

THE NEWSLETTER

The Lyddington Benefice

**The Parishes of
Bisbrooke, Caldecott, Glaston, Harringworth,
Lyddington, Stoke Dry, Seaton and Thorpe by Water**

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January 2026



**The Adoration of the Magi
Albrecht Durer
Uffizi, Florence**

Dear friends,

A very Happy New Year to all.

As I write this on New Year's Eve it is good to have time to sit and reflect. No ice and snow this year at Christmas, which certainly makes life easier – though some cold days are forecast now.

It was a delight to see so many people at our services this year. All the Carol Services were well attended and the Benefice Christingle service at Lyddington on Christmas Eve was a record breaker, both in attendance and the amount sent to The Children's Society.

After all the joy of Christmas, we are now into a New Year; A blank sheet opening up before us. Of course, we will already have some plans, both personal and as a community. I shall retire at the end of April and that brings changes and challenges, both for me and for these parishes.

As we enter a New Year, it is usual to make resolutions and to express our hopes for the coming year; For peace, justice, relief of poverty and want for instance, as well as our own desires and aspirations. As always, it is the individuals behind the headlines who need our prayer and help. In truth, we don't know exactly what the coming year holds for any of us but let us meet whatever it brings with faith, generosity and thanksgiving.

May you know God's blessing upon you, your homes, families and loved ones near or far, throughout this New Year and for ever more.

Jane

Thursday Morning Holy Communion

During the winter months these services are held at 8 Windmill Way, Lyddington, unless indicated otherwise

Thursday	1 st January	No service	
Thursday	8 th January	10.00am	(CW)
Thursday	15 th January	10.00am	(BCP)
Thursday	22 nd January	10.00am	(CW)
Thursday	29 th January	10.00am	(CW)

**There is a coffee morning at 6 Colley Rise following the service on the first Thursday of each month.
All are welcome.**

Common Lectionary readings for January 2026

4 January: The Epiphany of The Lord

White/Gold/Best

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.[1-9]10-15; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

11 January: The Baptism of Christ

White

Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 29' Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-end

18 January: The Second Sunday of Epiphany

White

Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 40.1-12; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

25 January: The Conversion of St Paul

Red

Jeremiah 1.4-10; Psalm 67; Acts 9.1-22; Matthew 19.27-end

1 February: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

White

Malachi 3.1-5; Psalm 24.[1-6]7-10; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

The Lyddington Benefice: Services during January 2026

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
	4 th January The Epiphany of the Lord	11 th January The Baptism of Christ	18 th January Second Sunday of Epiphany	25 th January Third Sunday of Epiphany	1 st February The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Bisbrooke	No service	4.00pm Evening Prayer (JEB)	11.00am Holy Communion CW (JEB)	9.30am Gathered Church	No service
Caldecott	9.30am Holy Communion CW JEB	11.00am Family Service (WL)	4.00pm Evening Prayer CW (JEB)	Services at Harringworth and Lyddington	9.30am Holy Communion CW JEB
Glaston	11.00am Morning Prayer (WL)	11.00am Holy Communion CW Trad. (JEB)	No service	11.00am Gathered Church	11.00am Morning Prayer (WL)
Harringworth	10.45am Family Service (JEB)	9.30am Holy Communion BCP, said (JEB)	No service	9.30am Parish Communion (JEB)	10.45am Family Service (JEB)
Lyddington	6.00[m Compline (WL)	8.30am Holy Communion BCP (JEB)	Services at Seaton and Bisbrooke	11.00am Parish Communion CW (JEB)	6.00[m Compline (WL)
Seaton	No service	9.30am Morning Prayer (WL)	9.30am Holy Communion CW (JEB)	11.00am Family Service (WL)	No service
Stoke Dry	No service	No service	No Service	No service	No service

Can we follow Christ boldly?

As we step into 2026 together, I find myself filled with a deep and genuine hope for the year ahead. The season from January through Epiphany is an annual nudge to step into the light that Christ shines upon the world, this brilliant light that does not ignore the shadows, yet refuses to be overcome by them. Many will be familiar with the collects and prayers of Epiphany, of revelation, calling, and courage. They ask us not only to remember the star that guided the Magi but to look for the light that guides us now.

