

# THE NEWSLETTER

## The Lyddington Benefice

The Parishes of

**Bisbrooke, Caldecott, Glaston, Harringworth,  
Lyddington, Stoke Dry, Seaton and Thorpe by Water**

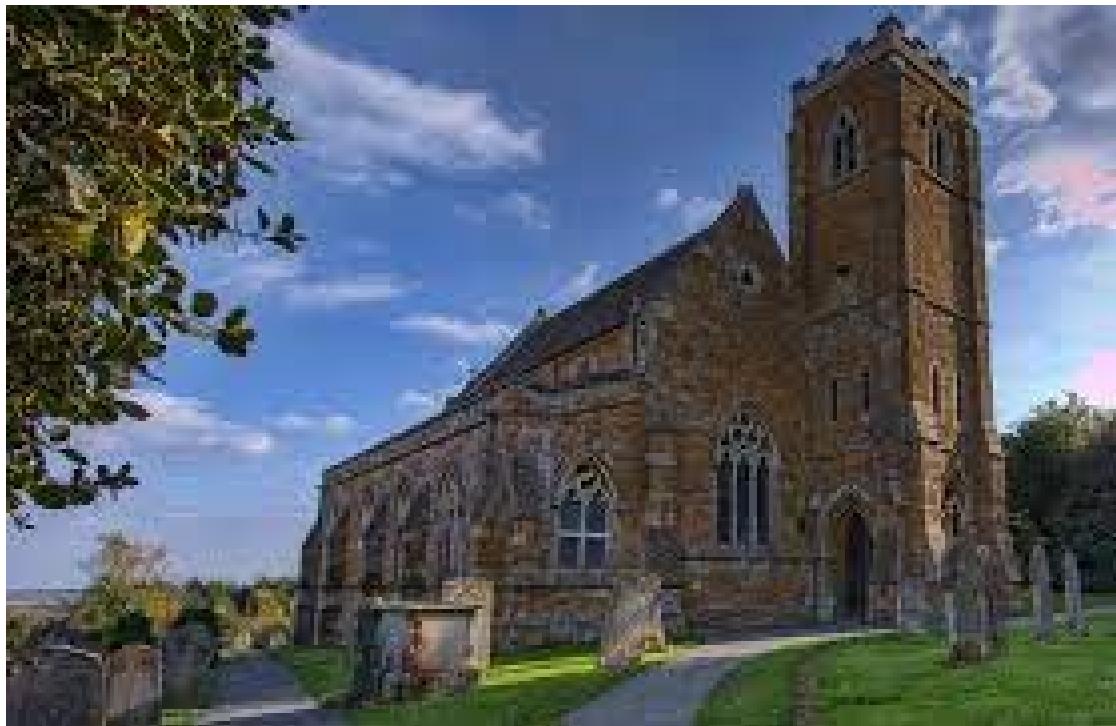
Rector: The Revd Canon Jane Baxter,

The Rectory, 4 Windmill Way,

Lyddington LE15 9LY Telephone: 01572 822717

Email: [revjanebaxter@gmail.com](mailto:revjanebaxter@gmail.com)

## February 2026



**St John the Baptist, Bisbrooke**

**See page 5 for a quirky bit of Bisbrooke history**

Dear friends,

It has now been confirmed that I will be retiring from parish ministry at the end of April 2026. It will be a huge wrench to leave this benefice but I have simply reached my “sell by date” – and very possibly my “best before date” too! My final service in these parishes will be a Benefice Service of Holy Communion on 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am in St Andrew’s, Lyddington. I was first licenced at Lyddington on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004, so it seems right to have my final service there too.

I will still be living in the rectory for a little after that while whilst I prepare to move.

