

Launde Minster Community



Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 19th February 2026

Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent

Attached is the MC Worship Plan for **FEBRUARY 2026** (as of 19th 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=VtUdahsUf34Vc7Bbr5qVfoeiobrOO8.1>

Meeting ID: 817 5122 7280 Passcode: 419620

Sunday 22nd February 11am

Launde Minster Community Online Church

All are welcome

Leader & Reflection: Mike Hammond

To join the livestream, click on this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.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 #

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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 22nd February First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reflection: Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent

Matthew 4:1-11 /Genesis2: 15-17,3:1-7

Did God really say? If you are the Son of God. We have now arrived at Lent, and on this first Sunday we recount the stories of two temptations that the devil (in the Genesis story masquerading as a snake) and as the tempter in Matthew's account to cause humanity to fall, and for Jesus to fail in his ministry before it even began. In the first story from Genesis, Eve in response to the question of did God really say, started by repeating what God had said. The devil then challenged the contention by saying you will not die but become like God, and Eve took the bait, and consequently humanity disobeyed God. Jesus was tested by a challenge to prove through a miracle that he was Son of God. He declined and humanity was saved. But ultimately the test was intended to have the same result, to doubt God and our place in God. It is easy when faced with a moral challenge to rationalise it, did God really say, and when trials come to doubt our place as God's child. Lent is given us to remember what Jesus achieved for us on the cross and resurrection.

Mike Hammomd

Bible Readings:
Sunday 22nd February
First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?''

2 The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

3 but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."'

4 But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Romans 5.12-19

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-

13 sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.

14 Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

16 And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.

17 If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.

19 For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Matthew 4.1-11

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

3 The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'

4 But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you",

and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

7 Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour;

9 and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'

10 Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sunday 22nd February

First Sunday of Lent

Psalms 32

1 Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered.

2 Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 For I held my tongue; my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long.

4 Your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity I did not hide.

6 I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble; in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.

- 8 You are a place for me to hide in;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with songs of deliverance.
- 9 'I will instruct you and teach you
in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 'Be not like horse and mule which have no
understanding;
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.'
- 11 Great tribulations remain for the wicked,
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

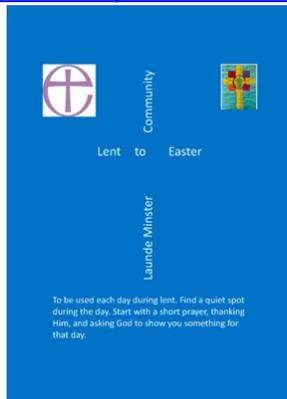
Lent Resources and Courses

**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](https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/what-s-on)



First Week of Lent, Beginning:

Wednesday 18 February, Ash Wednesday

Reading: 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)

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

Thursday 19 February

Reading: Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law, day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)

Prayer: Lord help me to keep in step with you today and always, and to learn more of you from your word in the Bible.

Friday 20 February

Reading: The word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, that you know me through and through and yet you still love me. Help me to try not to hide anything from you, for I do not need to fear your scrutiny.

Saturday 21 February

Reading: Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. (Luke 5:31)

Prayer: Dear God. I know I'm not perfect. Thank you for calling me as I am. Help me to live in ways that honour you today.

Sunday 22 February First Sunday of Lent

Reading: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. (Psalm 32:8)

Prayer: May I understand you more clearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Monday 23 February

Reading: The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Prayer: Lord, the small things people do mean so much to me. I pray that I will be able to do small things for others, and also for you, today.

Tuesday 24 February

Reading: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. (Matthew 6:9-13)

Prayer: Use the Lord's Prayer as a starting point for your prayer today. Spend a few moments focusing on each clause in turn, considering its wider meaning and applying it to yourself.

Second Week of Lent, Beginning:

Wednesday 25 February

Reading: Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. (Psalm 51:15)

Prayer: I have so much to be thankful for, Lord. The good times I've enjoyed, the things I have now, and even the difficult times that you have helped me through. Thank you for them all.

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.

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

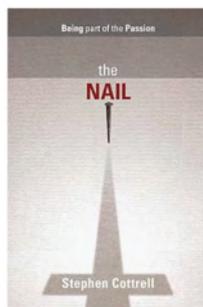
maxinejohnson.1@btinternet.com

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>

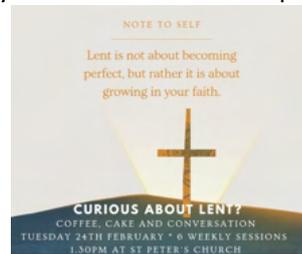
Meeting ID: 892 4955 3263

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.



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:

February 25: Hungarton

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

Praying Pilgrims at Keyham

On Wednesday 11th February, 10 people from the church community at Keyham Church joined Rev David and Maxine Johnson for Morning Prayers. We were greatly encouraged by the turnout! Maxine delivered a short reflection on a few verses of Mark's Gospel reflecting on Jesus desiring more an attitude of the heart that is wholly in line with his. This was framed around some Celtic liturgy of St Piran calling for new beginnings! **Rev David G Palmer**



Horninghold 22nd February

Because of the ongoing building work in St Peter's, the 11am service at Horninghold on 22nd February will be a Simple Home Communion Service in Bridgford House, taken by Revd David Palmer, to which **all are very welcome**



Billesdon Church Coffee Concert

Saturday 21st of February

David Whittle kicks off the 2026 season with an organ recital. Coffee served from 10.30am followed by a 40 min recital at 11am.

Admission free; all welcome. Donations in aid of LOROS

Snowdrop Sunday at Tugby

Snowdrop Sunday on 15th February at Tugby Church was a great success. Despite the awful weather we had more than 50 visitors including children and young people and a few folk visiting the area. Lots of tea was drawn, cake eaten and many conversations had. **Thanks to everyone's generosity we are able to send £100 to the Bishop's Lent appeal.**



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



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)



Extracts from Diomail

Monday 16th 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>

Launching 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.

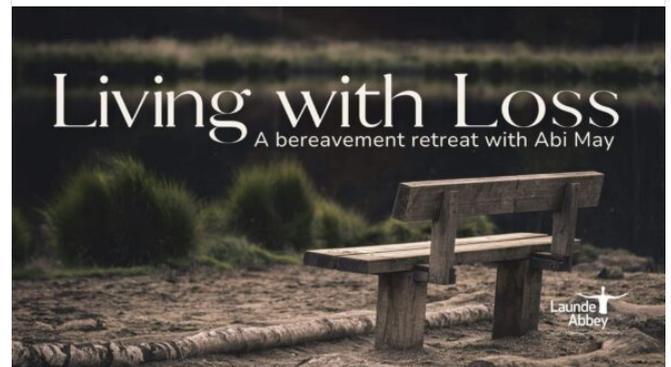
Watch Bishop Martyn's Lent Appeal video:

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

Learn more about the Appeal:

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

Living with Loss – A Bereavement Retreat



Monday 23 to Thursday 26 March – Launde Abbey

Led by Abi May and team, this retreat is for those who have experienced bereavement to gain the tools to help cope with the life-changing loss of a loved one.

More information and booking:

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/living-with-loss-3/>

Holy Week with the Launde Abbey Community

Monday 30 March-Sunday 5 April Launde Abbey

Stay and pray as part of the Launde Abbey Community during Holy Week.

See their website for more information:

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/holyweek/>