I wonder what might it mean, in this season, to follow Christ boldly? Perhaps it begins with the quiet conviction that hope is not naïve but instead necessary. It may look like choosing generosity even when the demands around us feel a lot and our resources thin. It may sound like the steady, gentle words we offer when our communities are carrying more than they let on. It might involve stepping beyond what feels safe and comfortable to bless and encourage what feels new.

Across our diocese, I delight in signs of Christ's light: communities praying faithfully, clergy leading with compassion, and disciples of all ages and stages of life and Christian journey offering their gifts with humility and joy. As we move toward 2026, may we boldly believe that God is not done with us, far from it, that a fuller, braver discipleship and relationship with God is possible for each of us. My prayer is that, in this Epiphany season, Christ will reveal again the paths we are called to walk and grant us the courage to walk them with hope. Amen.



Becky Dyball

The Revd Becky Dyball, Bishop's Missioner

St Andrew's Church, Lyddington
Sunday 25th January 2026 at 4pm

A piano recital by the internationally renowned pianist, Alexandra Dariescu, Patron of Music in Lyddington.

Alexandra's programme includes **Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite alongside her new project 'Childhood's Dream'** which she is due to perform at her debut concert on London's South Bank a few days later.

This concert, generously supported by PCCs within the benefice, is an opportunity to mark [albeit a few months early] Canon Jane Baxter's retirement, and to show our appreciation for all her work for Music in Lyddington, and within the Lyddington Benefice.

Please note, this concert is outside the normal Music in Lyddington season, and tickets for it are not included in the membership and sponsorship deals.

Tickets [£20.00, £5.00 for under 25s in FTE] available from:

www.wegotickets.com/musicinlyddington

mil-tickets@outlook.com

Box office: 01572335133



Gardeners Corner

DECEMBER/ JANUARY 2025/2026

BY

ALISTAIR PEAK

As Winter progresses, there may be still plenty to do in the garden. It's also a good time to recoup our bodies and think of this time as a reflective season too.

With all the leaves down now, they should have been cleared away from your paths and lawns making it safe to move about and ensuring the lawn doesn't get killed off by piles of leaves. It's fine to have a few leaves on your borders but remember not to have them too deep as it can kill plants, especially herbaceous if left on a long time; a thin layer of leaves will help the borders to keep a little warmer too.

If you have a Greenhouse which is in use and you are heating, ensure you check that the heaters are working proficiently and safely. If you are able try and insulate with bubble wrap or place fleece over the plants if it gets very cold; why not try and move all the plants to one area within the Greenhouse and make the area that you need to heat into a smaller area.

Keep watering in the greenhouse to a minimum as they are not likely to dry out as often. Try and water in the morning so it's got all day to dry up; avoid watering on the leaves as this can lead to Botrytis, which is a mould on the leaves.

If you have used some form of protection for your outdoor plants, particularly on pot plants, check from time to time that they are still secure. All pots are lifted off the ground with feet to ensure good drainage over the winter months and prevent them getting waterlogged.

Sometimes it can be hard to summon up the energy to go out into the garden over the winter months; I encourage you do this as regular as possible, from daily to even weekly you will be amazed what is growing, flowering or even showing lovely coloured bark to just the silhouette of the stems and branches with winter sun on it.

There are many plants that flower over the winter months; they often have small flowers but the scent they produce can pack a strong punch. One I can recommend will flower from November till March with white/pink flowers even though it's deciduous; place in a spot where you are likely to walk pass - it's called Viburnum Bodnantense Dawn, tolerates most locations but avoid a very wet site.

Most people find Visiting Garden centres/ Nurseries is easily done from Spring to Autumn, I often suggest to people to visit once a month throughout the year and buy a plant; in time you will have plants in your garden that are either flowering or showing off some form of interest year round.

