

St Leonard's Church, Ryton-on-Dunsmore: **Newsletter December 2025-January 2026**

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Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2026

Benefice SERVICES: December 2025- January 2026

DATE	Wolston	Church Lawford	Ryton
December 7 Advent 1	11.00 am: Holy Communion.	4.00pm: Christingle.	9.15am Messy Christmas workshop.
December 14 Advent 2	4.00pm: Christingle. No Morning Worship.	6.30pm: 9 Lessons and Carols	9.15am: Holy Communion.
Saturday, December 20	6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight.		
December 21 Advent 4	11.00am: Morning Worship.	9.15am: Holy Communion	4.00pm: Carol Service.
December 24 Christmas Eve.	10.30am: Crib Service. 11.30pm: Midnight Communion.	6.00 pm: Nativity Service.	4.00pm: Crib Service 9.30pm: First Communion of Christmas.
December 25: Christmas Day.	11.00am: Family Worship.	9.15 am: Holy Communion.	9.15am: Holy Communion
December 28 Christmas I	We join Wolston Baptist Church for a united service at 11.00 am		
January 4: For the Epiphany.	11.00 am: Holy Communion.	5.00pm :Evening Prayer.	5.00pm: Messy Church.
January 11:	11.00am: Morning Worship.	9.30am: Village Worship.	9.15am: Parish Communion.
January 18:	11.00am: Morning Worship.	10.00am: Plough Sunday.	5.00pm: Holy Communion
January 25:	11.00am: Family Service.	5.00pm: Holy Communion.	9.15am: All age Worship.

Date	Wolston	Church Lawford	Ryton
February 1	11.00 am: Holy Communion.	11.00am: Family Service.	5.00pm: Messy Church.
February 8	11.00am: Morning Worship.	5.00pm: Evening Prayer.	9.15am: Parish Communion.

At Ryton: Wednesday December 10: 11.30 a.m: Holy Communion. This service is of course open to everyone- not just Lunch Club members. NB No 11.30am Holy Communion on January 8.

At 10:30 on Thursday morning every week there is a service of Holy Communion at St. Margaret's church, Wolston. Also, of course, open to everyone.



From our Minister, the Revd. Malcolm Ingham.

Having the family over?

Christmas is a time for family – or so they say, but family what? Family fun, festivities and feasting is what we hope for, but sadly it can all too often be fall-outs, friction and fury. I once saw a fridge magnet that said, “Friends are the family that you choose for yourself” – well, that’s a statement born out of a bad experience!

But let’s be honest, families are weird groupings of people, individuals that are similar in so many ways, but oh, so different in many others - but thrown together, and that’s the rub, that’s where the tensions creep in and

that’s why Christmas (which is supposed to be so lovely) can actually be so dreadful.

Jesus knows that family tensions can exist. Early on in his ministry his “family...went to take charge of him, for they said, ‘He is out of his mind.’” (Mark 3;21)

Let’s be honest, that’s not a huge vote of confidence from your nearest and dearest, and yet they must have realised that they had misread him, because later on we read that his mother and brothers went to see Jesus when he was teaching (a sign of support), that his mother was there for the crucifixion and resurrection and that his brother James became one of the early Church leaders.

What was it that changed their minds?

Well, it wouldn’t have been playing Monopoly together, or simply making a New Year’s Resolution to trust him more, no, I believe that they looked at what Jesus did, they listened to what he said and they put it together so that they realised Jesus really was God with us.

“Immanuel” which means “God with us” is the name the angel uses to describe Mary’s son to Joseph when he is having doubts about marrying her.

It’s an astonishing claim, isn’t it? God with us. Not over us, or near us, or beyond us, but with us. God in our daily lives, in our relationships, our home, in our families.

And because God has been part of our families, he welcomes us into his family.

The Bible tells us that through Jesus, God has adopted us and made us co-heirs with Jesus of everything that Christ won for us at the Cross and when he rose again.

Maybe you sometimes wish that you could choose a family for yourself, maybe you will think that this Christmas or New Year. Then again, maybe you’re really happy in your family but it makes you sad to think that one Christmas not all of you will be there.

Well, my friends, Christmas brings hope, hope because at Christmas God announces that he has come to be with us in Jesus and that, actually, he has chosen you to be in his family simply because he loves you. A family where there are no more tears or pain, a family of joy and wholeness and a family that is filled with eternal wonder as we enjoy forever our heavenly Father’s love.

Now, if that doesn’t call for at least a paper hat and some pigs in blankets, I don’t know what does.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Malcolm

November 9- Remembrance Sunday.

£71 was sent to the Royal British Legion as a result of Remembrance Sunday donations.

From the Church Registers: No entries for November .

