

## Launde Minster Community



## Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 5th March 2026

### Sunday 8th March Third Sunday of Lent

Attached is the MC Worship Plan for **MARCH 2026** (as of 5th March)

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](mailto: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 8th March 11am

Launde Minster Community Online Church

**World Day of Prayer All are welcome**

Leader: Hilary Painter

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](mailto:pioneerystal136@gmail.com) 07890 020012

**Wendy Lewis**, Administrator

[wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org](mailto:wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org) 07777 934092

### Collects for Sunday 8th March Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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**

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### Reflection: Sunday 8th March Third Sunday of Lent

**John 4: 5-42**

On this third Sunday in Lent we are given as our Gospel reading the conversation Jesus has with the Samaritan Woman. Those of you who have heard me preach on John around the minster will know that I am fascinated with the complex dualism that John places within this gospel. If you look back to Chapter 3, you will see that Jesus talks with Nicodemus a pillar of the Jewish establishment, and straight after in this reading he is talking with an outcast Samaritan woman. Here is the dualism of the Jewish leader and the Samaritan outcast, but both effectively receive the same message. Darkness and light, blindness and sight, life and death, all these dualisms are present in John's gospel. In this chapter, the dualism is life, which is represented by the water that Jesus gives through his life, death and resurrection, and the death of unbelief. The reference to Jacob's well was to illustrate that the (literal) water from the old Jewish covenant would provide only temporary relief and life, the water of faith from Jesus would rise to eternal life. In a dry land, water is very precious, and this message would have been clearly understood by the hearers.

**Mike Hammond**

**Bible Readings:**  
**Sunday 8th March**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**

**Exodus 17.1-7**

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?'

3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?'

4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.'

5 The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

**Romans 5.1-11**

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**John 4.5-42**

5 So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.

8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

11 The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?'

12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?'

13 Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

15 The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

16 Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.'

17 The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.'

Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband";

18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!'

19 The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet.

20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.'

21 Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.'

25 The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.'

26 Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said,

'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?'

28 Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

29 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?'

30 They left the city and were on their way to him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.'

32 But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.'

33 So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?'

34 Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.'

35 Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

36 The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

37 For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps."

38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.'

40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days.

41 And many more believed because of his word.

42 They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

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## Sunday 8th March

### Third Sunday of Lent

#### Psalm 95

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving  
and be glad in him with psalms.

3 For the Lord is a great God  
and a great king above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth  
and the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have moulded the dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7 For he is our God;  
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

8 O that today you would listen to his voice:  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 'When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof,

though they had seen my works.

10 'Forty years long I detested that generation and said,  
"This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways."

11 'So I swore in my wrath,  
"They shall not enter into my rest."'

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## Lent Resources and Courses

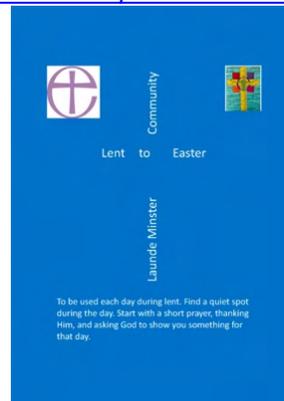
**Please send details of proposed Lent courses to  
Wendy Lewis, Administrator**

[wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org](mailto: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)



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### Third Week of Lent, Beginning:

#### 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.

#### Friday 6 March

**Reading:** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3-4)

**Prayer:** Pray today for a renewal of hope for people around the world who have lost hope. Thank God that through all the changing scenes of life we always have his love and hope.

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## Saturday 7 March

**Reading:** Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:17-18)

**Prayer:** Look back over the past week and ask God to forgive the wrongs you committed and the good things you failed to do. Thank him for his mercy and the new start he offers.

## Sunday 8 March, Third Sunday of Lent

**Reading:** Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (John 4:14)

**Prayer:** Thank God for a supply of clean water. Pray for people who do not have access to it. And seek today to experience afresh God's life-giving Holy Spirit to equip and empower you to serve him.

## Monday 9 March

**Reading:** All the people in the synagogue were furious ... they got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. (Luke 4:28-30)

**Prayer:** Many people seek to oppose the church or frustrate the witness of Christians. Pray for militant atheists and self-satisfied agnostics, that they may see glimpses of the living Jesus in the world today.

## Tuesday 10 March

**Reading:** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22)

**Prayer:** Lord, I find it hard to forgive others. Please forgive my resentment and anger against them, and give me your grace to offer forgiveness to them as you have offered it to me.

## Fourth Week of Lent, Beginning:

### Wednesday 11 March

**Reading:** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)

**Prayer:** Praise God today that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive for all time to help, support and save us. Thank him for his death on your behalf.

### Thursday 12 March

**Reading:** When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. (Matthew 1:24)

**Prayer:** Thank you that Joseph had the courage to do what the angel had told him in a dream. Give me the courage to obey you wherever it takes me.

