

Launde Minster Community Newsletter



Edition Date: Thursday 29th January 2026

Sunday 1st February

4th Sunday of Epiphany, Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Attached is the MC Worship Plan for **FEBRUARY 2026** (as of 29th 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 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

💻 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 1st February 11am

Launde Minster Community Online Church

All are welcome

Leader & Reflection: Madeleine Wang

To join the livestream, click on this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQK191dakSkeAh5kb0eu8idqGI8Q.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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Collects for Sunday 1st February

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the
Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

Amen

Reflection: Sunday 1st February

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Our celebrations at Christmas told us that a baby has been born – in case we hadn't noticed! But Candlemas 40 days later forces us to see that this baby is real and one of us. We can sympathise with his parents who have a lot to cope with, as they bring their child the five miles to the Temple in Jerusalem, and make the special offering which the Law requires. That baby is no longer just a picture on a Christmas card. As the writer to the Hebrews says, 'we share his flesh and blood'; he is 'like us his brothers and sisters in every respect', yet with his own special needs and special calling.

That special calling, Simeon says, is to be "a light shining before all the peoples of the world". Note that Simeon does not hold him up as someone to 'make Israel great again', but as someone to bring the light of truth to all humanity as well as to his own people. Simeon is wise enough to be honest, however, and to say that this will cost the child dear. He will upset the established order and people will reject him, and his mother in particular will bear great pain.

But that is all in the future when Jesus is confronted with the activities of the bully-boys of history in the shape of the various rulers called Herod and the brutal might of Rome. The light of truth which that baby will make to

shine in the world will be trashed and almost extinguished in a process similar to much that we are seeing in the power politics of our own day. But we today are called with Simeon and Anna to praise God for that light of truth shining from a special baby, someone who is one of us.

Philip Norwood

Bible Readings:

Sunday 1st February

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Malachi 3.1-5

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;

3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

5 Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Hebrews 2.14-end

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),

24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
29 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.'

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed

35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,

37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Sunday 1st February

4th Sunday of Epiphany

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Psalm 24 [1-6] 7-end

[1]

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

2

For he has founded it upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

3

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?'

4

'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;

5

'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

6

Such is the company of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob]

7

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

8

'Who is the King of glory?'
'The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

9

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

10

'Who is this King of glory?'
'The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.'

Lent Resources and Courses

Revd David Palmer has prepared a Resource for Lent. Each day comprises a Bible verse and a short thought or prayer.

Here is an extract for February 18th, Ash Wednesday:

'Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. (Joel 2:13)

Lord, forgive me for forgetting you so often. Help me to remember your constant love and presence.'

I will include the week's Bible verses and thoughts/ prayers in the newsletter. But if you would like a copy of the complete resource, please let me know and I will send it to you.

l.jones2k@btinternet.com

Lent Group in Church Langton

Revd Martin Hathaway and Maxine Johnson will be running a Lent Group.

**Tuesday Evenings at 7.30pm at Brook House,
Stonton Road, Church Langton**

Last year saw the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed we use regularly in Communion Services - remarkable! The Church of England has prepared a 5-session discussion course looking at how the creed came about and the focussing on key topics, so we will use this.

Everyone is very welcome!

If you would like to let us know you are coming that could help with numbers. Thank you.

Contact:

revd.martinhathaway@tiscali.co.uk
maxinejohnson.1@btinternet.com

Food for Thought: Save the Dates

We hope you have had a good start to 2026

We are delighted to tell you that we have 2 speakers and 2 dates secured. More details later but please save the dates. Both evenings will be at Launde Abbey.

Monday April 13th

Lord Donald Curry

Farming, Faith, Politics

Tuesday June 23rd

Bishop Saju

(Subject tbc)

Mary Twidell mary.twidell@gmail.com

01858 555204/ 07464 309966

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



**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**

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', Custard, Tinned fruit, Dried Packet Rice, Baked Beans

Other suggested donations: Porridge Oats, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), Teabags, Sugar (500g), Deodorant, 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, 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)

World Day of Prayer 2026 in the Launde Minster Community

St Thomas a Becket Church, Rugby

Friday March 6th at 2pm



Nigeria 2026

Launde Minster Community

World Day of Prayer 2026

St Thomas a Becket Church, Rugby

On Friday 6th March at 2pm

All are welcome



It would be good if all of our churches in the Minster Community will come and support WDP

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.

Extracts from Diomail

Monday 26th January

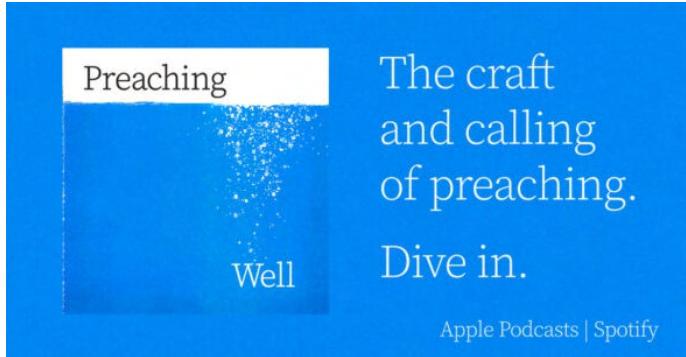
For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 26th January:

https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-26-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/>

New 'Preaching Well' Podcast



A new podcast is entering the preaching landscape – a reason to open your app, hit play, and dive deep into the conversation...

Preaching Well is where the art of preaching meets the pulse of the world.

Hosted by Bishop Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough in the Diocese of Leicester, and officially launching on Monday 2 February, **Preaching Well** welcomes some of the most insightful and inspiring voices in contemporary Christianity, including Sam Corley, Kelly Brown Douglas, Hannah Steele, Martyn Snow, Jared Alcántara, and many more.

Each episode will draw listeners into deep, energising conversations that bring wisdom, wit, and wonder to the craft of preaching.

Whether you preach from a pulpit, teach in a classroom, or share hope on a porch, **Preaching Well** is designed to equip and inspire you to speak Scripture with clarity, compassion, and courage – across cultures, contexts, and generations.

So, let's hand over to Bishop Saju to give you the full podcast picture...

Watch Bishop Saju's introduction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Uks3Dq6-Eo>

Make a Difference Behind the Prison Walls



Have you ever wondered what life is really like inside a prison? Do you care about justice, dignity, and the humane treatment of others?

For many Christians, this compassion to stand alongside those who the world often forgets is a sign of God's invitation to serve: to bring light, listening, and hope into places where they are deeply needed.

If you recognise that stirring within you, volunteering with the Independent Monitoring Boards (IMB) could be a meaningful way to respond to that calling.

The IMB are looking for volunteers from all walks of life to monitor prisons and see how prisoners are being treated. Every prison in England and Wales has an IMB – a group of ordinary citizens appointed by ministers to act as the public's eyes and ears.

They are currently looking for volunteers at **HMP Leicester**, **HMP Fosse Way**, **HMP Gartree** and **HMP Stocken**.

Find out more here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/make-a-difference-behind-the-prison-walls.php>

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2026

The Bishops' Lent Appeal for 2026 will be in support of the **Family Holiday Charity** – a UK based organisation dedicated to providing holidays for disadvantaged families.

The charity offers breaks away for families facing challenges such as illness, isolation and bereavement. Find out more in Diomail next month.

Find out more about the Family Holiday Charity:

<https://familyholidaycharity.org.uk>

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>

