

17<sup>th</sup> January 2026



## Ancestors + Family + Strangers = a Village.

Hello me! Fun, seeing myself again with mum & dad and god-father Barry. Who beat my dad TWICE when it came to promotions in the Probation Service! Still brilliant together at work and brilliant together on the football field. Of course, mum adds the colour.

Jesus' baptism is the first time we meet him as an adult. No longer a child under the care of his parents. Yet Jesus would not have made it to adulthood, much less his baptism, without individuals, i) attuned to listening to God and ii) committed to protecting the vulnerable. Up to 50% of children in the First century CE didn't reach 10 years old. In addition to disease, poverty, infanticide, war & malnutrition, Jesus faced targeted imperial threats. Thankfully, the child Jesus was anchored by three key people : Ancestors; Joseph; Magi.

### ANCESTORS

Remember the genealogy in Matthew ch.1? THAT



genealogy! Abraham, David, Ruth, Tamar, Achim... stories & experiences that shape a culture, a faith, a people, a Messiah. *"Loving Father, we thank you for your servant Moses, who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea to freedom in the Promised Land."*

### JOSEPH

Following the instructions of an angel of the Lord not once but THREE times. Marrying. Fleeing. Settling. Today, aunties, grandparents, elders help us live into the fullness of our call; to grow into the beauty of our life. *"Parents and godparents... Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?"*

### MAGI

Unknown to Mary & Joseph, yet these strangers celebrate & protect their child. Ignoring Herod's request, returning home by another route, they make themselves vulnerable to Roman retribution. Broader society, who recognise the dangers of empire. *"In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome this child and uphold them in their new life in Christ?"*

It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a church to develop a disciple. Young people today testify to the divided world we live in. The fellowship of the Holy Spirit has something to offer them. The nurture, support and protection of a faith community who care for everyone within it. A **spiritual** practice AND a **political** one.

Call it Minster Community or not, as you wish, followers of Jesus are called to tell the story of God's love, writ through the bible story & church liturgy. You are **Beloved**. You **Belong**. You are **Delightful**!

rev'd david.

# JANUARY Services

**SUN 18<sup>th</sup> : Epiphany 2**

## **1030 | Contemp'y Communion | Ragdale**

Inclusive Church liturgy with 'justice' focus.

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The rest of John's Gospel can be seen as a response to three questions raised in his first chapter, including today's lectionary passage.

**Who are you? (1:19)**

**What are you looking for? (1:38)**

**Where are you staying/dwelling/abiding? (1:38)**

"Come and see," Jesus says, an invitation to would-be disciples ancient and modern.

As we remain with Jesus, how are our lives shaped by our abiding with the one who John, the dove, and Andrew testify to as the Lamb of God (v.29), the one who baptises with the Spirit (v.33), and the Messiah (v.41)? What will you & I say about Jesus?

**SUN 25<sup>th</sup> : Epiphany 3**

## **1030 | Faith in Nature | Hoby CHAPEL**

Engaging with God's heart for this planet.

## **1500 | Evening Prayer | Kirby Bellars**

Traditional language interspersed with hymns.

# WEDNESDAY Activity

## **0930 | Alternating Pattern | Frisby CHURCH**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> = Communion**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> = Morning Prayer**

**3<sup>rd</sup> = Healing Communion**

## **1430 | New Life Group | ROTHERBY**

**Bible... Prayer... Life... Care...**

*contact : elizabeth.smith255@btinternet.com*

# FEBRUARY Services

**SUN 1<sup>st</sup> : Candlemas**

## **0830 | BCP Communion | Hoby**

Simple, traditional language service.

## **1030 | Worship Service | Rotherby**

Informal style with some interaction.

**SUN 8<sup>th</sup> : Epiphany 5**

## **1030 | Contemp'y Communion | Ragdale**

Inclusive Church liturgy with 'justice' focus.

**SUN 15<sup>th</sup> : Transfiguration**

## **1030 | Creative Church | Frisby CHAPEL**

Round table worship, discussion, singing & prayer.