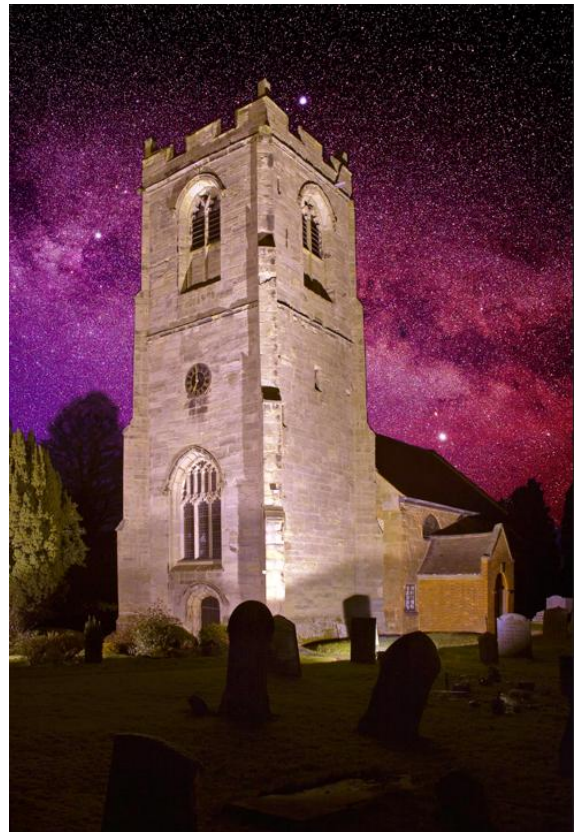
Flowers in church.

Thank you to Janet Smith, who faithfully keeps up the tradition of “Auntie Jean”, so beloved by all and makes sure that there are always beautiful flower arrangements in church. We would like to invite others to cover some weeks, perhaps in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special anniversary or other happy event. You can arrange this either by coming into church to do the arrangement in person, or by making a donation and Janet will do it for you. Suggested donation amount: £5-10. Contact Janet on Tel. 02476 306224, mobile 07471 416636 to arrange your date(s)

Thank you for helping to keep St Leonard’s beautiful with fresh flowers.

St. Leonard's Church Floodlighting

December 17	25 th anniversary memories of Stephen Perry.
December 18	Birthday memories of Harry Treen.
December 21	Anniversary memories Gordon Craig.
December 24	In memory of "Knocker" Gilkes.
December 25	Christmas Day. In memory of John Hathaway.
December 26	In memory of the Revd J. Trevor Sykes.
December 28 th	In memory of Ron Backholler.
January 1	In memory of Sally Parke.
January 2	In memory of Jim Glover.
January 10	In memory of Doris Backholler.
January 22	In memory of Vincent Duffy.
January 26	In memory of Connor Dixon.



- **Many thanks to June Backholler for devising and organising the Floodlighting scheme over many years.**
- **Would you like to floodlight our beautiful church in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special event? If so, please contact June with the details. Voluntary donations in aid of church funds are welcome: details from June, or from Janet Smith on 02476 30622.**

November 22: Christmas Fayre. Thank you to those who organised this popular event, contributed to and manned the stalls and set up beforehand and cleared away afterwards. And thank you to all who supported our Parish Church by attending the Fayre. Around £1300 was raised for church funds.



Harvest Festival: Thank you from the Rugby Foodbank.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of everyone at Rugby Foodbank, I want to extend our sincere thanks to all who supported us throughout this year's Harvest season. Your generosity has made a truly significant difference.

As many of you know, donations across the year were lower than in previous years. This left our shelves much emptier than expected and meant we needed to purchase additional stock to ensure we could continue providing food parcels for those in need. When we put out a call for help this Harvest, the response was incredible. We are deeply grateful for every donation received.

Our dedicated volunteers have been hard at work collecting, sorting, and packing parcels, and it is thanks to the kindness and generosity of our community that this vital work is possible. We are delighted to share that we have already surpassed last year's Harvest total. As of writing, we have received 8,553.45kg of donations, with more still being counted, we anticipate 10 tonne.

So far this year, we have supported 4342 people with food parcels. This is only achievable because of the way our community continues to pull together to support neighbours facing difficult times.

Thursday 27th November to Saturday 29th November—we are once again grateful to be supported by local volunteers as we host our Tesco Food Drive at the Leicester Road store. This event plays a vital role in restocking our shelves for the Christmas period. Shoppers will find our “most needed items” shopping list in store, and any item or two donated makes a tremendous difference.

We are also running a *Reverse Advent Calendar* initiative. If you'd like to take part, you can find details on our website: <https://rugby.foodbank.org.uk/2025/10/22/reverse-advent-calendar-2025/>

But above all, the purpose of this message is simple:

Thank you.

