

Launde Minster Community



Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 26th February 2026

Sunday 1st March Second Sunday of Lent

Attached is the MC Worship Plan for **MARCH 2026** (as of 26th February)

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 **Launde 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*

Saturday 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 March 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=CIDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.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:

Revd Crystal Mcallister, Oversight Minister of Launde Minster Community. Vicar 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. pioneerystal136@gmail.com 07890 020012

Wendy Lewis, Administrator

wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org 07777 934092

Collects for Sunday 1st March Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reflection: Sunday 1st March Second Sunday of Lent

Nicodemus was a pious man, a Pharisee, who lived by the Law of God. He was also a politician, a 'leader of the Jews' with a seat on the Sanhedrin. And moreover he was an academic at the University of Jerusalem, a 'Teacher of Israel'. He was someone therefore who knew a great deal about the God of the Bible, but he was also intrigued by recognising in Jesus someone who reflected God's truth in everything he did. But Nicodemus did not know God.

Jesus had to explain to him that he could sit in his house and listen to the wind blowing all around outside, but unless he got out of his seat and went outside, he could not know where the wind was coming from or going to. In other words, Nicodemus could not know God unless he left his comfort zone and felt the full force of God's power through the Holy Spirit.

Abram was someone else who at first did not know God. All he knew was that he had to take his family to a new country without being told where he had to go. By acting

obediently, he came to know that God was with him: and the rest is history.

It's not difficult for anybody to learn a lot about religion – the ups and downs of the Church, the poetry of worship and scripture, the beauty of music, art and architecture, the fellowship of friends and worshippers. But is that what is meant by knowing God? Remember the journey Nicodemus took. It started with a furtive meeting with Jesus under cover of darkness; but by Good Friday, the power of God gave him the courage to bring spices to bury the man he so greatly admired. Can we relate that to our own journey through Lent?

Revd Philip Norwood

Bible Readings:

Sunday 1st March

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12.1-4a

1 Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

4 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

3 For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'

4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

5 But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

17 as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')-in the presence of the God in whom he

believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3.1-17

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

3 Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

4 Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

5 Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

9 Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

10 Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

11 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'

13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sunday 1st March

Second Sunday of Lent

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

- 5 The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.
7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.
8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

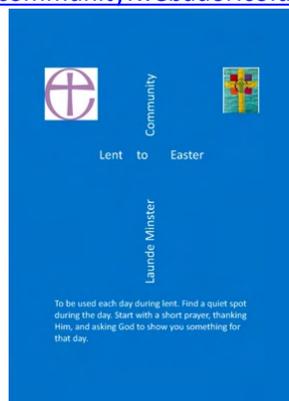
Lent Resources and Courses

**Please send details of proposed Lent courses to
Wendy Lewis, Administrator**
wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org 07777 934092

1. Revd David Palmer has prepared a Resource for Lent. Each day comprises a Bible verse and a short thought or prayer. This is this week's extract.

If you would like to read or download a copy of Revd David's complete resource for Lent, you can do so here:

<https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/what-s-on>



Second Week of Lent :

Thursday 26 February

Reading:Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)

Prayer:Give me grace, Lord, to ask only for those things which please you, to seek those things you want me to discover, and to find your peace and presence always.

Friday 27 February

Reading:Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. (Psalm 130:1-4)

Prayer:When life is hard or unfair, Lord, help me to trust you. When I fail, give me courage and humility to turn back to you.

Saturday 28 February

Reading:You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:43-45)

Prayer:Lord, I get really cross with some people and situations. I pray for them now. You know why they are difficult, and you can prompt them to do the right thing.

Sunday 1 March, Second Sunday of Lent

Reading:For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

Prayer:Lord, I do believe. Thank you for dying for me and promising eternal life. Help me to trust you more.

Monday 2 March

Reading:Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. (Luke 6:36-37)

Prayer:Dear God, you have perfect judgement because you see all sides of every situation. Keep me from being judgmental because I can only see things imperfectly.

Tuesday 3 March

Reading:Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. (Isaiah 1:17)

Prayer:Please bring relief to all who suffer through no fault of their own. Give wisdom and resources to the agencies which try to help them.

Third Week of Lent, Beginning:

Wednesday 4 March

Reading:Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:26-28)

Prayer:It amazes me that Jesus came to save imperfect people. Grant me the grace to follow your example and put other people's needs before my own.

Thursday 5 March

Reading:Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

Prayer:May I draw on your refreshing, renewing Holy Spirit as I face the opportunities and challenges of today.

2. 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.