## 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.*

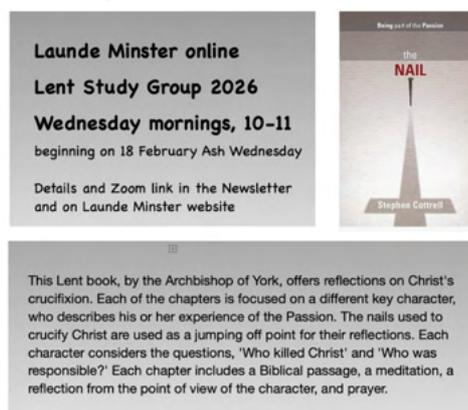
**Contact:**

[revd.martinhathaway@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:revd.martinhathaway@tiscali.co.uk)

[maxinejohnson.1@btinternet.com](mailto:maxinejohnson.1@btinternet.com)

## 3. Launde Minster Community Online Lent Group

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



**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

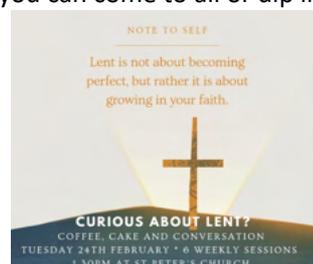
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*Everyone is welcome*

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

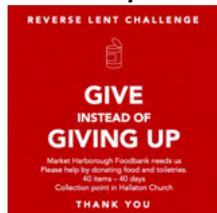
**Starting on Tuesday 24 February, St Peter's Church in Tilton are running a Lent course.**

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 March & April 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 March and April is:

March 11: **Glooston**

March 18: **Shangton**

March 25: **Lowesby**

April 01: **Cranoe**

April 08: **Iliston**

April 15: **Hallaton**

April 22: **Lowesby**

April 29: **Thorpe Langton**

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

*Rev David Palmer and Rev Crystal McAllister*

## 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*

## 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*



## 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



## Horninghold Village Trail Launch

Saturday 14th March 2-4pm Free

Get a copy of the new trail and join a guided tour around the village.

*Tea and coffee and nice things to eat.*





### 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, Shower gel, Corned Beef, Tinned peas, Jam, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), Jars of Coffee (100grams), Jars of Pasta sauce, Dried Potato (Smash)

**Other suggested donations:** Custard, Tinned fruit, Dried Packet Rice, Baked Beans, Strong clean 'bags for life', Tinned Rice Pudding, Porridge Oats, Teabags, Sugar (500g), Jam, 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, Tinned potatoes, Fray Bentos pies, Tinned ham, Crackers, Tinned soup, Cup of soup, Sugar (500g), 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), 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 Monday 2nd March**

**For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 2nd March:**

[https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-2-march-2026/?newsletter\\_email=l.jones2k@btinternet.com](https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-2-march-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/>

### **Ukraine Prayer Vigil**



**Members of the public, civic leaders, and the Ukrainian community gathered at Leicester Cathedral on Tuesday 24 February 2026 for a special Prayer Vigil on the fourth anniversary of Russia's invasion and war against Ukraine.**

Among those present were the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Bo Prychidnyj (Chair of the Association of

Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) Leicester branch), the Bishop of Leicester, and the Dean of Leicester.

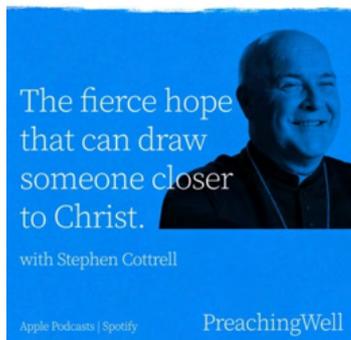
The service included prayers, reflections, music, a video from Ukrainian schoolchildren, and the symbolic lighting of candles for peace and remembrance.

Image: Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) Leicester branch.

Read the full story:

<https://leicestercathedral.org/news/2026/02/ukraine-prayer-vigil-held>

## "Preaching is Simply a Long, Steady Walk with God"



### The Archbishop of York walks into the conversation with stories that spark, stretch, and surprise...

In this latest episode of the Preaching Well podcast, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell opens up about the craft he loves – preaching that overflows, reveals, repeats, slows down, and dares to invite.

He talks about childhood outside the church, the moment Scripture made him weep in the pulpit, the joy of feeding the soul with art and poetry, and the fierce hope that every sermon can draw someone closer to Christ.

He wrestles with vulnerability, tells the truth about microphones, pace, and craft, and shows why story – raw, human, embodied – still cuts through the noise. He names the hunger in our churches, the longing in our culture, and the courage it takes to call people home.

It's vivid, warm, unexpected, and full of movement. A joyful, searching conversation with a preacher who believes the gospel is beautiful enough to change us – and generous enough to invite a response every time.

Read more and listen here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/about-us/bishop-of-leicester-and-loughborough/preaching-well-podcast/>

## Bishop's Lent Appeal



**The Bishop's Lent Appeal for 2026 is 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.

Through this year's Lent Appeal, parishes across the Diocese of Leicester are invited to support Family Holiday Charity's vital work, helping families experience rest, hope and renewed strength during times of real challenge.

Find out more:

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

## Leicester Walk of Witness 2026

Friday 3 April, 9.30am-12.30pm



### Join in with Leicester's Good Friday Walk of Witness

The organisers would like to hear from those able to help as marshals or first-aiders on the day.

Contact Revd Lorraine

Burke: [info@ntcgthelighthouse.org](mailto:info@ntcgthelighthouse.org) – 07784490980