

CHURCH News

September 2026



Newsletter no: 127

This is Good.

I recently had a lovely day with my oldest friend who is visiting from Canada. Although I speak to her regularly via the wonders of the internet, to actually be in her presence for a few hours, to share food, to hug, and laugh and cry together was just the perfect day. It felt good to stop, to remember the people we had been before children and responsibilities, and we ended the day on a blanket in the park eating chips and watching the solar eclipse. It felt so good. We're all so busy aren't we? Working, volunteering, caring, it can feel endless.

I'm reminded of the creation story, one that I read to preschoolers recently, that tells us about God creating all of these wonderful things, land and sea, sun and moon, stars and planets, trees, crops and plants, all the animals we can ever imagine, and finally human beings. The story goes that at the end of each day God looked at what he had created and said "this is good" (a refrain the preschoolers soon learned). I wonder if in the busyness we have lost the wonder of ending each day with a moment of reflection when we ask ourselves "what was good?"

On the final day of creation God sat back and rested, he revelled in the beauty of all he could see, of all he experienced and of all that he knew was to come.

Our churches are wonderful places, they're full of life, which is down to the goodness of God but also all of you who work and serve and volunteer in the myriad ways that you do. This makes our churches good!

I do hope that you have been able to sit back and relax, to take time to reflect on all that is good; and if you've not, I encourage you to do so.

Thank you for all the ways in which you serve the local church

Love, Anna

God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good

Genesis 1.31

September church services

Please note, there are no mid-week Holy Communion services this month due to Anna being away on Sabbatical

Sunday 6th September

9.00a.m Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Sunday, 13th September

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

Sunday, 20th September

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Sunday 27th September

9.00a.m. Harvest Festival, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11.00a.m. Harvest Festival St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and
heat, summer and winter, and
day and night will not cease

Genesis 8.22

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.

Coming up...

NEW

Women's Friendship Group.



The inaugural meeting will be at the Willow Tree Café, Main Street, Burton Joyce, 2.00p.m. 3rd September to discuss ideas for future events.

If you are interested in coming along, please contact Barbara Rowe (rabrowe@aol.com) or Gail Dixon (gaildixon15@icloud.com) by 30th August so they have an idea of numbers.



Saturday 12th September

Would you like the chance to...

Enjoy some fantastic scenery,
visit our beautiful churches,
go on a guided tour of St. Mary's
... *and*... raise money to support your local
church?

Anyone can take part.

Contact Jo Simson or Sally Smith for more
details—please see separate flyer—or visit
www.rideandstrideuk.org

Harvest Donations

The churches will once again be supporting Emmanuel House as part of our Harvest Festival. Please bring your donations to the Harvest Festival on 27th September

The current wish list is below, although if you're short of ideas the most needed items at the moment are baked beans and boxer shorts!

Clothes:

Boxers (new only, s, m & l)
Joggers (s & m)
Sports bras / crop tops for women (new only, size XS, S, M)
Draw-string bags
Hoodies
Thick sleeping bags
Trainers (men size 7-10, women size 5+)
T-shirts
Waterproof jackets
Warm coats

Toiletries

Sun cream
Disposable razors
Roll-on deodorant
Combs / hairbrushes

Food items

Baked beans
Granulated sugar
Tinned chopped tomatoes
Jars of cooking sauces
Tomato puree
Tinned vegetables
Sunflower oil
Salt/pepper
Gravy granules
Individual porridge pots
Cereal – especially Weetabix,
Shreddies, Coco Pops
Marmalade, honey
Chocolate spread
Peanut butter
Marmite
Coffee
Long-life semi skimmed milk

*More information about Emmanuel House
can be found at*
www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk

Daybreak

As at the dawn of creation,
the light awaits light's coming;
herons stand, grey wraiths
in the swirling mist;
wing-stretchings, stirring in
undergrowth, greet the day;
questioning chirps from a
secret world swell to
full throat's song
in the strengthening sun;
a kingfisher –glimpse of glory
glancing in the sunlight.
No wonder God rejoices:
it is very good

Ann Lewin



©stockcaker/ misty dawn sunrise

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 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 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

*God made man because
he loves stories.*

Elie Wiesel