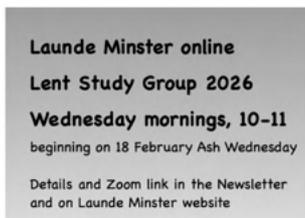
Contact:

revd.martinhathaway@tiscali.co.uk

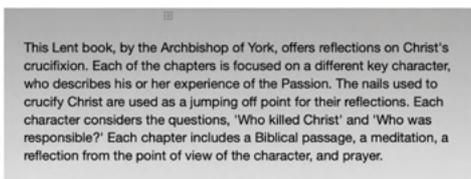
maxinejohnson.1@btinternet.com

3. Launde Minster Community Online Lent Group

Every Wednesday for 6 weeks starting on 18th February 10-11am



Launde Minster online
Lent Study Group 2026
Wednesday mornings, 10-11
beginning on 18 February Ash Wednesday
Details and Zoom link in the Newsletter
and on Launde Minster website



This Lent book, by the Archbishop of York, offers reflections on Christ's crucifixion. Each of the chapters is focused on a different key character, who describes his or her experience of the Passion. The nails used to crucify Christ are used as a jumping off point for their reflections. Each character considers the questions, 'Who killed Christ?' and 'Who was responsible?' Each chapter includes a Biblical passage, a meditation, a reflection from the point of view of the character, and prayer.

Use this special Zoom Link to join the Lent group:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89249553263?pwd=NHCV9WSC0rXRNskhRPK9tK930wdCbp.1>

Meeting ID: 892 4955 3263

Passcode: 658857

Everyone is welcome

4. Lent Course at St Peter's Church, Tilton

Starting on Tuesday 24 February, St Peter's Church in Tilton are running a Lent course.

There will be coffee, cake and conversation for anyone who wants to learn more about Lent. **This runs for 6 weeks until 31 March.** Each session will stand alone, so you can come to all or dip in and out.



NOTE TO SELF
Lent is not about becoming perfect, but rather it is about growing in your faith.
CURIOUS ABOUT LENT?
COFFEE, CAKE AND CONVERSATION
TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY * 6 WEEKLY SESSIONS
1.30PM AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

Hallaton Church: Reverse Lent Challenge: GIVE instead of GIVING UP

Collecting 40 items in 40 days for the Market Harborough Foodbank

Collection point in the church



Soup Lunches at Gaulby during Lent

Every Friday during Lent 12.30-2pm



Praying Pilgrims in Launde Minster Community

February & March 2026

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 and March is:

March 4: **Church Langton**

March 11: **Glooston**

March 18: **Shangton**

March 25: **Lowesby**

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

Rev David Palmer and Rev Crystal McAllister

Concert at St John's Church, Hungarton

Saturday 7th March

Refreshments at 10.30am, Concert at 11am

Musicians: Michael Lessiter and Ron Berry

Admission is free, donations to the church heating fund



CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,
HUNGARTON
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
Refreshments at 10.30am.
Followed by concert at 11am.
Micheal Lessiter (bass/baritone)
Ron Berry (piano)
Micheal has had a long singing career in opera and oratorio, most notably as a member of the Royal Opera chorus at Covent Garden.
He will be singing a range of music, and Ron will be accompanying and also playing some solos.
While admission is free, donations toward the church heating fund are gratefully received.
CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,
HUNGARTON

Launde Villages Mothers' Union win a National Award

The Launde Villages Mothers' Union were delighted to receive news that they received a National Rise-Up Against Domestic Abuse Silver Award.

RISE UP is an acronym for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. For more information about Mothers' Union in the Launde Minster Community, including how to become a member, please contact Christine Hutchinson:

christinehutchinson450@gmail.com



The Breakfast Service at Hallaton

Sunday 8th March at 9.30am

Short Service followed by Bacon Butties, Coffee and Sunday newspapers with children's activities to prepare for Mothers' Day



World Day of Prayer 2026 in the Launde Minster Community

St Thomas a Becket Church, Tugby
Friday March 6th at 2pm



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



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 Carrots, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Tinned Rice Pudding, Custard, Tinned fruit, Dried Packet Rice, Baked Beans, Strong clean 'bags for life'.

Other suggested donations: Porridge Oats, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), Teabags, Sugar (500g), Jam, Corned Beef, Tinned Baked beans with sausages, Cereal, Crackers, Tinned sweetcorn, 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, 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)



[Diomail – there was no Diomail on](#)

[Monday 23rd February](#)

For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 16th February:

https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-16-february-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/>

News From General Synod

Members of the Church of England's Parliament, the General Synod, gathered in London for a five-day group of sessions last week (9-13 Feb).

It marked a significant moment in the Church's history, as the first time Synod has met with the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, presiding.

You can find coverage and news from its discussions on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod>

The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2026 in Support of Family Holiday Charity



We are pleased to bring you details of the Bishop's Lent Appeal for 2026, in support of Family Holiday Charity, an organisation dedicated to helping families struggling with some of life's toughest challenges.

In the UK, two and a half million families with dependent children cannot afford a one-week holiday. For families facing poverty, illness, bereavement or isolation, a simple break away can feel impossible.

Yet spending valuable time together, resting and having the chance to recover, can be truly life-changing. It restores hope, strengthens relationships, and creates memories that will last a lifetime.

Your generosity can make a real difference.

By supporting Family Holiday Charity through the Bishops' Lent Appeal, you can help give families the chance to rest, reconnect and rebuild hope at a time when they need it most.

Watch Bishop Martyn's Lent Appeal video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKxCGIQgqU>

Learn more about the Appeal:

<https://leicester.anglican.org/lent-appeal26>