

CHURCH News

February 2026



Newsletter no: 119

Deeper Trust, Deeper Love.

Well, that's Christmas over for another year. The gifts are all opened, the tree is down, the nativity scene has been carefully put away, the baby Jesus wrapped in tissue paper until next December when we'll remember that well worn and familiar story of the gentle saviour in the food trough.

Our church calendar is predictable, our cycle of readings familiar, and we can settle into the comfort of the unfolding story. But, what if the work of Christmas continues? What if we dwell a little longer with this unhinged and dramatic story? What, if instead of looking at it through the rose-tinted glow of the school nativity, slightly awash with mulled wine, what if we look again at raw edges of the Christmas story.

It begins with Mary proclaiming that the child she carries in her womb will cast down the mighty and lift up the lowly, turning the world as she knew, as we know it, upside down. The people waited for a saviour, a mighty warrior to overthrow earthly tyrants to reclaim land and lead the people into victory. Even as they waited for the birth of the saviour, they were displaced by the government, and forced to make an arduous journey.

And that saviour was born, not in hallowed halls, not even in a home of their own. The saviour was born on the floor, and laid in a borrowed cradle, the feeding trough. The vulnerable child was wrapped in cloth, a foreshadowing of the story to come as Jesus is wrapped in cloth and laid

in a borrowed tomb; the saviour sleeping in the feeding trough, who will one day offer up his body as food for all who follow him.

God, the Saviour, creator of the universe, author of life, found in the form of a vulnerable child. Christmas upends our understanding of power and authority. Christmas reminds us who matters in the Kingdom of God. Christmas is when we are invited into deeper trust, into deeper love, as we follow a baby for salvation.

Love Anna

*Jesus said to him, 'I am the
way, the truth and the life.*

*No one comes to the Father
except through me*

John 14.6



February services 2026

Now repent of all
your sins and turn
to God, so that
your sins may be
wiped away.

Acts 3.19

Sunday 1st February

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

11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Tuesday 3rd February

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. John's, Gunthorpe

Sunday, 8th February

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

11.00 a.m Morning Worship, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 10th February

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Bulcote

Sunday, 15th February

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

11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 17th February

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Luke's.

Stoke Bardolph

Wednesday 18th: Ash Wednesday

7.00p.m. Ash Wednesday service, St.

Helen's, Burton Joyce

Sunday 22nd February

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

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

*Please note there is no Tuesday Holy Communion
service at Caythorpe this month*

ASH
WEDNESDAY

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.

**DRAW
NEAR**
**LIFE-GIVING
HABITS FOR LENT**

Lent Course

Our Lent Course this year starts on
Wednesday 25th February, 7.00pm at St.
Helen's church centre and will run weekly
until 25th March

We will be following the Draw Near, Life Giving
Habits for Lent theme
in our discussions and prayer

Everyone is welcome. If you would like to
come along, please let Tracey or Anna know
as soon as possible

spring
CLEANING

at St. Helen's



Folks at St. Helen's are having a bit of a sort
out and have discovered a number of coats
etc hanging on the coat hooks just outside
the kitchen.

Could one of them be yours?

If so, please can you come and claim it
please. Any items remaining will be
disposed of by the end of half term

Thank you.



Sovereign God:

Your law is love, and Your Gospel is peace—
teach us to hear old things made new.

Rattle our assumption cages,
open our eyes to the work You have
been doing
all along

in the places and people we didn't
think were important enough for
our noticing.

Thank You for trusting us with Your
infant body,

for showing us that Your faith in us
gives us the greatest gift of faith in You.

We know Your revolution will upend
the world into something even more beautiful
than we can imagine.

Let us be part of it, in the name of Christ,
tender and mild
revolutionary.

Amen

Revd Lizzie McManus-Dail

Contact us...

Revd Anna Clarke

0753 501 7591

reverend.anna.alls@gmail.com

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

Tracey Akehurst

Vicar's P.A. & Benefice

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

Heather Brown

BJBSB Parish Safeguarding Officer

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Zena Cameron

LCG Parish Safeguarding Officer

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Raising funds for St. Mary's Church

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 pages
where you can find further information

*Create in me a pure heart,
O God, and renew a
steadfast spirit within me.*

Psalm 51.10