul. As Saul of Tarsus, Paul was a zealot for the Jewish faith. A pharisee, he had studied under Gamaliel a famous Rabbi of the first century, although Saul did not follow the example of his teacher by being cautious around condemning the early Christian movement. Saul's natural zealous behaviour led to him seeking to crush the early Christians, referred to at the time as 'the way', and it was this desire that led him ultimately to his confrontation with the living Jesus on the road to Damascus. Blinded by a light on the road, Saul was confronted by the voice of Jesus asking him to change his ways. Notice once Saul knows with whom he is speaking his pharisaic training kicks in, and he becomes immediately obedient to the instructions of Jesus. Ananias too, when Jesus instructs him to go, meet with Saul and through the power of the Holy Spirit heal him of his blindness, shows obedience and does Jesus's bidding. This is the essence of Christianity, to come into a relationship with God, and through showing obedience to God through following the teachings in the bible and growing in grace, as Saul now called Paul did.

Mike Hammond

**Bible Readings:**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**  
**3rd Sunday of Epiphany**  
**Conversion of Paul**

**Jeremiah 1.4-10**

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,  
5 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and  
before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you  
a prophet to the nations.'  
6 Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to  
speak, for I am only a boy.'  
7 But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy";  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall  
speak whatever I command you.  
8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver  
you, says the Lord.'  
9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my  
mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my  
words in your mouth.  
10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over  
kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and  
to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

**Alternative Reading:**

**Acts 9.1-22**

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder  
against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest  
2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at  
Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the  
Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to  
Jerusalem.

3 Now as he was going along and approaching  
Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around  
him.

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,  
'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

5 He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am  
Jesus, whom you are persecuting.'

6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told  
what you are to do.'

7 The men who were travelling with him stood  
speechless because they heard the voice but saw no  
one.

8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes  
were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the  
hand and brought him into Damascus.

9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate  
nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named  
Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He  
answered, 'Here I am, Lord.'

11 The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street  
called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man  
of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,  
12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias  
come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain  
his sight.'

13 But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from  
many about this man, how much evil he has done to  
your saints in Jerusalem;

14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to  
bind all who invoke your name.'

15 But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument  
whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles  
and kings and before the people of Israel;

16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for  
the sake of my name.'

17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his  
hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus,  
who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so  
that you may regain your sight and be filled with the  
Holy Spirit.'

18 And immediately something like scales fell from his  
eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was  
baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.  
For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,  
20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the  
synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

21 All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this  
the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those  
who invoked this name? And has he not come here for  
the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief  
priests?'

22 Saul became increasingly more powerful and  
confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving  
that Jesus was the Messiah.

**Acts 9.1-22 (see above)**

**OR**

**Galatians 1.11-16a**

11 For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the  
gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human  
origin;

12 for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was  
I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus  
Christ.

13 You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in  
Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God  
and was trying to destroy it.

14 I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my  
people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for  
the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But when God, who had set me apart before I was  
born and called me through his grace, was pleased

16 to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him  
among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human  
being,

**Matthew 19.27-end**

27 Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left  
everything and followed you. What then will we have?'

28 Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of  
all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne

of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

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**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**3rd Sunday of Epiphany**

**Conversion of Paul**

**Psalm 67**

1

God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

2

That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

3

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

4

O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.

5

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

6

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, our own God, will bless us.

7

God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

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**Launde Minster Community**

**Online Zoom Church *A date for your diary***

**Sunday 25th January at 11am**

**Reflection by The Archdeacon of Leicester,  
Venerable Richard Trethewey**

We are very pleased to welcome Archdeacon Richard to our Online Church Service on Sunday 25th January when he will be leading the reflection.

***Everyone is welcome to join us for this service.***

**If you would like to join us, use this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQK191dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.1>

**Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342**

**Passcode: 079282**



**Praying Pilgrims in February 2026**

**Launde Minster Community**

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 February is:**

February 4: Slawston

February 11: Keyham

February 18: Knossington

February 25: Hungarton

**We would encourage and greatly welcome others to join us for Morning Prayers.**

**Rev David Palmer and Rev Crystal McAllister**



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**St Peter's Church, Tilton:**

**Friday Mornings 'Coffee and Chat'**

**Between 10.30 – 12.00noon**

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**Café Morrell St Michael and All Angels  
Church, Hallaton**

**Tuesday Mornings Coffee, Cake and Chat**

**Between 10.00 to 12.30pm**

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**LAST CHANCE TO BOOK**

**Hallaton Museum – Online Talk**

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

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:l.jones2k@btinternet.com) or 07851 163712**

## Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks:

### 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, 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:** Tinned Rice Pudding, Strong clean 'bags for life'.

