

7<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Love your Neighbour

*"We are heading towards an inhuman hell. And by the way, this has literally zero to do with the gospel... Jesus is always with the crucified."*

(Professor Duncan Morrow, Ulster University)

Launde Abbey licensed & welcomed their new Deputy Warden on Tuesday evening. Anna Walker comes to us from Whalley Abbey in Blackburn Diocese – a place of prayer, encounter, learning & challenge. Throughout the liturgy of 'New Beginnings', profound promises & sacred song, one thing struck me above all else – Anna's accent. She is Finnish. She & I are 'different'. Common humanity. Shared faith. Different ethnicity.

Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioural traits corresponding to inherited attributes. And thus people can be divided based on the superiority of one race/ ethnicity over another. Prejudice, discrimination & antagonism result. You see this as Donald Trump shares a video depicting



the Obamas as monkeys.

Attitudes, behaviours & language of yesteryear never goes out of fashion, if you can stoke up hostility towards e.g. asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and Black or Brown people per se. Racial Justice Sunday calls this out. During the 1970s, immigration was a phenomenon that enriched society – adding cultural, social & religious assets, variety & kudos. Today, we need to keep 'women & children safe' from predatory male asylum seekers.

Yet the Bible tells us that there is a better way, a more excellent way, based on love & compassion (1 Cor 12:31-13:13). When Jesus was asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" he replied; "Love the Lord your God... Love your neighbour as yourself". Consequently, Jesus asks his followers not to 'tolerate' or even 'accept' the neighbour, the stranger, the other, but to love them regardless of how they look or what they believe.

How do we build this kingdom of love, justice, compassion, mercy, truth, unity & hope? When we too are susceptible to narratives of hostility, fear, suspicion & hatred? To flags, banners, protest & invective? Racial Justice Sunday (in fact, EVERY Sunday), invites us to stand together in love. Rejecting words & actions that go against Christ's teaching and embracing those biblical principles that foment unity, cohesion & encounter.

How do we start? Smile at the outsider. Greet them. Talk to them. Welcome them. Be kind. Extend hospitality. Invite them for a meal. Support them. Stand with them. Offer them shelter. Challenge racism. The Good Samaritan risked his life to save the Jewish man. The least we can do is risk our comfort. **rev'd david.**

# FEBRUARY Services

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

**1030 | Contemp’y Communion | Ragdale**

Inclusive Church liturgy with ‘justice’ focus.

*God of all creation, gather us in - stranger & friend,  
bring us into Your loving presence,  
that we might know that Your love for us  
never ends and has no terms or conditions.  
God of love, on this Racial Justice Sunday 2026,  
point us towards Your dream for all people,  
that we might work together in hope,  
for justice, peace & unity throughout Your world.*

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**

**1900 | Course : MATTHEW | Hoby CHAPEL**

## 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.

**WED 25 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL**

## 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

**LENT COURSE 2026**

**LIVING THE MYSTERY OF FAITH**

# MARCH Services

## SUN 1<sup>st</sup> : Lent 2

**0830 | BCP Communion | Hoby**

Simple, traditional language service.

**1030 | Worship Service | Rotherby**

Informal style with some interaction.

**WED 4 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL**

## SUN 8<sup>th</sup> : Lent 3

**1030 | Contemp’y Communion | Ragdale**

Inclusive Church liturgy with ‘justice’ focus.

**WED 11 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL**

## SUN 15<sup>th</sup> : Mothering Sunday

**1030 | Creative Church | Frisby St.T’s**

Round table worship, discussion, singing & prayer.

**WED 18 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL**

## SUN 22<sup>nd</sup> : Lent 5

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

Engaging with God’s heart for this planet.

**1500 | Evening Prayer | Kirby Bellars**

Traditional language interspersed with hymns.

## SUN 29<sup>th</sup> : Palm Sunday

**1030 | Communion Svc | GADDESBY**

Coming together as a group of local churches.

## ‘Farewell’

Nick MOORE (Hoby) / Patrick ELLIOTT (Hoby)

## ‘Union’

30/5 Adam O’SULLIVAN & Lisa SOUTHWELL (Br)

## ‘Welcome’

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb : Alice NADOLSKI (Gaddesby)

1<sup>st</sup> Mar : Sophie CUFF (Frisby)



## Minster Communities

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Warm greetings at the start of this new year and in this season of Epiphany.

I am writing to the churches of Framland & the churches of Goscote who have been involved in the recent Minster Community conversations. Firstly, I want to thank you for your engagement with these conversations. I know that these have not been easy & there have been strong feelings expressed in many of the meetings. I am also aware that the conversations have been the cause of division between churches – I am deeply sorry about this. Yet I dare to believe that they have been fruitful in other ways and I am writing now to relay the outcome of the votes taken by each church and the follow-up discussions that I have had with clergy and some lay leaders.

