

CHURCH News

November 2025



Newsletter no: 116

New, but Old...

I've been thinking about names a lot recently, particularly name changes.

There are many incidents in the Bible of God calling someone by a new name to represent a change of circumstance or calling. One of my favourite examples from the Old Testament is Sarai, the wife of Abraham; God changes her name from Sarai which means '*my Princess*', to Sarah which means '*Princess to the Nations*'. This name change comes after God blesses her and her husband with the birth of their child, Isaac, when they were well into old age. The lineage of Christ can be traced back through Isaac to Abraham. Sarah's subtle change of name marks her role in the story.

Perhaps most famous of all is Peter, formally known as Simon. Jesus changes his name to Peter, which means '*The Rock*', which recognises that Peter's faith is foundational in building the church. Did you know that there is a tradition of ordaining new priests at the end of June, a season known as Petertide, when we remember and celebrate Peter's ministry. In the book of Isaiah 49:16, it says, "*Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands*", a sign of God's personal and permanent care, symbolising that his people are never forgotten, and their identity is marked on him in much the same way as a tattoo. A reminder that God knows more than just our name, he recognises our identity.

A name change usually marks something significant happening; the formalising of a relationship through marriage or civil partnership or marking a new identity in some way.

The keen eyed among you might have noticed that my surname has recently changed, this following the ending of my marriage and a decision I have taken to return to using my family name, Clarke.

Perhaps you have had reason to change your name, and I doubt you did it lightly; it can follow a time of upheaval and discomfort, but the words from Isaiah remind us that God knows us intimately, and loves us regardless.

Hopefully for most of us a change of name, however discombobulating the process might have been, usually marks the beginning of something new, a step in the right direction, a new identity and a nod to the future.

So for the first time I'll sign off with my "new but old" name: Reverend Anna Clarke

Love Anna



Church Services in November

Sunday 2nd November

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Tuesday 4th November

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. John's, Gunthorpe

Sunday, 9th November

11.00a.m. Remembrance Service, St. Mary's, Lowdham.

10.30 a.m. Remembrance Service, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 11th November

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Bulcote

Sunday, 16th November

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 18th November

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Luke's, Stoke Bardolph

Sunday 23rd November

9.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Please note there is no Holy Communion at St. Aidan's

THANK YOU!

From Emmanuel House

Thank you very much for your recent harvest donations of food to Emmanuel House Support Centre.

We will use it to cook meals for people who are homeless or rough sleeping in Nottingham.

We're currently serving breakfast and lunch for people at our support centre in Hockley and, from October, we'll be providing meals for the people staying in our Winter shelter.

You've joined hundreds of people in our mission to end homelessness in Nottingham.

**YOU MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE.**



Thank you for supporting
Emmanuel House!

What's On...

Our churches are living communities at the centre of village life, offering help, fellowship and welcome to

Coffee Chit Chat

Mondays 9.15a.m—11.30a.m

St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce

Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter!

Parents & Toddlers

Monday 9.30 –11.00a.m. (term time only).

St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce.

Everyone is welcome. With refreshments

The Tea Shop at St. John's

Tuesdays 9.30a.m. –12 noon at St. John's,
Gunthorpe. *Join us for coffee, cake and chat.*

'Churches Together' Baby & Toddler Group

Tuesday 9.15 –11.00a.m. (term time only)

Methodist Chapel, Lowdham. Coffee & snacks, crafts & songs.

£2.50/family to cover costs.

Home Groups

Come and join us as we share prayers, explore the bible and grow together in faith and friendship. *For more details, please contact Tracey, the Vicar's P.A.*

St. Mary's Church invite you to



An Afternoon Tea Party

2.00-4.00p.m. Saturday, 29th November

Lowdham WI Hall

Tickets: £15 per person (adults only)

*selection of savoury and sweet culinary goodies,
tea or coffee, a glass of fizz or non-alcoholic alternative*

Booking is essential

Contact Fran: frances@lowdhamstation.me.uk /0115 966 4938



Raising funds for St. Mary's Church

The Parish of Lowdham with Caythorpe and Gunthorpe

The Great Notts Christmas Toy & Gift Appeal 2025



We are collecting toys and gifts to give as Christmas presents for children in need in Nottinghamshire. These can include baby toys & clothes, gift tokens (for teenagers), toiletries, gift sets, selection boxes, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, plus personal care items & toiletries for mums.

Please bring your donations (brand new and unwrapped) to St. Mary's Church, Lowdham on

**Saturday, 29th November
between 10.00a.m –12 noon**

(outside drop off only)

For more details go to: www.christmastoyshomesteadcloud.com

There is also an additional collection at St. Helen's church centre in the weeks prior to the deadline date. Just pop along and add your donations into the box.



Ode of Remembrance

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we will remember them

*Third and Fourth stanza of 'For the Fallen',
Laurence Binyon*

Contact us...

Revd Anna Clarke
0753 501 7591
reverend.anna.allis@gmail.com

*For enquiries, including church bookings,
weddings, baptisms and funerals please contact:*

Tracey Akehurst
Vicar's P.A. & Benefice
Administrator:
0115 965 2114/ 0780 516 2088

administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk

*We take safeguarding very seriously. If you have
any questions please contact:*

Heather Brown
BJBSB Parish Safeguarding Officer
sgbj@united-benefice.org

Zena Cameron
LCG Parish Safeguarding Officer
zenabramall@hotmail.com

Find us...

Facebook at Revd Anna & Friends or
the United Benefice of Burton Joyce &
Lowdham

A Church Near You:
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Each church has its own individual web
pages where you can find further
information

*Blessed are they that mourn,
for they will be comforted.*
Matthew 5.4