The Benefice of Burton Joyce, Bulcote & Stoke Bardolph with Lowdham, Caythorpe & Gunthorpe

Church News

November 2026



Issue no 129

It's that time of year when we head into the season of All Saints and All Souls, followed by Remembrance Day, when we remember those people we have loved and lost.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is funeral ministry. It is always a privilege to take a funeral service for someone, to be involved in that final act of service a family holds to remember, celebrate and say goodbye to their loved one.

Often when I have that first conversation with a family, they say, 'our loved one wasn't religious but...' Whatever their reason for getting in touch - and reasons include 'we wanted to do it properly', 'it felt right to come to church', 'our loved one met you once on a dog walk' - honestly all of them and any more you can come up with are the right reason to get in touch about a funeral service.

You don't have to be religious, you don't have to be a church member, but if you'd like to arrange a church funeral you can contact your local vicar who will help you to make this happen.

Apparently, Dolly Parton, who died at the end of August this year chose the song, *'Soon we'll come to the end of life's journey*' by Jonny Cash for her funeral (*lyrics opposite)*

Soon we'll come to the end of life's journey
And perhaps we'll never meet anymore
'Til we gather in heaven's bright city
Far away on that beautiful shore.
If we never meet again this side of heaven

As we struggle through this world and its strife
There's another meeting place somewhere in heaven
By the side of the river of life
Where the charming roses bloom forever
And where separation comes no more
If we never meet again this side of heaven
I will meet you on that beautiful shore.

Oh, they say we shall meet by the river
Where no storm clouds ever darken the sky
And they say we'll be happy in heaven In that wonderful suite by and by.
If we never meet again this side of heaven.

As we struggle through this world and its strife
There's another meeting place somewhere in heaven
By the side of the river of life.
Where the charming roses bloom forever
And where separation comes no more
If we never meet again this side of heaven, I will meet you on that beautiful shore.

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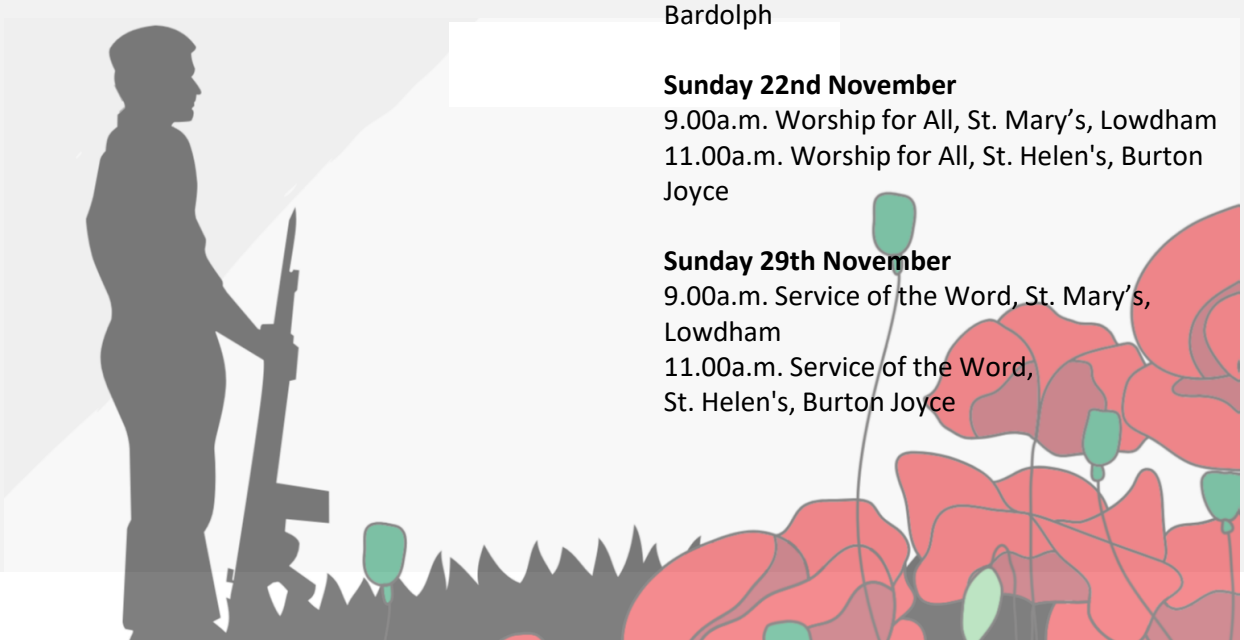
If you have a funeral in church, we'll use the words of the commendation during which we spiritually and symbolically hand over your loved one to God's care. This also acts as a declaration that death is not the end, affirming the Christian belief in the resurrection of the dead, and eternal life through Jesus Christ. When my dad died in October 2024, I had the privilege of praying the prayer of commendation for him and I think this remains the single most moving experience I have had as a priest.

Dolly Parton had a strong faith; the life she lived was influenced by the teaching of Christ throughout and she was articulate about what she believed. I love the words of this country song that she chose, and I think they begin to sum up something of what we believe and hope for when we give someone a Christian funeral.

Love Anna

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends

John 15.13



Church Services in November

Sunday 1st November
9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11. 00a.m Holy Communion St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Tuesday 3rd November 10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. John's, Gunthorpe

Sunday, 8th November
11.00a.m. Remembrance Service, St. Mary's, Lowdham
10.30 a.m Remembrance Service, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 10th November
10.00a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Bulcote

Sunday, 15th November
9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 17th November
10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Luke's, Stoke Bardolph

Sunday 22nd November
9.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

Sunday 29th November
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
St. John's Church, 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.



We are collecting toys and gifts to give as Christmas presents for children in need in Nottinghamshire. These can include baby toys & clothes, gift tokens (for teenagers) toiletries, gift sets, selection boxes, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, plus personal care items & toiletries for mums.

Please bring your donations (brand new & unwrapped) to St. Mary's Church, Lowdham on **Saturday 28th November** between 10.00a.m -12 noon (outside drop off only)

Thank you.



Christmas Crafts (with refreshments) in the churches

10.00a.m -12 noon
Saturday 5th December,
St Mary's Church,
Lowdham.

4.00-6.00p.m
Wednesday
9th December,
St Helen's Church ,BJ

Everyone welcome!



Contact us...

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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

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.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.

Irish Headstone