With best wishes

Jane

### **Thursday Morning Holy Communion**

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

Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am	(CW)
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am	(CW)
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00am	(CW)
Thursday	26 <sup>nd</sup> February	10.00am	(CW)
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	(CW)

**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 February 2026**

#### **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

# The Lyddington Benefice: Services during February 2026

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b> <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>
<b>Bisbrooke</b>	Services at Caldecott, Glaston and Harringworth	4.00pm Evening Prayer (JEB)	11.00am Holy Communion CW (JEB)	9.30am Gathered Church (WL)	Services at Caldecott, Glaston and Harringworth
<b>Caldecott</b>	9.30am Parish Communion CW (JEB)	11.00am Family Service (WL)	4.00pm Evening Prayer CW (JEB)	Services at Harringworth and Lyddington	9.30am Parish Communion CW (JEB)
<b>Glaston</b>	11.00am Morning Prayer (WL)	11.00am Holy Communion CW Trad. (JEB)	No service	11.00am Gathered Church (WL)	11.00am Morning Prayer (WL)
<b>Harringworth</b>	10.45am Family Service (JEB)	9.30am Holy Communion BCP, said (JEB)	No service	9.30am Parish Communion CW (JEB)	10.45am Family Service (JEB)
<b>Lyddington</b>	6.00pm Compline (WL)	8.30am Holy Communion BCP (JEB)	Services at Seaton, Stoke Dry and Bisbrooke	11.00am Parish Communion CW (JEB)	6.00pm Compline (WL)
<b>Seaton</b>	No service	9.30am Morning Prayer (WL)	9.30am Holy Communion CW (JEB)	11.00am Family Service (WL)	No service
<b>Stoke Dry</b>	No service	No service	No service	No service	No service

## Funeral

The funeral of **Anthony Richard Bianchi – known as Tony** – took place in the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Harringworth on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026. Mr Bianchi lived in Harringworth for many years before moving to Stretton. He was very active within the community and served as Parish Clerk in Harringworth for a number of years.

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

## A springtime for the soul

**The Very Revd Chris Dalliston, Dean of Peterborough**

February can be a tough month. Christmas is long gone and meanwhile the winter drags on; the weather's miserable and the news relentlessly depressing. There's not much to celebrate it seems.

But there are some signs of things changing. In the woods, a scattering of brilliant yellow aconites hint at the sunshine that is to come and a bank of snowdrops defies the last frosts of the year. Nature is on the move.

And so too is God. As we enter the season of Lent, we tentatively begin our preparations for Easter. Ash Wednesday's ceremonies may seem sober; reflecting on our mortality and need for forgiveness ("remember you are dust and to dust you shall return; turn away from sin") but also pointing us to the One in whom all our hopes are founded ("be faithful to Christ").



Traditionally a season of fasting, perhaps it might be better to think of Lent rather as a time to make space for God. Fast by all means but maybe it's head space we really need, so why not, for example, turn our smart phones off for a few hours so we can think and feel and 'be' ourselves in the presence of God rather than at the beck and call of others?

Perhaps that way we might truly make Lent, what Brother Roger of Taize called it: "a springtime for the soul" and arrive at Easter with a renewed clarity about God's love and care for us all.

Have a spacious Lent



## From the Children's Society following The Christingle Service at Lyddington

**The  
Children's  
Society**

The Children's Society, Whitecross Studios,  
50 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8ST  
[childrenssociety.org.uk](http://childrenssociety.org.uk)

Reverend Jane Baxter  
St Andrews Church Lyddington  
4 Windmill Way  
Lyddington  
OAKHAM  
LE15 9LY

13 January 2026

### Thank you for spreading hope this Christingle

Dear Reverend Baxter,

I want to extend my sincere thanks for your incredible support during this year's Christingle celebrations and for your amazing donation of **£550.00**. The money raised by everyone at **St Andrews Church Lyddington** makes a significant difference in the lives of countless children facing abuse, exploitation or neglect. Together, we're bringing the warmth and light of Christingle to those who need it most. May I take this opportunity to wish a happy and healthy retirement.

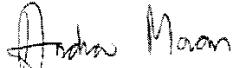
I understand that organising and fundraising for your Christingle may have been both challenging and rewarding, I hope you felt the joy and community spirit that this special event brings. By hosting a Christingle service, you're sending a powerful message to children and young people across the country: they matter, and they are not alone.

