

# 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 earthy 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*



# 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

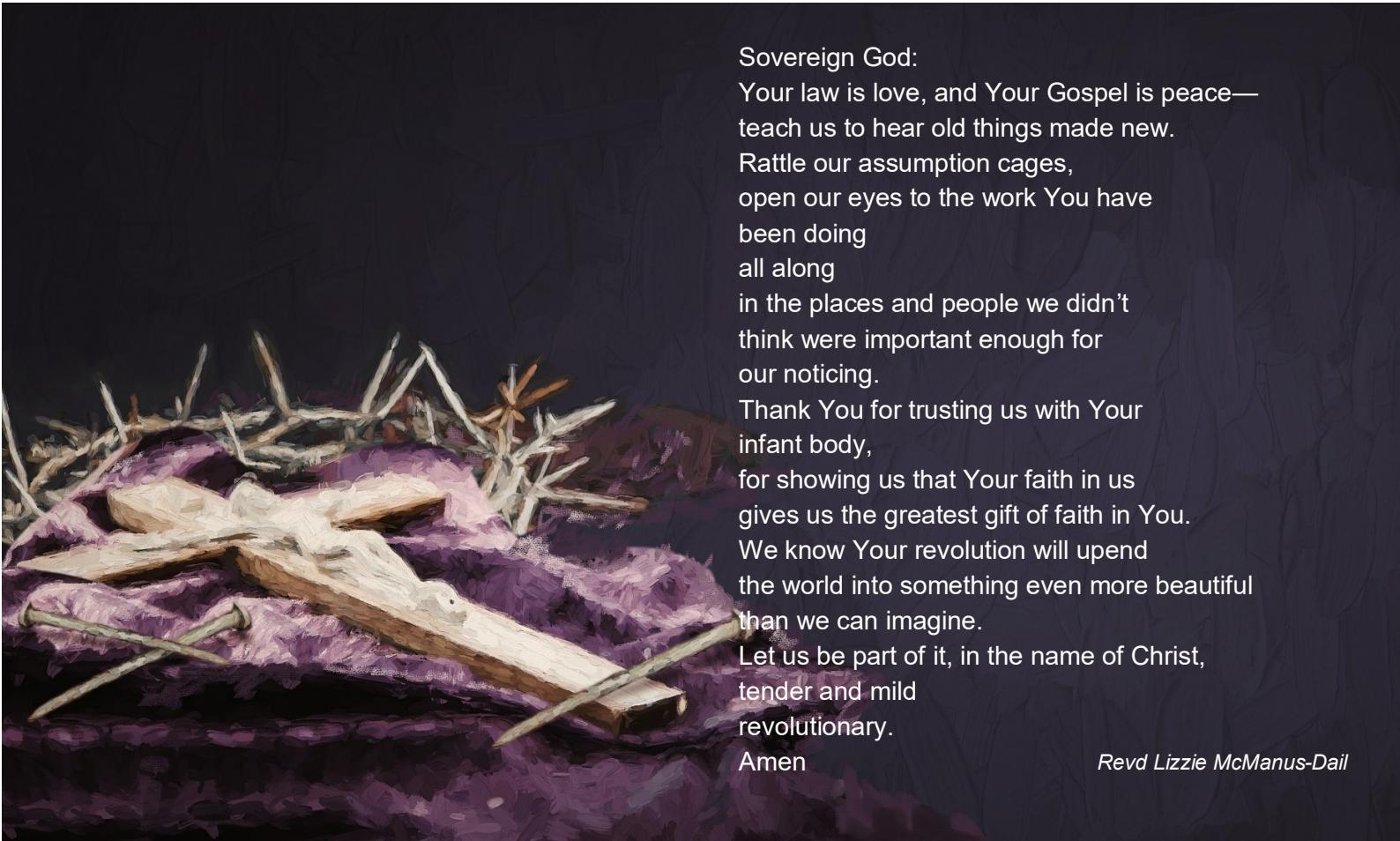


Folks at St. Helen's are having a bit of a sort out and have discovered a number of coats etc hanging on the coat hooks just outside the kitchen.

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](mailto:reverend.anna.alls@gmail.com)

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

### **Tracey Akehurst**

#### **Vicar's P.A. & Benefice**

#### **Administrator:**

0115 965 2114/ 0780 516 2088

[administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk)

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

### **Heather Brown**

#### **BJBSB Parish Safeguarding Officer**

[sgbj@united-benefice.org](mailto:sgbj@united-benefice.org)

### **Zena Cameron**

#### **LCG Parish Safeguarding Officer**

[zenabramall@hotmail.com](mailto:zenabramall@hotmail.com)

## 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*