Thank you to every individual, school, business, church, and community group who chose to support Rugby Foodbank this Harvest. Your generosity ensures we can continue being here for those who need us most.

Kind regards,

Laura Drummond

On behalf of Rugby Foodbank.

SOUP AND PUDS - Saturday November 8th:

Hazel Smith writes:

Many thanks to everyone who made this event so successful. It was good to see a full hall chatting and enjoying their food. We made £365.50 for church funds.

A huge thank you to those who made and served the soups and puds, and cleared up afterwards- Editor

LUNCH CLUB- December 10th at 12 noon. Cost £7.50p

Please make sure your name is on the list by December 3rd because there is a lot of shopping to be done for this meal.

Please note that there will be **NO LUNCH CLUB IN JANUARY.**

Contact Hazel on 02476 456711 about Lunch Club and Coffee Mornings.



The next Coffee Mornings will be on December 17 and January 27

Hazel writes:

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting this venture. We plan to meet a week earlier in December, on December 17th.

The December coffee morning will have a Christmassy theme and we will have a small free

raffle at 11.30ish. We suggest a £2 donation for coffee/tea and cake or biscuits or more if you think the service merits it!

Come along and join us, and bring your friends!

GIVING ENVELOPES

Please try to send in all envelopes for 2025 by the end of December - the end of the church's financial year.

Our churchyard: Tidy up sessions.

The Churchyard Tidy Up normally takes place on the third Saturday of each month from 10am - 12pm.

The work is undertaken by volunteers who give their time to keep the churchyard in an attractive and pleasant state. The jobs include mowing, strimming, hedge cutting, cleaning seats, clearing paths, pruning and weeding. We have the tools to use, all we need now is a few more volunteers. You don't even have to have 'green fingers' to support the team. If you can help, please contact Steve Witter on 07887 833369 or just turn up on the day.

Refreshments will be provided. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who volunteers and helps to keep the churchyard tidy. If you can't manage our regular meeting times but would like to help at a different time, please get in touch with Steve. There are a few people that do this, and it is very much appreciated. THANK YOU.

Ryton Evergreens 50+ Club

We are a very friendly group, who meet on the First Tuesday of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm in the village hall.

Transport and Refreshments are provided; we would love to welcome new members.

We have Talks, Quizzes, Games and Raffles- please come along.

For further information contact Bill on 07790 078774 or Doug on 07599 280178.

Messy Church- 1st Sunday of the Month at 5.00 pm

making and doing
talking and singing
fun and thoughtful
friendly and welcoming
something for all ages . refreshments
Come and join us!

Next service December 7 at 5.00 pm.

Don't miss Messy Christmas, on December 7!



Ladies' Guild: Diamond anniversary. Celebration and farewell.

With a mixture of admiration for all the Ladies' Guild has achieved in its 60 years, and sadness that it will no longer be a much-loved feature of Ryton village life, we announce that November 6 was their final meeting and 60th birthday celebration, and a date to be decided in January their celebratory dinner.

TWIRLS – Women's Institute

Meet every third Thursday of the month at Ryton Village Hall. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Further details from Claire Jones The Old Post Office Church Road Ryton-on-Dunsmore CV8 3ET 07721 560349

twirlsrytonondunsmorewi@gmail.com

Ryton on Dunsmore History Group.

We hope you will join us and help support your history group, preserving Ryton's rich and historical heritage. For more information, contact Steve Garrett, on 07587699234 or e mail carrotfromryton@gmail.com

Admission £15 per annum or £2.00 on the night.

Away in a ... manger? Cupboard? Loft? Bin? A reflection from Rosemary.



When do you take down and put away the Christmas decorations?

On December 26, not a few people will say: "Well, that's over for another year thank God" and waste no time in throwing out the Christmas tree that has been shedding its needles all over the carpet, binning the broken plastic toys and the cards and wrapping paper so they can get back to normal as soon as possible.

Others will keep the tradition of waiting till Twelfth Night, the

feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. My Granny adhered to an even earlier tradition and kept the decorations up until Candlemas, the second of February. But the question does present itself, doesn't it? What about Jesus? What are we going to do with Jesus, now Christmas is over?

Leave him in church, in his crib, little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay? Leave him in church till next Christmas? Leave him there as a baby, sweet and cuddly, safely put away in a manger?

Leave him safely shut up in church- or put him away with the Christmas decorations, in a box on top of the wardrobe? Shut safely in a box where he can't get out and grow up and get into mischief?

Can't upset the comfortable routine selfishness of our lives with some of those remarks we daren't risk taking seriously?