**Other suggested donations:** Porridge Oats, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), Teabags, Sugar (500g), Deodorant, Tinned fruit, Jam, Corned Beef, Tinned Baked beans with sausages, Cereal, Crackers, Tinned sweetcorn, Tinned Carrots, Dried potatoes (Smash), Tinned red meat, Tinned meatballs, chicken in sauce, Biscuits, Sweets, Snacks and 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, Marmalade, Jam, Tinned potatoes, Coffee (small jars), Fray Bentos pies, Pasta sauce, Tinned ham, Crackers, 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, Pasta sauce, 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), Mayonnaise, Angel Delight, Small sachets of herbs, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Sunscreen (for homeless people in the summer), Shower gel, soap, Feminine products – sanitary towels, tampons

**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)**

## Good News Stories:

### Our Newest Focal Minister



On Monday 19 January, Philip Baughn was able to present John Morrison with the cross he had crafted for him out of a solid piece of bog oak, to celebrate his licensing as Focal Minister at Rosewood Manor. It was a joyous meeting of two skilled craftsmen in wood! We hope John will be back to full health soon.

### Plough Sunday



On Sunday 18 January 2026, the congregation at All Saints' Church, East Norton, was joined by those from Loddington and Skeffington churches for a Plough Sunday service, led by the Rev David Palmer and accompanied beautifully by Kevin Downham on the organ.

The congregation of 25 met to worship together and to give thanks for a new year in the farming calendar. The New Testament reading was on the production of a crop, which variously yielded one hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown.

The sermon examined what we need to grow. The need for both prayer and reading of the bible in our life of faith, to grow as a Christians and as a church.

An old plough had been placed at the front of the church. To conclude the service, the congregation went outside to the front of the church. Everyone scattered seeds and we prayed for our farming communities in the upcoming year. Then the prayer below was read:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: in your goodness you have given us this seed to sow. In it we perceive the promise of life, the wonders of your creative love. By your blessing, let this seed be for us a sign of your creative power, that in sowing and watering, tending and watching, we may see the miracle of growth, and in due course reap a

rich harvest. As this seed must die to give life, reveal to us the saving power of your Son, who died that we might live, and plant in us the good seed of your word. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Blessed be God for ever.

Uel Sandford

## Extracts from Diomail

### Monday 19th January

For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 19th January:

[https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-19-january-2026/?newsletter\\_email=l.jones2k@btinternet.com](https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-19-january-2026/?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/>

## Vocations Conversation - A Leicester Cobbler's Calling



What if

**one of the most influential people in modern India began as a young cobbler from Leicester?...**

God calls people in all sorts of ways.

In a new short video, Bishop Saju Muthalaly reflects on the calling of William Carey.

If you've ever wondered whether God might be calling you to ordained ministry, join Bishop Saju and our Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Revd Sue Willetts, for an informal conversation about feeling called to ordination:

Saturday 28 February, 9.30am–11.30am – Bishop's Lodge, 12 Springfield Rd, Leicester.

**Watch the video here:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_3r\\_qLehQ58](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3r_qLehQ58)

## Lent Resources

**Looking ahead to Lent, the Church of England theme for 2026 is *Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent*.**

This year's resources focus on a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns that help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

You can join a special webinar on **Wednesday 21 January**

at **12.30pm** exploring this year's Lent and Easter resources for churches. **Find out more and sign up for the webinar:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/draw-near-life-giving-habits-lent>

## Measure Today, Change Tomorrow – Complete the Energy Footprint Tool



**The Church of England's Footprint Tool (EFT) is now live and ready for churches across the Diocese of Leicester to enter your fuel and power usage from 2025.**

Every footprint we leave behind shapes God's creation. Recording your energy use is an unseen but essential act of caring for people and the planet. By measuring and reducing energy use, we take practical steps to combat the impact of climate change and live out our calling to love our neighbours.

Last year, 66% of our churches in the diocese completed the survey, so this year we are once again appealing to all of our worshipping communities to take the time to fill in the EFT and help make a positive impact.

Completing the EFT is a simple but powerful way to support our shared journey to net zero carbon. Each year's data builds a clearer picture of our carbon footprint and helps us act more strategically together.

The EFT also helps churches work out how to save money and can unlock grant funding to help get your net zero carbon projects off the ground.

You can access the Energy Footprint Tool via the Online Parish Returns System, using the same login used to complete returns for your Statistics for Mission and Return of Parish Finance: **Visit Parish Returns Online:** <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>

If you require a portal login please email:

[Statistics@LeicesterCofE.org](mailto:Statistics@LeicesterCofE.org)

The EFT is open until 30th June 2026

**Read more on the CofE website:**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/energy-footprint-tool>