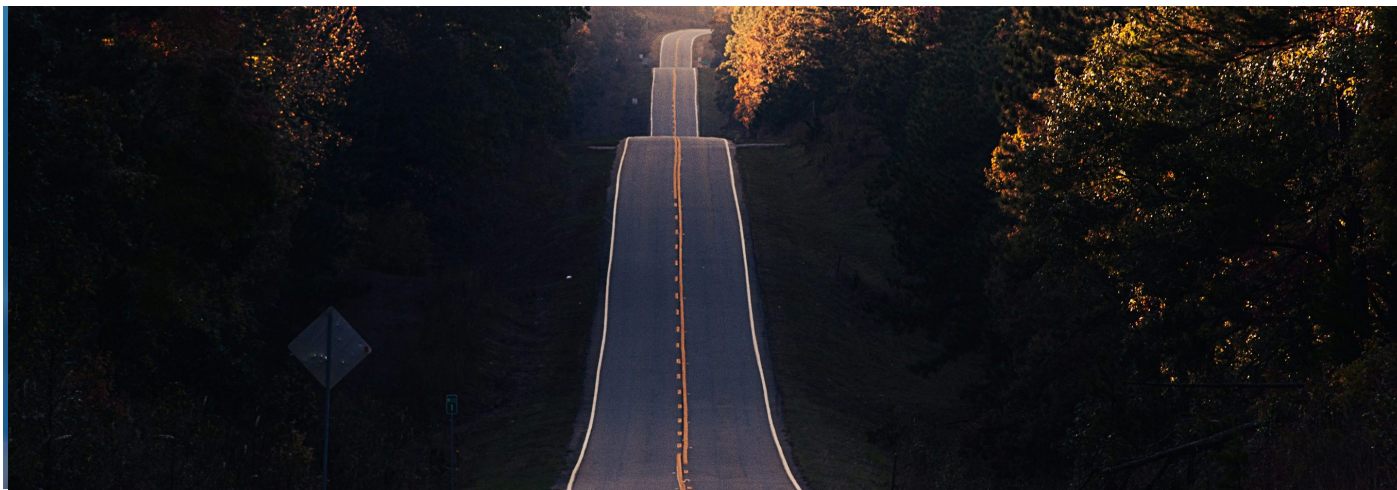


CHURCH News

May 2026



Newsletter no: 123

The next stage of the journey

May is the month where we, as a church, celebrate Ascension Day when Jesus returns to heaven and, Pentecost where the Good News of Jesus starts spreading from Israel to the wider Roman Empire. It feels somewhat apt then that this is the month in which we, the Oliver family, start our move to the next stage of our life and ministry.

Some of you are aware by now that this month will see the end of our time sharing in the ministry of the Benefice churches. We joined you in late 2020 after I was licensed as a Lay Minister and as I started the process of exploring the call to ordained ministry. I have been wonderfully supported by Anna and all the church communities as I have gone through the selection process and then the formal training. The culmination of this will be on 5th July when I am ordained Deacon in Southwell Minster.

I will be serving my curacy within the parishes of All Hallows Gedling and Holy Trinity Lambley, serving with Revd Tasha Morton. It's fair to say that this will be a very different style of worship for our family and certainly a very different place of learning for me, with four services every Sunday, including Book of Common Prayer and formal sung Evensong and yet it is a further opportunity for me to explore the calling

that God has placed on my life. In Luke's account of the Ascension, recorded in Acts 1, Jesus explains how the mission to spread the Gospel might have started in Jerusalem, but from there will spread to Judea, Samaria and then to the ends of the earth. This move feels very much like the "Judea" stage of my ministry.

I won't be leaving empty handed as I do feel that I have learnt so much during my time with you all. I have learnt the importance of communication and supporting each other through times of struggle, both nationally, such as during the Covid outbreak, and personally after the loss of my mother. I have learnt the power that resides within our communities when we come together to show Christ's love to one another; we saw this during the floods as well as during local tragedies.

I have also experienced how individuals can grow and change when they listen to God and follow His calling on their lives. I know that I have changed massively from the person who joined you in November 2020, but that these changes has only come about through the Spirit daily helping me to become a little bit more like Jesus. I know I'm not there yet, but I pray that in the months and years

ahead I, as well as you all, will continue to grow into His likeness.

Thank you for all you have done for my family and me, and know that, even as we go from here, you will all remain in our thoughts and prayers.

With every blessing

Rob

*For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under*

Heaven

Ecclesiastes 3.1

May church services

Sunday 3rd May

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11.00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Tuesday 5th May

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

Sunday, 10th May

9.00a.m. Morning Worship, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11.00 a.m Morning Worship, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 12th May

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

Sunday, 17th May

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11.00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 19th May

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

Sunday 24th May

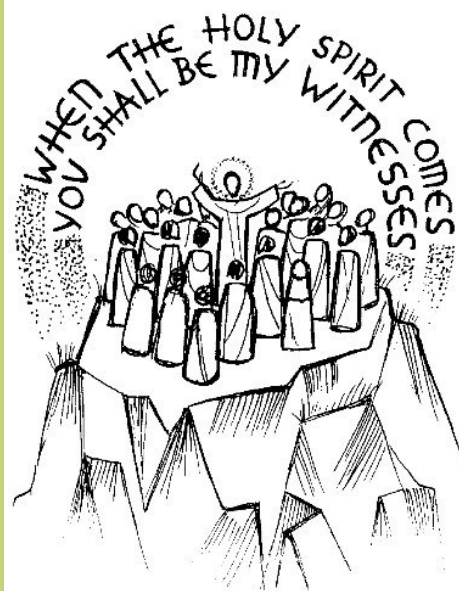
9.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Sunday 31st May

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

Thursday 14th May

7.00p.m. Deanery Ascension
Day service, St. Mary's,
Lowdham



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.*



To everyone who helped at the Easter Crafts on Good Friday. It was amazing!