Those deeply counter-cultural teachings of the grown up Jesus. Teachings of Immanuel, the with-us God. Teachings that radically oppose the materialism of our society, the lust for piling up possessions -a lust in which we are all deeply implicated.

Teachings like: “ Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth”

And: “Sell what you have and give to the poor.”

And: “Whatever you have done to the least of my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me.”

We can look at baby Jesus, think how sweet he is, and put him back on the shelf. Put him away. Away in a manger- or in a box- or between the covers of a book on our bookshelf, a book that we take care not to open.

Or we can dare to take him home with us and let him into our lives.

In one sense, the Nativity stops for us each year when we put away the crib figures and take down the Christmas cards. And perhaps that's just as well. Christmas carols and crib services all year round wouldn't be very good for us spiritually- like trying to live on a diet of cream cakes and chocolate biscuits. A bit well, sickly sweet.

The Nativity stops.

But the Incarnation doesn't stop. (*Incarnation literally means “Enfleshment” God who is spirit, became human- and humans are flesh*)

Immanuel, the with-us God, God incarnate, our Lord Jesus Christ, he doesn't stop being with us when the festivities are over and the decorations packed away.

He will stay with us- as long as we let him, of course: he never forces himself on anybody- he will stay with us through thick and thin, through whatever sorrows and sufferings the world has to throw at us in the coming year, and in the rest of our lives.

So we have a choice. Do we stick with the Nativity, or do we move on to the Incarnation? Is our religion a Nativity religion? A sweet, pretty, sentimental religion that can be brought out for special occasions and then packed away, out of sight, out of mind, like the Christmas baubles and tinsel?

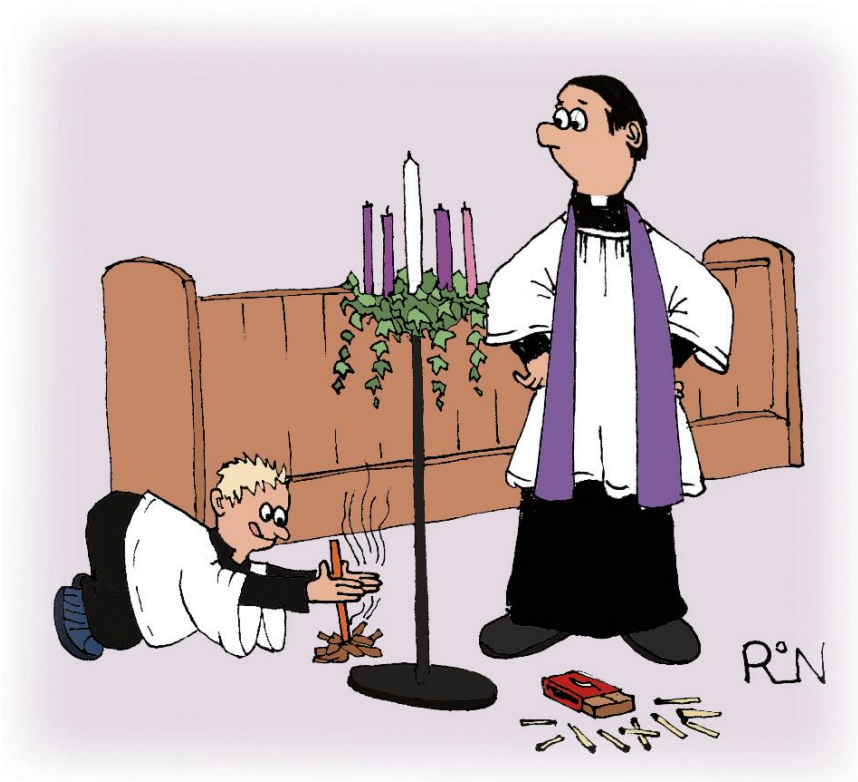
Or are we going to choose an Incarnation religion? A religion that allows Immanuel, our with-us-God, right into the centre of our lives.



The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. John 1:14

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Sunday, December 21, Carol service in church at 4.00pm. Collection in aid of the Air Ambulance

Tailpiece: With thanks to Ron, St. Gargoyles, Church Times.



The matches were damp, but Clive was a Scout.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER BY JANUARY 20th PLEASE!

Do you receive your Newsletter by email?
Please encourage others to do so too!

- Email version normally reaches you before the printed version.
- Less work for our committed band of volunteer deliverers, (to whom we are most grateful)
- Easier to read.
- No charge.
- Email version often contains material which there wasn't room for in the printed version, e.g. extra news, pictures, cartoons, jokes...
- Environmentally friendly if you choose not to print it out, instead saving it to refer to when you want to.

Rosemary's email is rosiking2963@gmail.com If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, but aren't yet on the recipients' list, please just get in touch.