

# THE NEWSLETTER

## The Lyddington Benefice

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

Rector: The Revd Canon Jane Baxter,  
The Rectory, 4 Windmill Way,  
Lyddington LE15 9LY Telephone: 01572 822717  
Email: [revjanebaxter@gmail.com](mailto:revjanebaxter@gmail.com)

## December 2025



The Census at Bethlehem  
Pieter Bruegel the Elder  
Oldmasters Museum, Brussels

Dear friends,

As I have a Norwegian daughter-in-law, I have been following the journey of the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree from Norway – my son and his family live in Bodø, just on the Arctic circle. There has recently been some criticism of the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree on Twitter/X – why is it the shape it is, why is it usually decorated in a particular way. Indeed, why don't they use a nice English Christmas tree! And it was obvious that some of the critics had no idea why Norway sends this Christmas tree to London each year. As with many traditions, there is a solid reason behind it.

As most of you will know. Norway has gifted a tree to the United Kingdom every year since 1947 as thanks for our support during World War Two. This year the tree, a 65ft tall Norwegian spruce, has come from a forest near Oslo. As it is forest-grown, the tree is tall and slim, and the traditional Norwegian decoration is streams of lights from top to base. It is a reminder of difficult times but also of the value of mutual support and of thanksgiving.

Tradition plays a part in all our Christmas celebration and traditions within our families and communities evolve over time; but the underlying meanings connect us to the past and give us a base from which to move forwards, adding our own layers of tradition.

Through all of this shines the glory of the Christ-child, God incarnate, the focus of our celebrations. I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.

Jane

**Thursday Morning Holy Communion**  
**During the winter months these services are held at 8 Windmill Way, Lyddington,**  
**unless indicated otherwise**

Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	(BCP) at the Rectory, 4 Windmill Way
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	(CW)
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	(BCP)
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day Services	
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2026	No service	

**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 December**

**30 November: Advent Sunday**

***Purple***

Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-end; Matthew 24.36-44

**December 2025**

**7 December: Second Sunday of Advent**

***Purple***

Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12

**14 December: Third Sunday of Advent**

***Purple***

Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm 146.4-10 or Magnificat; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

**21 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

***Purple***

Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-end

**28 December: (Christmas 1) St John the Evangelist (transferred)****White/Gold**

Exodus 33.7-11a; Psalm 117; 1 John 1; John 21.19b-end

**January 2026****4 January: The Epiphany of the Lord****White/Gold**

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

**The Lyddington Benefice: Services during December 2025**

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>
	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> December First Sunday of Christmas</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> January The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<b>Bisbrooke</b>	No service	4.00pm Evening Prayer (JEB)	6.00pm Carol Service	Benefice Service at Caldecott	No service
<b>Caldecott</b>	9.30am Holy Communion CW JEB	11.00am Family Service  (WL)	No service  <b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service at 6.00pm</b>	<b>10.30am Benefice Service of Holy Communion (JEB)</b>	9.30am Holy Communion CW JEB
<b>Glaston</b>	11.00am Morning Prayer (WL)	11.00am Holy Communion CW Trad. (JEB)	Carol Service at Bisbrooke	Benefice Service at Caldecott	11.00am Morning Prayer (WL)
<b>Harringworth</b>	10.45am Family Service (JEB)	9.30am Holy Communion BCP, said (JEB)	4.00pm Carol Service With Christingles (JEB)	Benefice Service at Caldecott	10.45am Family Service (JEB)
<b>Lyddington</b>	6.00[m Compline (WL)	8.30am Holy Communion BCP (JEB)	Carol Service at Stoke Dry	Benefice Service at Caldecott	6.00[m Compline (WL)
<b>Seaton</b>	No service	9.30am Morning Prayer  (WL)	9.30am Holy Communion CW (JEB) <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service at 7pm</b>	Benefice Service at Caldecott	No service
<b>Stoke Dry</b>	No service	No service	6pm Carols by Candlelight (JEB and others)	Benefice Service at Caldecott	No service

**Funeral**

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Margaret Carter took place in St John the Baptist's Church, Bisbrooke, on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Mrs Carter had live in Bisbrooke with her late husband Bindon for many years. A cremation service took place at Great Glen earlier in the day.

