

CHURCH News

December 2025



Newsletter no: 117

God's presence with us...

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

This is one of the most familiar bible verses that we use during the Christmas season. It contains within it the central truths of the Christian faith; God's eternal Word, became flesh and blood in the person of Jesus Christ. This mystery is at the heart of what we believe about who Jesus is.

For ancient philosophers, the concept of Logos, or "the Word", was an abstract rational principle that held the universe together. John takes this idea and gives it radical new meaning. The 'Word' isn't just some distant concept: it's a person. Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus is the God who spoke the universe into being, now living among us as a human being.

God becoming human is a radical, mind-blowing idea. Why would God do such a thing?

The answer lies in God's love for us.

God didn't want to remain distant or far away. God longs for relationship with us and so enters our world, not as a king in a palace, but as a

humble baby, born in a stable. Jesus' entire life, from birth to death upon the cross, was a powerful act of love. God was not content with merely telling us of his love, Jesus demonstrated it as the Word made flesh.

What does all this mean for us in 2025?

It means that God is not far off and distant. God draws near. Jesus shows us God's very nature through his acts, his loves, his care for the broken, the sick, and the lost. If you want to know what God is like, look to Jesus.

The Word incarnate, Jesus Christ, invites us into a new way of living. We are called to reflect that same love for the world through our lives. To love others and to show grace to an expectant world. Jesus shows us the way of God, and his life challenges us to follow in his footsteps.

This Christmas I hope we will experience God's presence with us anew.

Love Anna



Advent & Christmas Services across the Benefice of Lowdham & Burton Joyce 2025

Saturday 6th December

10.00a.m.—12 noon. Family Christmas Crafts, St. Mary's, Lowdham. *Everyone welcome for some festive craft making.*

Sunday 7th December

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

11.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Helen's, BJ

Sunday 14th December

9.00a.m. Morning Worship, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Morning Worship, St. Helen's, BJ

Monday, 15th December

7.00p.m. Christmas Carol Service, Holy Trinity, Bulcote.

Tuesday, 16th December

7.00p.m. Christmas Carol Service, St. Aidan's, Caythorpe.

Wednesday, 17th December

7.00p.m. Christmas Carol Service, St. Luke's, Stoke Bardolph

Thursday, 18th December

7.00p.m. Christmas Carol Service, St. John's, Gunthorpe

Saturday 20th December

4.00p.m. Carols around the Tree, St. Mary's, Lowdham

Sunday, 21st December:

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

11.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Helen's, BJ

7.00p.m. Christmas Carol Service, St. Helen's, BJ

Christmas Eve, 24th December

10.00a.m. Travelling Nativity starting at St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Please wrap up warm and wear suitable footwear for a walk and an outdoor service.

4.00p.m. Christmas Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.30p.m. Christmas Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Christmas Day

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

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

Sunday, 28th December

11.00a.m. Benefice Service of the Word, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

What's On...

Our churches are living communities at the centre of village life, offering help, fellowship and welcome to everyone. Do come and join us. We'd be delighted to see you.

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.*

Fancy a Carol Sing?

Come and join us in Lowdham on
Wednesday 10th December

6.30p.m. Lowdham Co-op

7.00p.m. at The Old Ship Inn

8.00p.m. at the Magna Charta

Everyone welcome!



The Call

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a light as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.

Come my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move:
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

George Herbert, 1593 -1633



Contact us...

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

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

Heather Brown

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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

*The angel said to them,
'Do not be afraid;
for see - I am bringing you
good news of great joy for all
the people ...'*

Luke 2.10-11