Last year alone, Christingle services raised just under **£830,000** for The Children's Society. These donations enable us to open new services like 'Time for young people' in Newham. This hub will give young people in Newham a place where they can drop in and meet trained staff one-to-one, without needing an appointment or a referral. They'll also be able to access group sessions, events, and a range of practical resources, as well as using the physical support space to relax and feel safe. None of this would be possible without the compassion of people like you.

We'd love to hear about your Christingle experience this year! If you have a moment, please do share your feedback with us at [christingle.org/survey](http://christingle.org/survey).

Once again, thank you for standing with young people, your support can be a beacon of hope and light during a young person's darkest time - so **thank you**.

Warm regards,



**Andrew Moran**  
Head of Supporter Experience

## **A Tedium Courtship in Bisbrooke** **Recounted by Peter Golden**

On 27 January 1839 at Bisbrooke Church, Elizabeth Catlin married Robert Harbutt, son of Walter and Julianna. The parish register records that both were of Bisbrooke parish. He was described as a labourer.

*The Stamford Mercury* of Friday 1 February 1839 added some 'colour' -

### Weddings:

"At Bisbrook, Rutland, on Sunday last, after a tedious courtship of 504 hours, Mr. Robert Harbutt, a brisk bachelor of 23, to Mrs. Catlin, a buxom widow of 75.

So long the fair one "Ah But!" cried,  
Ere Harbutt clasp'd her as his bride.  
To win young girls may call forth spirit -  
Old ones are only caught by merit."

Elizabeth's former husband, William Catlin, had died on 16 August 1838 at Bisbrooke, aged 72.

In the 1841 Census, Robert & Elizabeth Harbutt are enumerated together in Bisbrooke. The head of household is Robert Harbutt, then described as a cottager.

Elizabeth Harbutt was buried on 28 December 1844 at Bisbrooke; her age was then recorded as 84 years so she might have shaved a few years off when she married.

Robert Harbutt (agricultural labourer, widower), is still in Bisbrooke in the 1851 Census. He remarried in 1853 in Leicester and died there in 1883, having worked as a market gardener.

The grave of Robert Harbutt's parents Walter (died 1863) and Julianna (née Goodliffe, died 1858) was disturbed when Bisbrooke Church was rebuilt in 1870/1 on a larger footprint. Their headstone is now laid flat on the floor of the porch/tower. There are other headstones of the same design in the churchyard. Walter Harbutt was found dead in his bed and the next day the coroner held an inquest in the Gate Inn; "the jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from apoplexy." (*The Stamford Mercury*, 9 January 1863)

## **Gardeners Corner**

**FEBRUARY 2026**

BY

**ALISTAIR PEAK**

Starting February, with more daylight already and many bulbs are starting to shoot up with snowdrops and Aconites already in flower; this should be encouraging you outside in your gardens.

Ornamental grasses look great in the summer when they are blowing about in the summer and Autumn winds; by leaving them for the winter they will add structure to your garden, even though they will have turned brown. By now they may have been battered about with the winter storms, rain and wind and are mostly likely looking a little dishevelled. This is the perfect time to cut deciduous grasses back about 10cm/ 4 inches from the ground. Remove all the dead material.

Wisterias require two prunings, one in the summer and the second now, which is taken back to two/ three buds, it's also a good time to train any new stems - train them horizontally on a framework of wire or trellis. Ensure to remove any congested growth and any leaves that are still caught up in the growth.

If you like growing Vegetables and you have not started to dig over your vegetable plots, now is a good time to as long the soil doesn't stick to your boots. It's a perfect time too - try not and do too much in one go unless you are fit; build up gently otherwise your body will let you know! It's good to leave the clods of soil in clumps and wait for the weather to break them down naturally.

Bulb planting may seem a while ago now; if you planted them in pots with Pansies it's a good time to check them over and remove any faded or dead flowers or leaves. If we have gone through a dry period and your pots are in the leeward side of buildings do check them if they require watering.