The service was conducted by Canon Jane Baxter, with contributions from family members, and the organist was Mrs Carol Dry.

The funeral of **Barry James David Knight** took place in **St Andrew's Church**, Lyddington, on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Mr Knight lived in Corby and had a close family connection with Lyddington. Burial then took place in the churchyard extension.

The service was conducted by Canon Jane Baxter, with contributions from Mr Knight's children, and the organist was Mrs Carol Dry.

### **The Christingle Service**

I wonder how many oranges will be used in our churches and schools this year as we celebrate a Christingle Service.

For me, the lighting of the candle and the singing of 'Away in a Manger' has always been one of the most profound moments of the Christmas season. To watch young children (and adults, too!), be stilled in the gentle candlelight and to sing gently of the birth of Jesus, is a powerful way to recapture the joy and wonder of Christmas.

The Christingle itself is a sign of God's love for the world, it is a promise of hope at times of darkness, it is a message that Jesus is indeed the light of the world. As each candle is lit, we can see how each one joins together to banish the darkness. This is our calling – to live lives that burn brightly with the love of Jesus and to work together to bring hope.

My prayer for you, is that you will know the light of Jesus in your own lives this Christmas and that you will experience that joy that comes from welcoming the Son of God into our lives.

+ Debbie

The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin  
Bishop of Peterborough



### **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 to 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 your 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**

Final Friday for October was marked with a Halloween get together and a number of people marked the occasion with ghoulish costumes of one sort or another.

Bonfire night was a lovely clear evening and a good number of people came out for a popup get together on the millennium green with hot dogs and mulled cider, Thank you Sue and Lisa and helpers for organising.

As we approach Christmas please note the following.

Christmas contributions for the Rutland food bank need to be at 1 Top Lane by December 9th for pick up.

We will be carol singing around the village on Tuesday December 16th, assembling at the phone box at 6.30pm.

Final Friday for December will be on Friday 19th with a Christmas hat competition, and everyone requested to bring Christmas snacks to share.

The Christmas carol service will be on Sunday December 21st

Coffee morning is on December 17th at Sue Wood's The Big House Main Street.

Church cleaning for December is in the care of Olwen Dunbar, Katie Salmon and Tricia Richardson.



## CALDECOTT

### Dates:-

4<sup>TH</sup> December Ladies group-no meeting as they will be enjoying Christmas Dinner at a local restaurant.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January Ladies Group meeting - informal gathering in the Hall at 7.30pm.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10am in the Church setting up of Crib, children's window and tree decoration- all helpers welcome.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Service of Carols and Readings at 6.00pm in the church.

There will be refreshments afterwards; the open collection will go to the Rainbows Childrens Hospice as in previous years. Please bring some cash.

Any volunteer readers please contact Mary on 770242.

17<sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm 100 club and Hamper draw - venue to be arranged.

Christmas Service Leaflet-this will be distributed to all households shortly.

**Remembrance Sunday**-the open collection at this well attended service raised £120 for the Poppy Appeal; thank you to all who took part especially Ellis's reading at the War Memorial.

**100 Club Draw** for November: -

1<sup>st</sup> no 17 Margaret Deadman ;2<sup>nd</sup> no 42 Hazel Pitt; 3<sup>rd</sup> no 64 Jane Kendrick.

**Food Bank**- during this festive season remember we still deliver to the pick up point monthly-next on 10<sup>th</sup> December so please leave donations in church or at 14 Main St. by 9<sup>th</sup> December. Any seasonal goodies should be alcohol free.

## HARRRINGWORTH

There is an evening of **Carol Singing** around the village on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December when we meet at 5.30pm at the Church gate (wrapped up warm with a torch) with proceeds in aid of Corby Homestart. Our special **Christmas Carol Service with Christingles** is on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4.00pm and on **Christmas Day** in Harringworth we have a **Family Communion with Carols** at 9.30am.

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 - as they say 'use it or lose it'.

**CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET** We are delighted to report on the success of Christmas Artisan Market last month; it was a very special occasion in Harringworth. We wish to express our most sincere thank you to everyone who helped make it happen, especially our very hard working Appeals Team. The final total for the day was **£2,864.56**.

