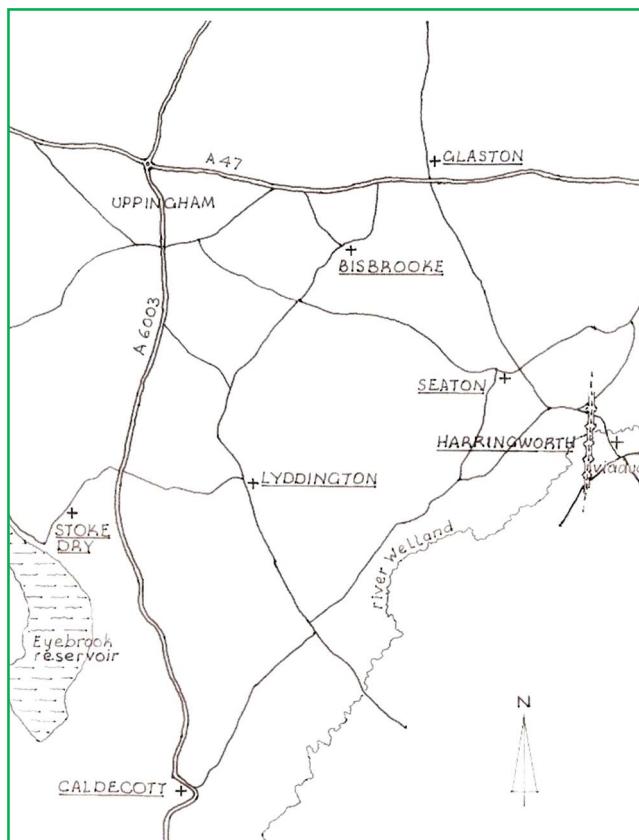


The Lyddington Benefice
**The Parishes of Bisbrooke, Caldecott, Glaston, Haringworth,
Lyddington, Seaton and Stoke Dry**



**Lectionary
for
Sundays and Principal Holy Days**

**Readings for December 2025-December 2026
Lectionary Year A**

Scripture Readings in The Lyddington Benefice

With the single exception of the 8.30am Book of Common Prayer service held at Lyddington on the 2nd Sunday, readings in our churches are those set out in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). The RCL is international and ecumenical, though individual Churches may make alterations, as the Church of England does. The RCL is based on a three-year cycle; each year focuses on one of the synoptic Gospels.

Year A: The Gospel according to St Matthew

Year B: The Gospel according to St Mark

Year C: The Gospel according to St Luke

The Gospel according to St John is used across all three years, most notably during the Christmas and Easter seasons. St John is used more often in Year B because of the relatively shorter length of St Mark's Gospel.

For each Sunday and principal Holy Day, the RCL provides the following:

Old Testament reading

Psalm

New Testament reading

Gospel reading

Details of the readings are printed in that order.

During Ordinary Time, that is those Sundays which fall outside the major seasons of the Church, there are two 'tracks' of Old Testament readings. Track 1 provides a semi-continuous reading of specific books of the Old Testament and these do not directly relate to the Gospel reading. Track 2 selects passages which do relate to the Gospel reading of the day. This benefice uses Track 2 and that is what is published in the Newsletter and in the yearly lectionary booklet.

The New Testament reading is usually from one of the Epistles.

From Easter Day to Pentecost a reading from the Acts of the Apostles is used.

The preferred translation is the New Revised Standard Version. No bible translation is liked by every person, in every circumstance. However, NRSV is generally accepted as a good and accurate translation. This is the version used on the pew sheets.

The Readings are usually used in the following way:-

Said Holy Communion:

New Testament read by a member of the congregation or by the priest

Gospel read by the priest

Holy Communion with hymns/Parish Communion

Old Testament read by a member of the congregation (*This may be omitted for Family Communion*)

New Testament read by a member of the congregation

Gospel read by the priest (or sometimes by a Licensed Lay Minister/Reader acting as Liturgical Deacon).

Morning and Evening Prayer

Old Testament read by a member of the congregation

Gospel read by a member of the congregation

The psalm is also used during these services and is read as directed by the person leading the service

Family Service

Gospel read by a member of the congregation

The readings for the month are published in The Newsletter. This also gives the liturgical colours in use for each Sunday – this is helpful to those who set up the altar for Holy Communion and in those churches which have a full set of altar frontals and hangings.

Beginning and ending the readings

In services from **Common Worship** it is sufficient to begin by saying "A reading from the book of the prophet..../ from the Letter of .../ from the Gospel of"

At the end the reader says ‘This is the word of the Lord’ to which the response is “Thanks be to God.” The announcement and ending for the Gospel reading at Holy Communion is usually set out in the service booklets.