Rhubarb may be technically a vegetable; most of us treat it as a fruit, being one of the first to crop and pick in April and May. Sometimes it can be forced by placing an upside down bucket over it in late February/ March and then getting tender shots without leaves.

Like many crops they can get too large for their space and non-productive. It's good to dig them up and remove the centre of the clump. Once you have done this you can divide out parts of the clump and make sure that you add plenty of organic matter into the soil as they are hungry plants; it's always best not to crop them in the first year after dividing them. Sometimes it's good not to divide all the clumps at the same time so you can still have some to pick. Your other clumps of Rhubarb you should also muck over the crowns with organic matter

Autumn Raspberries are one of my favourite soft fruits; as their name suggests, they produce their fruit in the Autumn and will produce their fruit on new growth. February is the perfect time to cut them down to the ground, around two inches/ five cms from the ground; once you have done this give them a good mulch with some organic matter, they are hungry plants.

When the weather is inclement to be outside, it's a good time to check over what seed packets you have left; as long as they have been kept in the cool and out of direct sunlight they will last a few years. Planning the forthcoming season of seed sowing can also be done now; this can be flowers and vegetables, along with ordering. Remember once they arrive keep them cool and away from any vermin.

Alistair Tip.

I mentioned at the beginning of this article about Snowdrops, it's a perfect time to check out your local parks, villages or larger gardens that may have displays of them: it will certainly lift your spirits at this time of year.

## VILLAGE NEWS

### BISBROOKE

January has been a very quiet month. Everyone has been trying to survive the flu season and the depressing weather.

As always we sent one box of donations to the food bank and continue to collect items at 1 Top Lane.

For February flowers until Ash Wednesday (February 18th) in care Sue Scarrott and Nikki Thompson.

Cleaning is with Katie Salmon.

Coffee morning will be on Wednesday February 18th at 11.00 at Jennifer Parsons Stables Barn Glaston Road.

### CALDECOTT

#### Dates:-

Thursday 8<sup>TH</sup> at 7.30pm - Ladies Group New Year get together-one week later due to holiday period.

15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Hall - Parish Council Meeting. Residents will have a chance to bring up any matters of concern. There are a couple of vacancies so if you are interested in becoming a member do along.

**Church News** - the Quiz in November made £308 profit and was a very cheerful evening. We thank the Revd Canon Jane Baxter for her sterling quizmaster duties over the years and shall miss this event tremendously. Thanks also to the 'kitchen staff' who looked after us so well.

**Christmas Decorations**-thanks to the families who came to help with the tree and crib, also the other decorators. The church looked wonderful for the Carol Service on 17<sup>th</sup> December which was so well attended we ran out of hymn sheets. £190.00 was sent to the Rainbows Children's Hospice from the open collection. Special thanks for refreshments and to Tony who replaced the crib light which had been condemned when PAT tested.

**100 club Draw and Raffle**-this took place in the Plough on 17<sup>th</sup> December:-\_

Raffle-1<sup>st</sup> Jack; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lorraine Smith, 3<sup>rd</sup> John Bruce. The prizes looked fantastic.

100 club:-1<sup>st</sup> B and B Hook; 2<sup>nd</sup> H Pitt; 3<sup>rd</sup> R Wilson.

The next draw will be in February.

## CALDECOTT

### Dates:-

Thursday 5<sup>TH</sup> February at 7.30pm-Ladies Group Indoor Games visitors welcome.

March Meeting-to be confirmed.

Shrove Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February pancake races and coffee morning -details later.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 100 club draw-at present venue unknown; there are still some spare tickets-if interested please ask June or Barbara.

**Church news**-we hope the repair work will start again and be finished soon. Anyone wishing to contribute to the restoration fund appeal can find leaflets in the church; no excuse that the dog has eaten the original.

**Food Bank**- Donations are delivered monthly to the pick up point. Please leave any offerings in Church or at 14 Main St. people are still experiencing difficult times and really need our help to tide them over an emergency.