The eighteen local Artisans at the Christmas Market were brought together by Little Print Gifts talented creator Victoria Lloyd. All of her chosen Artisans (each paying for their space) sold delightful products and created beautiful displays. They were all very pleased with how the day went and the number of visitors, and said it was one of the best venues for such an event in the area!! Praise indeed....



**HARRINGWORTH AUTUMN QUIZ NIGHT** Quizmasters Gavin and Jonnie would like to thank everyone who helped make the autumn pub quiz such a success! The village hall was bursting to the rafters with our best turn out yet. It was a great night and a very close finish with just one point in it. Congratulations to the winning team, County Lines, who were first time visitors from Laxton! The worthy winners pipped second place local team Harringworth Hunnies at the post.



The winners' prize of a £50 donation will go to the charity of the winning team's choice.... and in this case, the nominated charity is Cure Parkinson's, which is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's, one of the fastest growing neurological conditions in the world.

Along with taking part in the £2 game and a raffle with a hamper from donations co-ordinated by Liz Mitchell, it was a very lively and fun evening. Thanks also go to the Appeals Committee for organising the bar and snacks with their usual expertise.

We hope everyone who came along had a good night and we look forward to welcoming you all back again in February, exact date to be announced in the New Year...

**HARRINGWORTH 100 CLUB** Thank you to everyone who has purchased a 100 CLUB number over the last few weeks. At the time of writing we have 96 numbers allocated. You will be contacted in the next week or so to confirm your number and the first draw will take place in the middle of December. It's not too late - as numbers can be purchased at any time. Email: [harringworthvillage@gmail.com](mailto:harringworthvillage@gmail.com) or drop off the form.

AND finally, the Harringworth Village Correspondent wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## LYDDINGTON

**Lyddington Manor History Society** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church  
Lyddington Hosting Henry VIII Lyddington 1541 Premiere presented by the University of York Henry on Tour team The meeting will be preceded by a brief Society AGM Everyone welcome, Members Free, Non Members £5

**Family Festive Walk** A scenic Stroll up Prestley Hill by kind permission of John and Dani Parker Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Walk starts at 10.15am from Village Hall. £5pp, kids go free (NB no dogs please on the walk). Soup served at the Village Hall at 12.30pm.

**Christmas hamper appeal.** Please help by donating items for this annual hamper. Text Cherry on 07703568120 or drop off items at 91 Main St Lyddington. Hamper on display at the Old White Hart and raffle tickets available from Holly. It will be raffled on Christmas Eve after the Christingle Service.

**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

The “**New Look Seaton Bazaar**” raised a fantastic £3082 towards the upkeep of Seaton Church. Many thanks to the new committee, to all stall holders, tea ladies, those who set up and cleared up afterwards or

helped in any other capacity, and to all those who came and supported. It was a very happy and enjoyable occasion. The unsold items were collected by the British Heart Foundation. These will be sold in their shops. A brilliant result all round.

### Seaton Carol Service

Our Village Carol Service will take place in the church on Tuesday 16th December at 7.00 pm. Everyone is very welcome. Do join us and finish off the evening with a festive glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

### Christmas Day

There will be a Family Service at 9.30am.



The poster features a festive design with a pine branch and gold ornaments at the top. The title 'CHRISTMAS PRESENTS APPEAL' is in large red letters. A yellow star on the right says 'Donate 1 to 16 Dec'. The center shows a collection of toys including a drum, blocks, a rocket, a xylophone, a teddy bear, a boat, a car, a truck, and an abacus. Below this, two red-bordered boxes contain donation rules. A green-bordered box states the collection date and location. At the bottom, logos for the Rotary Club of Uppingham and Toys on the Table are shown, along with a pine branch border.

# CHRISTMAS PRESENTS APPEAL

Donate  
1 to 16  
Dec

 **Presents suitable for babies to teens** 

 **New and unwrapped presents only, please** 

**Donations from 1 to 16 December 2025**  
collected at The Falcon Hotel, Market Place, Uppingham

**Rotary**   
Club of Uppingham

working with 

Toys on the Table is a registered charity  
working across Leicestershire and Rutland