In services from **The Book of Common Prayer** it is usual to begin in the way set out in the Prayer Book. At the end “Here endeth the Epistle/ the First Lesson/ the second Lesson, as appropriate. There is no congregational response.

A copy of the **The Lyddington Benefice Lectionary** booklet, which runs from Advent Sunday each year, is placed in each vestry and is also distributed to people who lead worship and arrange readers. They are produced towards the end of November and are freely available to anyone who would like one.

**An online New Revised Standard Version of the Bible
may be found here**

<https://almanac.oremus.org/2025-12-21>

**Readings for December 2025 - December 2026
Lectionary Year A**

November 2025

30 November: Advent Sunday *Purple*

Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-14; 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 Canticle: 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 1.18-25

24/25 December: Christmas Services
White/Gold/Best

Please consult the person leading the service

28th December St John the Evangelist (Transferred)

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

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

February 2026

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

8 February: Second Sunday before Lent (Sexagesima) *Green*

Genesis 1.1-2.3; Psalm 136 or Psalm 136.1-9,23-26; Romans 8.18-25
Matthew 6.25-34

15 February: Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima) *Green*

Exodus 24.12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

18 February: Ash Wednesday *Purple*

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58.1-12; Psalm 51.1-18; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10;
Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21 or John 8.1-11

22 February: First Sunday of Lent *Purple*

Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11

March 2026

1 March: Second Sunday of Lent *Purple*

Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17

8 March: Third Sunday of Lent *Purple*

Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

15 March: The Fourth Sunday of Lent *Purple*

1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5.8-14; John 9.1-41

Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2.1-10 or 1 Samuel 1.20-28; Psalm 34.11-20 or Psalm 127.1-4;
2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25-27

22 March: The Fifth Sunday of Lent *Purple*

Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45

29 March: Palm Sunday *Red*

To be arranged

April 2026

2 April: Maundy Thursday *White*

Exodus 12.1-4 [5-10], 11-14; Psalm 116.1, 10-end [116.9-end];
1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17, 31b-35

3 April: Good Friday *No hangings*

Please consult the person leading the service

5 April: Easter Day *White/Gold/Best*

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Acts 10.34-43 or Jeremiah 31.1-6; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24*; Colossians 3.1-4 or Acts 10.34-43; John 20.1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10

† From Easter to Pentecost the reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading

12 April: The Second Sunday of Easter *White*

Acts 2.14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31

19 April: The Third Sunday of Easter *White*

Acts 2.14a,36-41; Psalm 116.1-3,10-17*; 1 Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35

26 April: The Fourth Sunday after Easter *White*

Acts 2.42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10

May 2026

3 May: The Fifth Sunday of Easter *White*

Acts 7.55-60; Psalm 31.1-5,15-16*; 1 Peter 2.2-10; John 14.1-14

10 May: The Sixth Sunday of Easter *White*

Acts 17.22-31 ; Psalm 66.7-18; 1 Peter 3.13-22; John 14.15-21

17 May: The Seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day) *White*

Acts 1. 6–14; Psalm 68. 1-10 [32-35]; 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5. 6–11;
John 17. 1-11

24 May: Pentecost *Red*

Acts 2. 1-21 † or Numbers 11. 24 – 30; Psalm 104. 26-36, 37b [or 26-end];
1 Corinthians 12. 3b-13 or Acts 2. 1-21 †; John 20. 19-23 or John 7. 37-39

31 May: Trinity Sunday *White*

Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27 – end; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13. 11 – end;
Matthew 28. 16-20

June 2026

7 June: First Sunday after Trinity (Proper 7) *Green*

Hosea 5.15 - 6.6; Psalm 50.7-15; Romans 4.13-end; Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

14 June Second Sunday after Trinity (proper 6) *Green*

Exodus 19.2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35 – 10.8

21 June: Third Sunday after Trinity (Proper 7) *Green*

Jeremiah 20.7-13; Psalm 69.8-11[12-17]18-20*; Romans 6.1b-11;
Matthew 10.24-39

28 June: Fourth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 8) *Green*

Jeremiah 28.5-9; Psalm 89.1-4, 15-18; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

July 2026

5 July: Fifth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 9) *Green*

Zechariah 9.9-12; Psalm 145.8-15; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

12 July: Sixth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 10)***Green***

Isaiah 55.10-13; Psalm 65.[1-7]8-end; Romans 8. 1-end; Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

19 July : Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Proper 11)***Green***

Wisdom of Solomon 12. 13, 16 – 19 or Isaiah 44. 6-8; Psalm 86. 11–17; Romans 8. 12-25; Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43