House plants are certainly becoming more popular nowadays, adding greenery and flowers indoors. If you have them check them regularly as central heating can dry them out particularly if you have pots on the floor with underfloor heating. Avoiding leaving them behind curtains on windowsills as there is often a cold space here. Place on a tray of gravel which helps to keep a good humidity; avoid over watering; a light spray with a misting bottle from time to time will help to keep the leaves fresh.

When days are inclement and it's not easy to be outside, try and make the most of this time checking over you garages/ sheds for your horticulture sundries; how are your hand tools - do they need a good clean, fixing or fixing up on the walls or better storage?

With it being milder over the Autumn/ early winter the lawns have needed more mowing which can be done all year if it's not waterlogged or frosted. Once you stop mowing arrange for your machinery to be serviced and not to leave it till next spring, there will be a rush!!!

Alistair Tip,

It only leaves me to wish you a Happy, Healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year, looking forward to 2026 in our gardens with a drop more water in the summer!

VILLAGE NEWS

BISBROOKE

Happy New Year everyone. Hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. Bisbrooke celebrated in traditional fashion with carol singing around the village punctuated by most welcome refreshments at various points. We raised the sum of £257 during the door-to-door collection which will be shared £134 to the salvation army and £123 to the church for heating etc.

December's final Friday was on December 16th with a Christmas get together, sharing christmas food and a hat competition, won by Sophie Bingham.

The Christmas carol service was very well attended with 75 present and in good voice.

On Christmas Day we enjoyed family communion service by extension with Christabel Price leading. January is traditionally a quiet month. Church flowers for January will be with Clare Heath and Jane Wilson.

CALDECOTT

Dates:-

Thursday 8TH at 7.30pm - Ladies Group New Year get together-one week later due to holiday period.

15th at 7.30pm in the Hall - Parish Council Meeting. Residents will have a chance to bring up any matters of concern. There are a couple of vacancies so if you are interested in becoming a member do go along.

Church News - the Quiz in November made £308 profit and was a very cheerful evening. We thank the Revd Canon Jane Baxter for her sterling quizmaster duties over the years and shall miss this event tremendously. Thanks also to the 'kitchen staff' who looked after us so well.

Christmas Decorations-thanks to the families who came to help with the tree and crib, also the other decorators. The church looked wonderful for the Carol Service on 17th December which was so well attended we ran out of hymn sheets. £190.00 was sent to the Rainbows Children's Hospice from the open collection.

Special thanks for refreshments and to Tony who replaced the crib light which had been condemned when PAT tested.

100 club Draw and Raffle-this took place in the Plough on 17th December:-_

Raffle-1st Jack; 2nd Lorraine Smith, 3rd John Bruce. The prizes looked fantastic.

100 club:-1st B and B Hook; 2nd H Pitt; 3rd R Wilson.

The next draw will be in February.

HARRINGWORTH

A Happy New Year and welcome to 2026 to everyone in Harringworth, Shotley and our lovely Benefice.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON CLUB:

Twenty-one members of the Harringworth Luncheon Club enjoyed a delicious three course Xmas lunch at the Lake Isle restaurant in Uppingham on Thursday 11th December.

Organisers Barbara Kedge and Maggie Hill are planning a programme of lunches for 2026 on the 2nd Thursday of every month. A different restaurant is chosen for each month.

New members are welcome - contact Maggie on 07881 912299.

Carol Singing:

We are pleased to say that £300 was collected on Monday 15th December by a lovely group of Carol Singers who started off from the church gates singing at houses along Seaton Road and Wakerley Road, ahead of heavy rain setting in!! The money has been donated to the local Charity Corby Home-Start - a voluntary organisation committed to promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under five years of age.

Afterwards a warm welcome and lovely roaring fire was very much appreciated at the home of Lin and Ian Saunders who provided delicious wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. Thank you to Ian and Lin for hosting everyone; all of the Carol Singers for their special voices and Barbara and Roy for organising the evening and keeping us in tune (ish)!!

Harringworth 100 Club: Thank you to everyone who has joined the 2025/2026 100 CLUB.