### North-East Leicestershire

The attached table shows the voting of each church in this area. Interestingly, the totals are a mirror image of Framland North - 53% voted in favour of the proposal, 37% voted against the proposal and 10% didn't vote. I have therefore proposed to the clergy that we proceed with the formation of the Minster Community – although we will proceed slowly & cautiously given the number of churches which have expressed concern. The proposal will therefore go to the Diocesan Trustees within the next few months.

Therefore, I am suggesting that a new “Co-ordinating Group” is formed, initially facilitated by Rev'd Ros Harper and Rev'd David Harknett and with any lay ministers, and church officers who wish to participate. This group will begin

to explore the implementation of the proposals for the Minster Community. But we will not have any formal launch / commissioning of the Minster Community until the Co-ordinating Group feel we are ready. If you would like to be part of this Co-ordinating Group, or would like a conversation about its work, please speak to either Ros or David.

The financial position in NE Leicestershire is currently stable i.e. the area is covering the cost of existing ministers. We will not be able to make any new appointments of stipendiary clergy at this time, but we will continue to keep this under review, particular as the diocese explores funding for Growing Faith Ministers (those who focus on ministry with children and young people). In the meantime, there will be no changes to any licencing arrangements for either clergy or lay ministers.

Once again, I continue to be encouraged by the faithfulness of the whole people of God in this area. There are signs of growth & fruitfulness alongside the fragility & challenges that many churches are facing. I am sincerely grateful to all who serve God and God's church.

More generally in the diocese, we have now 3 Minster Communities formally commissioned. All other areas (22) are progressing, though at different speeds & with some local variation.

If you have any questions... please feel to contact me, Archdeacon Richard, or the Parish Transition and Ministry Development Team. We want to support you as best we can as we navigate these changes together.

With prayers,

**The Rt Revd Martyn Snow**  
Bishop of Leicester





## Heritage Lincolnshire & St.Peter's Kirby

Look closely, and you'll see a plethora of people filling in Surveys – but only after they'd enjoyed a Chinese takeaway that stretched along the whole length of the KB Village Hall kitchen! Aided, of course, by the excellent Bar.

**Hannah Mayhew** (Project Manager) and **Katy-Jayne Lintott** (Access Consultant) from Heritage Lincolnshire joined us for this social-fundraiser. Their role includes :-

*HTL will provide a Project Manager and Community Audit Consultant for the duration of the Project to lead in all aspects of the project scheme and activities. The Project Manager will coordinate procurement, budget responsibility, coordination of contractors and consultants, project administration and reporting for the major funders. They will also work closely with the PCC and DCC to manage any new volunteers recruited for project roles.*

**What do you want for your local Church?**  
**What place its future in our communities?**  
**What activities will bring new life?**



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

On Tuesday, our local Primary School received its SIAMS – the first in 7 years! It stands for; **'Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools'**.

Our inspector Emma is a Headteacher, bringing experience & empathy as well as expertise.

Following the framework, she considered several Questions, all deriving from; **"How then shall we live & learn together?"**

The key to it all is the school's theologically rooted Christian vision – how does Frisby Primary's vision (from Romans 12, above), enable pupils & adults to flourish?

## And Finally...

### Arsenal Football Club

It looks as if the team my Dad followed for decades (and my brother Dan continues to!) may FINALLY be on track to win a Premier League title. They top the Table by c.6 points.

The Bible talks about measuring time in *chronos* (measurable) and *kairos* (opportune). Passing moments ... purposeful time ... Ecclesiastes 3 describes the former. The Kingdom of God ("at hand") describes the latter.

As time ticks by, what are you waiting for? And as you wait, where are signs of the Kingdom?



Imagine for a moment that you were one of the Gospel writers, aiming to capture the significance of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Matthew paints the portrait of a promised King. His Gospel highlights Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, or 'Christ', the fulfilment of the words spoken through the prophets. Matthew constantly reaches into the treasury of the scriptures, revealing Jesus as the one who was bringing God's kingdom.

In these 5 sessions we'll take in Jesus' birth, his calling of the disciples, his authority as a teacher, his miracles and his upcoming passion.

As we see Jesus fulfil God's promise we'll be encouraged and equipped to live out the mystery of faith.

# THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

Lent Course 2026



## Living the Mystery of Faith

Wednesday Evenings : Feb 18th & 25th / Mar 4th, 11th & 18th

Hoby Methodist Centre at 7.00pm