

CHURCH News

March 2026



Newsletter no: 120

Introducing Jamie.



Hello! My name is Jamie. I am joining the community of St Helen's and St. Mary's for a number of months on a Diocesan placement while I'm discerning whether or not I have a vocation in ordained ministry within the Church of England.

In my professional life, I am a teacher of English as an additional language to French speakers. My academic background is my degree in Theology and Religious Studies.

I have already been made to feel very welcome by so many of you. Thank you for your kindness, your chats and your warm friendliness. I often come to church with my partner, Trevor; he has felt very welcome here too. We have loved the past couple of months, and I am keen to get more and more involved as the weeks progress.

I have been sent to Burton Joyce and Lowdham for a number of reasons, but foremost among them is because of the friendly and welcoming nature of your community. So many people that I've met from across the Diocese remark on the amazing

community that your parish has, and the strong Christian presence that you are within the local area. I'm so excited to have joined such thriving parishes. The happiness and welcome that each of you bring to my Sunday morning has been a boost to me already.

My 'sending-church' is actually Southwell Minster. Part of my learning experience at St Helen's and St Mary's is to understand and experience church outside of a Cathedral context. Of course, I've already noticed where things can be different, sometimes feeling less structured and formal. What we have enjoyed most is the engagement and responsiveness that the congregation gives each Sunday morning. Everyone feels so connected, appreciated and valued. You've certainly made us feel like we are already part of your community. One of my favourite things is the amount of happiness and laughter that radiates throughout the services.

I'm very grateful for Anna's time and for the effort that she puts into keeping me on the right track. You guys are helping to shape my



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understanding of Ministry and Evangelism in a parish context reflecting the impact of the message of Jesus in your services and in your lives.

I'm excited to get myself involved in some preaching and other forms of ministry, and I welcome any feedback, chats or advice that anyone has for me. I also ask for your patience as I adapt to new churches and as I try and develop my understanding of how you guys like to worship and follow Jesus.

Outside of church, I love to swim, socialise, travel, speak Spanish and develop in my work as a teacher. I am confident that, whether or not I have a calling to ordained ministry, God will use me in some way, to bring about his good work. Ordination is by no means guaranteed for me, but I know that my time here will help me grow as a follower of Jesus. If I come away from this experience understanding his message more deeply, and growing in my faith alongside all of you, then that can only be a good thing.

Jamie

The logo for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) features the letters 'A', 'P', 'C', and 'M' in a stylized, colorful font. The 'A' is blue, the 'P' is pink, the 'C' is orange, and the 'M' is blue. The letters are bold and have a slight shadow effect.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Burton Joyce, Bulcote and Stoke Bardolph

Sunday 22nd March 2026,
St. Helen's Church
12 noon after the Sunday service.

Lowdham, Caythorpe and Gunthorpe

Monday 23rd March 2026,
St. John's Church, Gunthorpe
7.00p.m. preceding the PCC meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please note that only those who are on the parish electoral roll are eligible to vote.

March services 2026

Sunday 1st March

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

11.00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Tuesday 3rd March

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

Sunday, 8th March

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

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

Tuesday 10th March

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

Sunday, 15th March (Mothering Sunday)

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

11.00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 17th March

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

Sunday 22nd March

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

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

Sunday 29th March

9.00a.m. Service of the Word, St. Mary's, Lowdham

11.00a.m. Service of the Word, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

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.*

Come & join us for



Family
Easter
Crafts

10.00a.m—12 noon, 3rd April
St. Mary's Church, Lowdham

Easter Crafts and lovely refreshments.
Everyone is welcome!

Dave Machell, Artisan Singers & Guests
present a

MUSIC VARIETY SHOW

*A selection of popular vocal and instrumental
music, including much loved jazz and swing
tunes, organ favourites and a splash of comedy!*

7.00p.m, 25th April 2026,
St. Mary's Church, Lowdham
Light Refreshments, Raffle

Tickets: £12 each from Tracey Akehurst:
administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk / 0115 965 2114

Raising money for St. Mary's music funds

Our prayers break on God like waves,
and He an endless shore,
and when the seas evaporate
and oceans are no more
and cries are carried on the wind
God hears and answers every sound
as He has done before

Our troubles eat at God like nails.
He feels the gnaw of pain
on souls and bodies. He never fails
but reassures He'll heal again,
again, again, and yet again



Revd Lizzie McManus-Dail

Contact us...

Revd Anna Clarke

0753 501 7591

reverend.anna.allis@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

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

Heather Brown

BJBSB Parish Safeguarding Officer

sgbj@united-benefice.org

Zena Cameron

LCG Parish Safeguarding Officer

zenabramall@hotmail.com

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

*My soul thirsts for God,
the living God.
When can I go and meet
with God?*

Psalm 42.2