The church was full of adults and children having a great time enjoying themselves whilst getting messy with paint and paper and glitter.

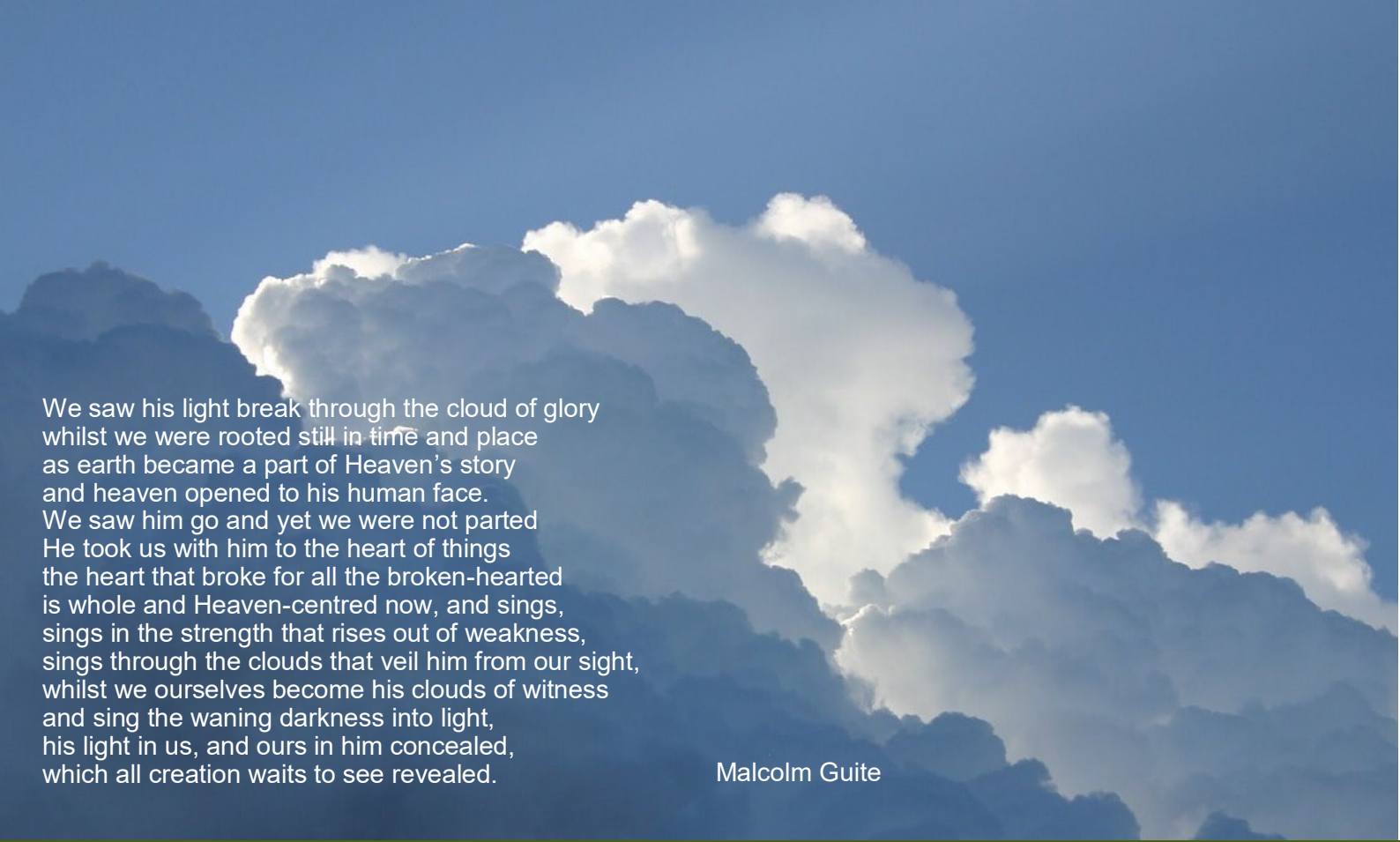
A huge amount of hard work and time goes into making these craft sessions fun so thank you' for your time, talents, energy and good humour. We couldn't do it without you.



To everyone who supported the Music Variety Show on 25th April at St. Mary' especially some very talented musicians who gave of their time and talents to help make this fundraising event such a success. Special mention goes to Colin Muir and his musical debut with the bagpipes and also to Dave Machell and Jan Hewitt for master-minding the evening.

Thanks also to our behind the scenes volunteers who provided welcome and refreshments. We couldn't have done it without you!

We raised a splendid £900, which goes towards organ repairs.



We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
whilst we were rooted still in time and place
as earth became a part of Heaven's story
and heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
the heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
and sing the waning darkness into light,
his light in us, and ours in him concealed,
which all creation waits to see revealed.

Malcolm Guite

Contact us...

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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

*He lifted his hands and
blessed them. While he was
blessing them, he left them
and was taken up into
heaven*

Luke 24.50-51