**WED 18<sup>th</sup> : ASH WEDNESDAY**

## **0930 | Communion w. Ashing | Frisby ST. T**

**SUN 22<sup>nd</sup> : Lent 1**

## **1030 | Faith in Nature | Hoby ALL SAINTS**

Engaging with God's heart for this planet.

## **1500 | Evening Prayer | Kirby Bellars**

Traditional language interspersed with hymns.

**'Farewell'**

**Barbara ROBERTS, Gaddesby**

**'Union'**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**Elliott BROWN & Hannah TISDELL (Brooksbys)**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

**Gregory CLAYTON-CLANN & Rachel READ (Br)**

**'Welcome'**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February ... Alice NADOLSKI (Gaddesby)**

**1<sup>st</sup> March ... Sophie CUFF (Frisby)**



## Faith and Farming

Plough Sunday Services Bless the Land and Those Who Work It

**Barkby and St Mary's Church** continue to observe the seasons and festivals of the agricultural calendar, and marked the new year with a Plough Sunday service. Generations of local families - including the Mounts, Kirks, and Wintertons - have ploughed the fields in the village making them ready to sow the crops to feed both animals and humans.

On Sunday 11 January, farmers, villagers and the church community, gathered around the plough during a service of dedication to bless the plough, the seeds and soil, and to give thanks to God for his creation. Simple refreshments were served and enjoyed by all following the service.



~ Growing with Hope ~  
~ Serving with Compassion ~  
~ Transforming with Humility ~  
~ enabling children to flourish & succeed ~

Values Certificates are awarded in Collective Worship each Friday afternoon, with this half-term's value being : **Showing Compassion**.

Here are examples of Certificates awarded :-

*'G' has been showing compassion to their friends who find things tricky in PE this week and it has been wonderful to see.*

*'B' will offer support if they can see someone needs help. This isn't just towards other children; they shows these values towards adults too.*

*'H' is the first to seek to help or comfort their peers. They are very polite to children and adults, and very mature in how they consider other's feelings and how they can help.*

## And Finally...

### Northern Monk : 'FAITH'

George Michael sang that we "gotta" have it, and here it is! Northern Monk (an independent brewery founded in Leeds) puts "creativity, community and collaboration" at their core. Not a bad slogan for local churches!

As well as Faith, they also brew Dark Faith, Heaven, Eternal and... Heathen! I'm reminded of Salvation from Charnwood Brewery, and sometimes served here in The Bell Inn.

I wonder what everyday food and drink prompts you to look God-ward?



ST LUKE'S CHURCH &  
GADDESBY VILLAGE HALL  
PRESENT



# BURNS NIGHT

A SCOTTISH CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026  
at Gaddesby Village Hall  
from 7.00pm till late

Licensed  
Bar

WITH DANCING TO CEILIDH BAND  
**GOVANNEN**

Whisky  
Tasting

A traditional supper of haggis, neeps and tatties

(Alternatives will be available for the faint of heart)

TICKETS £25 EACH  
IN ADVANCE

CONTACT:

LANCE: 01664 840550  
JANE: 07912 085883

FROM 7.00PM TILL LATE

# CHINESE NIGHT

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**KIRBY BELLARS VILLAGE HALL**

DOORS OPEN AT 6.00PM  
FOOD SERVED FROM 6.30PM

**£15.00 ADULTS  
£7.50 CHILDREN**

To book please call  
Emma (07866663153) or  
Clair (07792473797 by 1/2/26



On the night we'll be joined by Heritage Lincolnshire to talk briefly about plans for the church

# ADVENT? NEW YEAR?

A time to remember Jesus' birth & anticipate his second coming.  
Looking FORWARD by looking BACK to the 4 Advent themes.



6-6.30pm on Mon 19<sup>th</sup> or 10.45-11.15 on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> or 7.15-7.45am on Fri 26<sup>th</sup>

~ Bible Project video ~ Conversation & Reflection ~ Silence & Prayer ~

=> to ground us & to grow us <=

Join Zoom Meeting | Meeting ID : 844 2990 6409 | Passcode : NewYear

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84429906409?pwd=Bj0OW8uimNQa5WMNA4P2EI82T25VT1.1>