26 July: Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 12)***Green***

1 Kings 3. 5-12; Psalm 119.129-136; Romans 8. 26-end; Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

August 2026**2 August: Ninth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 13)*****Green***

Isaiah 55.1-5; Psalm 145.8-9, 15-22*; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

9 August: Tenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 14)***Green***

1 Kings 19.9-18; Psalm 85.8–13; Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33

16 August: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (Proper 15)***Green***

Isaiah 56. 1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15. [10-20] 21 – 28

23 August: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 16)***Green***

Isaiah 51.1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

30 August: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 17)***Green***

Jeremiah 15.15-21; Psalm 26.1 – 8; Romans 12.9-end; Matthew 16.21-28

September 2026**6 September: Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 18)*****Green***

Ezekiel 33. 7-11; Psalm 119. 33 – 40; Romans 13. 8-end; Matthew 18.15-20

13 September: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 19)***Green***

Genesis 50.15 – 21; Psalm 103. [1-7] 8-13; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

20 September: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 20)***Green***

Jonah 3.10 – 4.11; Psalm 145.1-8; Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16

Harvest Readings

Deuteronomy 8.7-18 or Deuteronomy 28.1-14; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9.6-15; Luke 12.16-30 or Luke 17.11-19

27 September: Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 21)***Green***

Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25 – end; Psalm 25. 1 – 8; Philippians 2. 1-13; Matthew 21. 23-32

October 2026**4 October: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 22)*****Green***

Isaiah 5. 1-7; Psalm 80. 9 – 17; Philippians 3. 4b-14; Matthew 21. 33-end

11 October: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 23)***Green***

Isaiah 25. 1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4. 1-9; Matthew 22. 1 – 14

18 October: St Luke the Evangelist***Red***

Isaiah 35.3-6 or Acts 16.6-12a; Psalm 147.1-7; 2 Timothy 4.5-17; Luke 10.1-9

25 October: Last Sunday after Trinity (Proper 25)***Green***

Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8; Matthew 22. 34-end

Or **Bible Sunday**

Nehemiah 8. 1-4a [5-6]8 – 12; Psalm 119. 9 – 16; Colossians 3. 12 – 17;
Matthew 24.30-35

November 2026**1 November: All Saints' Sunday*****White***

Revelation 7. 9 – end; Psalm 34. 1 – 10; 1 John 3. 1 – 3; Matthew 5.1-12

8 November: Third Sunday before Advent***Red***

(Remembrance Sunday reading as given in Order of service)

Wisdom of Solomon 6. 12 – 16 or Amos 5. 18 – 24; Canticle: Psalm 70;
1 Thessalonians 4. 13 – end; Matthew 25. 1-13

15 November: 2nd Sunday before Advent***Red***

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; Psalm 90.1-8[9-11]12*; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Matthew 25.14-30

22 November: Christ the King***Red***

Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20 – 24; Psalm 95. 1 – 7; Ephesians 1. 15-end ;
Matthew 25.31-end

Lectionary Year B Begins**29 November: Advent Sunday*****Purple***

Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7, 16-18; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

December 2026**6 December: Second Sunday of Advent*****Purple***

Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

13 December: Third Sunday of Advent***Purple***

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

20 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent***Purple***

Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (Luke 1:47-55) Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Notes:

Paschal Candle

The Paschal (Easter) Candle is lit on **Easter Day** and at every service up to and including **Pentecost (Whitsunday)**. It is then moved to stand near the font for the rest of the year.

It is also lit at every **Baptism, Funeral and Memorial Service**. It is also used on **Remembrance Sunday**.

Advent Candles

The Advent Wreath has four candles in a ring around a white or gold candle. The outer candles may be white, red, purple or three purple and one pink; in this case the pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as *Gaudete*. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the white or gold one on Christmas Day. All five candles may appropriately be alight during services through the Christmas season.

There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle. The scheme that accords best with the current Lectionary is:

Advent 1	The Patriarchs
Advent 2	The Prophets
Advent 3	John the Baptist
Advent 4	The Blessed Virgin Mary
Christmas Day	The Christ

Each of the four Sundays then reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. 'The Patriarchs' can naturally focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, Jesus' ancestor in whose city he was born. 'The Prophets' gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture. The prayers used when lighting the candles reflect these themes.

Crib/ Nativity Scene

Since the introduction of Common Worship, which established a **Christmas** season which extends to **Candlemas**, 2nd February, it has been customary to leave the Christmas Crib/Nativity scene in place until this date. At least it means the wise men don't appear and disappear all in the one day!