We have just had the first draw with **Eve Sharp** winning the December £100 prize and **Nikky Howell** winning the £50 Christmas Bonus Prize. Congratulations Eve and Nikky.

Harringworth Village Hall: Our lovely refurbished Village Hall has two sessions of **Table Tennis** each week (Tuesday's at 2.30pm and Thursday's at 5.00pm) and a **Fitsteps Class** on a Tuesday (9.30am) and a **Pilates Class** every Friday at 11.30am. Each session would welcome a few more people joining them – so do come and join us.

LYDDINGTON

Family Festive Walk. We were blessed with a clear morning to enjoy the views from the top of Prestley Hill accompanied by John and Dani Parker on Sunday 14th December 2025. Soup and Mince Pies followed in the Village Hall. Thanks to all who helped organise the day – a lovely village event.

Christmas hamper appeal. Was raffled at the White Hart on Christmas Eve following the Christingle Service. Proceeds of the collection goes to the Village Hall.

Christingle Service. Held on Christmas Eve, the church was packed with villagers, family and friend. Over 200 people filled the Church for which this is the last



Christingle Service being organised by our vicar, Canon Jane Baxter; shevfirst led this service 21 years ago. Over £520 was collected in aid of the Children's Society. So over these years this event has raised over £5000 in total to support this charity. Well done Lyddington.

The Woodland Trust is offering "free trees" to communities - if you have land where trees could be planted please let our Lyddington parish clerk know and he can provide the application form for tree packs.

Easyfundraising <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand. Brands pay Easyfundraising a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and we turn that into a donation – magic! PLEASE consider using this scheme to help St Andrews Church.

Lyddington Village Hall, under the Community Hub Scheme, LVH has been granted an extension for another year supply of internet with high speed broadband. This is provided by GIGACLEAR under their Community Hub Scheme and is available to all hall users. The Trustees welcome any suggestions as to how this facility can be used to enhance village life, now has superfast Wifi available to all those who hire the Village Hall. So if your home Wifi is slow and you need a quiet space to work or are holding a meeting and need Wifi (for non-attendees) or want to run Fitness sessions and need to be able to allow some of your group to follow you at home, please book the village hall. To keep this facility we need to show we are using it. Please book via the village hall website

Food bank donations Please leave any food bank donations in the village bus shelter opposite the White Hart – there are boxes for these. Please see village Whats App group for details of items to donate and when the next collection will be. These are collected on a Wednesday morning once every 4 weeks.

Old Foreign Coins & Notes. If you have any old foreign coins and bank notes which you no longer need then please consider donating these to Lyddington Church. Steven King will happily accept these (preferably in a plastic bag posted through his letter box). Please leave at Fern Cottage 43 Main St Lyddington.

SEATON and THORPE

After the great success of the first **Seaton Sound Bath** last year, the second one will take place in the village hall at 2.30pm on 25 January. Sound baths include a variety of instruments to slow down your brainwaves and the vibration can help with aches and pains and also shift energy in the body. Bring anything you to make yourselves comfortable as you will be spending an hour on the floor - think yoga mat, sleeping bag, blankets, duvets, fluffy socks! It's good to arrive 10-15 minutes early and you may want to bring some water to drink at the end. For more information and to book a place for £18 contact Jo Everson on 07903 047023.

At the Carol Service the draw was made for the bottle of champagne for members of the **Churchyard Maintenance Club**. This was won by Michael Lines.

The Advent Feast, held on Saturday November 29th, raised approximately £1240 towards church funds. A delicious meal and wine was provided by the PCC. It was a very happy and enjoyable evening. Thank you to all who provided the food and drink and to all who supported most generously.

The annual beautiful **Advent Service** of readings and carols was held at Seaton church on Advent Sunday, November 30th. This year we were joined by The High Sheriff of Rutland Col Richard Chesterfield who read a lesson and by his chaplain The Venerable John Ellis CB RAF (Retired) who gave an Advent Reflection. Refreshments were provided after the service. The collection of £377 was sent to the Leprosy Mission.

The collection from the **Christmas Day** service raised £275 for Crisis at Christmas.

