

St Edward's and St Nicholas'

In the Benefice of Castle Donington with Lockington cum Hemington



14th December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

James 5.7-10 and Matthew 11.2-11



Today's Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A very warm welcome to our worship today, whether you live in Hemington, Lockington or Castle Donington, or are visiting.

10.30am	Holy Communion	St Edward's Hall
4.00pm	Carols in the Pub	Castle Inn

If you would like someone to pray with you after the service, please do not hesitate to talk to one of the clergy. They would be delighted to pray quietly with you.

Hon Asst Priest:	Revd Sue Forshaw	07912 226244
Associate Minister:	Mrs Catherine Stray	01332 812708
Church Office:	Mrs Ruth Salt	01332 812708

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/stedwards

Parish Email: office@cdlh-churches.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stedwardschurchcastledonington

Church Hall Bookings: <https://hallbookingonline.com/stedward>

Come. See. God is doing something new!

Christmas Carols at the Castle Inn – this Sunday 14th December at 4pm

Come and join us in the Castle Inn this Sunday afternoon. Grab a drink from the bar and come and have a good festive sing. There will also be an opportunity for children to make Christingles.



Open Church – Saturday 20th December 5-6pm

This time of year can evoke some very special memories of loved ones, so there will be an opportunity to come and light a candle and offer a quiet prayer in St Edward's Church on Saturday (20th), from 5 to 6pm.

Adopt-an-Angel for Christmas

Following on from our fabulous Festival of Angels, we would love to bless our village. Come along to one of our Christmas services and help us spread the joy by taking home one of the handmade angels.



Parking Permits

A reminder that the annual parking permits for the front of St Edward's Church Hall expire on Monday (15th December). A permit costs £10, and they are issued only to those who attend church regularly or are users of the church hall. To pick up a new one please visit Ruth in the church office on Tuesdays or Fridays from 10.00am – 3.00pm.

Warm Welcome Space over Christmas & New Year

The last Warm Space for 2025 will be **this Friday** (19th) as we will be taking a break for Boxing Day and New Year. We will be back on **9th January** 2026. Merry Christmas everyone!



The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas

Something wonderful is about to happen. The Saviour of the world is going to be born.



But the grumpy owl who lives in the barn just wants to be left alone... Watch [this beautiful animated version of](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HgNSB6XafM) *The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas*, and find out whether the animals in this story help our owl to discover the Joy of Christmas. Also on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HgNSB6XafM>

Please pray for:

- our NHS and Care services as they cope with the additional pressures of the flu season;
- those struggling with financial pressures this winter;
- for churches engaging with their communities in varieties of different Christmas services as they seek to reach out and offer God's blessing to their communities;
- for mercy, for peace, for justice for all people affected by war. God grant us peace in our time and the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom.

Foodbank

Thank you so much for your donations to Foodbank – they make a huge difference. The Foodbank is open on Thursday mornings between 10.30am and 12.30pm, when you can drop off your donations. Items that

are urgently needed: **tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit, jam, rice, and long-life fruit juice.**

Please make sure items are in date. Enter via the Church Office door at the far end of church hall. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, cheques are payable to “LES Foodbank Castle Donington Branch” – **please put in the letterbox outside the church hall.** If you are hungry, or know someone who is, **a foodbank voucher can be requested via The Volunteer Centre at The Hub.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER



Advent & Christmas dates for your diary

14th December: 4pm **Carols in the Pub** at the Castle Inn, Castle Donington

19th December: 7pm **Male Voice Choir Concert** in St Nicholas'

20th December: 5-6pm **Open Church** in St Edward's

24th December: 3pm **Crib Service** in St Edward's

6pm **Carols in the Marketplace** with the Salvation Army Band

8pm **Christmas Communion and Carols** in St Nicholas'

11.30pm **Midnight Mass by Candlelight** in St Edward's

25th December: 10am **Christmas Communion** in St Edward's



Diary for Monday 15th to Sunday 21st December 2025

The Church Office will be open from **10.00am to 3.00pm** on Tuesday and Friday and will then be closed until 2nd January for Christmas.

PLEASE NOTE: As winter has arrived and the weather has turned colder most services at St Edward's will now be held in the Church Hall unless stated otherwise.

Tuesday

Morning Prayer	9.00am	St Edward's Hall
Staff Meeting	9.45am	Church Office

Wednesday

Holy Communion	10.00am	St Edward's Hall
School Nativity	11.15am	St Edward's Church

Thursday

Church cleaning	9.30am – 11.00am	St Edward's Church
Little Sunbeam Club	10.00am – 11.30am	St Edward's Hall
Foodbank	10.30am – 12.30pm	St Anne's Room

Friday

Morning Prayer	9.00am	St Edward's Hall
Warm Welcome Space	10.00am – 2.00pm	St Edward's Hall
Male Voice Choir Concert	7.00pm	St Nicholas' Church

Saturday

Open Church	5.00pm – 6.00pm	St Edward's Church
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Sunday

BCP Holy Communion	8.30am	St Edward's Hall
Morning Worship	10.30am	St Edward's Hall

'Be patient and stand firm,
because the Lord's coming is near'

James 5 vs 8



The next News Sheet will be published for Sunday 21st December the deadline for which will be the Tuesday before. Please do send in your items to the Parish email address on the front page. Thank you.