## HARRINGWORTH

**Join us at our fun Winter Quiz Night and Pop Up Pub at Harringworth Village Hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm**

Book your place now by emailing [Gavin Gordon](mailto:gavingordon@live.co.uk):

Come along as a team (up to six people) or let Jonnie and Gavin team you up! Just £5 per person and a licensed bar with wine, beers and soft drinks plus snacks. Early booking is advisable due to the popularity of the quizzes! (payment on the night). The winning prize is £50 donated to a charity of the winning team's choice. Raffle tickets will also be sold on the night. And don't forget our new £2 fundraiser game with an exciting new twist this time! Just bring along a £2 coin if you wish to take part. If you're paying by card or don't have cash, we can add the money onto your entry fee. Book by emailing [gavingordon@live.co.uk](mailto:gavingordon@live.co.uk)

### WINTER QUIZ NIGHT:

Our popular Quiz Night returns on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February in Harringworth Village Hall. Do come along as a team (up to six people or let Jonnie and Gavin team you up).

The winning prize is £50.00 donated to a charity of the winning team's choice. Raffle tickets will also be sold on the night. And don't forget our new £2 fundraiser game with an exciting new twist this time! Just bring along a £2 coin if you wish to take part. If you're paying by card or don't have cash, we can add the money onto your entry fee.

This is a popular event so book early (payment on the night) by emailing [gavingordon@live.co.uk](mailto:gavingordon@live.co.uk)

**HARRINGWORTH 100 CLUB:** Congratulations to Missy Conant who won the January 100 Club.

**HARRINGWORTH VILLAGE HALL:** 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 – so do come and join us.

**Save The Date – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August:** The popular **Harringworth Safari Supper** has been set for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August. More details from Jackie and Sandy nearer the date.

**Save The Date – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November:** After the success of the **Christmas Artisan Market** last year we are planning to repeat the event again this year on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

## LYDDINGTON

**Village Fete meeting and date of Fete** Planning meetings are taking place monthly in the Old White Hart normally a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. (Latest was Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan). Please contact Keith Ormrod for details on 07904292719. Please do offer help for running stalls, helping prepare, setting up the fete and taking it down. Fete day is 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Always a very popular event.

**Lyddington Quiz Night, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb at 7pm in the Old White Hart** To reserve a table for your team call 01572 821703. Teams can be formed on the night, Tickets £5 includes a light snack. Proceeds to the Village Hall appeal.

**Monthly coffee morning meet up** Takes place at the Old White Hart last Thursday of the month from 10am to 12noon. All invited.

**Advance notice of a Bric a Brac, Table top sale at the Village Hall** on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026, 10am till 3pm. Proceeds to St Andrews Church. More about this next month

**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

Vicky Sanderlin-McLoughlin would like to extend her gratitude for the very considerable donations to two charities at the end of last year.

Firstly, the Seaton and Thorpe-by-Water's contribution to last year's Poppy Appeal was as follows:

All Hallows Church collection: £ 253.75

Cash, collected by Vicky and Ralph Offer's team in the George and Dragon: £80.27

QR code collection from the large Poppy tin at The George & Dragon: £595.08 (estimate)

I would particularly like to thank Ralph Offer, our publican, for his essential support of the 2025 Poppy Appeal.

The Seaton's contribution to the total collection in the Uppingham District was app: £921.10. I have had to offer you a rough calculation based on past donations to the annual campaign by The British Legion. My understanding is that the tins with QR codes (the one in our pub) are read centrally & cannot be credited to any one location.

In the past, Seaton has contributed between 13 = 15% of the total for our area, so I have based my calculations on this historic figure. Knowing how very generous our residents and visitors have been in the past, I think that this sum is correct. The total for the 2025 Uppingham area contribution was: £6194.34. Your help is much appreciated.

Secondly, please accept my thanks, as well, for the decorations given to our church at Christmas. There are so many kind folks in our villages who help to make All Hallows church look very festive indeed. The final decorations will be removed from our church, after Candlemas, on February 2nd.