



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 2nd January 2025

Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

Sunday 5th January, Christmas 2, Epiphany

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
10am **Skeffington** Morning Praise (Congregation Led)
10.30am **Illston** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**
4pm **Billesdon** Choral Evensong Epiphany (Revd John Taylor)

Sunday 12th January, Baptism of Christ, Epiphany 1

9am **Skeffington** BCP Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)
10am **Gaulby** Morning Prayer (Hilary Painter)
11am **Billesdon** Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)
11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

Sunday 19th January, Epiphany 2, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January

10.30am **Keyham** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
11am **Billesdon** Songs of Praise (Revd Christine Blodwell)
11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**
5pm **Hungarton** Compline (Churchwarden Led)
6pm **Illston** Evening Prayer (Hilary Painter)
6pm **Skeffington** Evensong (Revd Philip Norwood)

Sunday 26th January, Epiphany 3

9am **Skeffington** CW Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
11am **Billesdon** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**
6pm **Gaulby** Holy Communion (Revd Christine Blodwell)

Saturday Mornings

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Every week at 9am (meeting open from 8.55am)

All welcome. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89820297969?pwd=HD1LgaqamMFBN2y1m7p226w0h2KVkj.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2029 7969

Passcode: 470000

Sunday 5th January 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Leader & Reflection: Revd Jayne Lewis

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

PLEASE USE THIS LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGl8Q.1>

Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342

Passcode: 079282

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:

T. 0203 481 5240

Enter the **Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342** followed by #

Enter the **Passcode: 079282** followed by #

Contact Us:

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Collect for Sunday 5th December

Second Sunday after Christmas, Epiphany

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Reflection: Sunday 5th January 2024

Second Sunday after Christmas, Epiphany

When Paul was on his way to Damascus to arrest followers of the Messiah, he was knocked to the ground in an experience which he later described as meeting the risen Jesus. He saw the light in more ways than one, and he went away to talk to others and to spend a long time in the desert on his own in contemplation and study. He came to realise two things: first, that the teaching of the Messiah which had angered him so much revealed that God's truth was not for Jews only but for all people of every race and nation; and second, that he himself had to go and tell people about it.

He describes the truth that had dawned on him as a 'mystery', which had not been understood even though the prophets had preached about it. Isaiah talks about the light shining out and penetrating the darkness and drawing to the Lord people of every nation. And Paul knew that whatever it cost him, he must share that revelation which had now been entrusted to the Apostles. What Paul experienced is what we call an 'Epiphany'.

The Apostles were not actually the first people to experience this. The first were the 'Wise Men', the astrologers who although they were not Jews, were among the very first people to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah and to worship him. That is their only real importance in the story. We may give a symbolism to the gifts they offered – but surely, they had to carry gold pay for travel, and they carried spices on the spice road from the east. They offered what they had and what kept them alive.

And so must we. The Feast of the Epiphany represents the fact that we all are called to 'see the light' in some way, and like St. Paul to share the truth revealed in the birth and death of our Saviour, Jesus of Nazareth.

Revd Philip Norwood

Bible Readings:

Sunday 5th January 2024

Second Sunday after Christmas, Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
2 For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise
upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you; your sons
shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses'
arms.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the
abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold
and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord .

Ephesians 3.1-12

3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ
Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-
2 for surely you have already heard of the commission
of God's grace that was given to me for you,
3 and how the mystery was made known to me by
revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my
understanding of the mystery of Christ.
5 In former generations this mystery was not made
known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his
holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs,
members of the same body, and sharers in the promise
in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to
the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the
working of his power.
8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace
was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the
boundless riches of Christ,
9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the
mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;
10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its
rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and
authorities in the heavenly places.
11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that
he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and
confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2.1-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in
Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to
Jerusalem,
2 asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of
the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have
come to pay him homage.'
3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and
all Jerusalem with him;
4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of
the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was
to be born.
5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has
been written by the prophet:
6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for
from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."
7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and
learned from them the exact time when the star had
appeared.
8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and
search diligently for the child; and when you have found
him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him
homage.'
9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and
there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen
at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the
child was.
10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were
overwhelmed with joy.
11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary
his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.
Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to
Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Additional Collect for

Sunday 5th January

Second Sunday after Christmas, Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**A Reminder: Coplow Benefice and Gaulby
Group Meeting**

**Thursday 9th January at 7.15pm at the Old
School in Billesdon (Venue to be confirmed)**



Food Bank Appeal:

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks. All donations welcome, which may be left in any of our Church porches, or you can donate online.

To make a donation to The Well's Food bank fund,

by bank transfer to *The Well Kibworth*

Sort Code: 40-32-04 **Acc:** 41666959 **Ref:** 'Foodbank'

Gift Aid Forms can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.thewellkibworth.org/support-us>

Our Churches Online:



All have web pages on 'A Church Near You'

Billesdon <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3500/>

Hungarton <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4708/>

Keyham <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4709/>

Skeffington <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3502/>

Goadby <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14444/>

The Gaulby Group

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4699/>



Information about the Zoom services (including the Link), and **other information**, can be found on **The Launde Deanery and Minster Community Website** at: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk>



Hallaton Museum

Online Talk on Zoom

Thursday 9th January at 7pm

Mathew Morris, University of Leicester Archaeological Services returns to give the talk, this time on: 'Cardinals, Chariots and Queens: The archaeology of Abbey Park, Burrough Hill and Bradgate Park, An overview of the archaeology in some of Leicestershire's best loved parks'. The talk is free but, as always, if you would like to make a donation to the museum that would be appreciated.

(Account name: Hallaton Museum Sorting code: 40-32-04 Number: 91125559)

All are welcome

If you would like to join us please let Linda Jones know on l.jones2k@btinternet.com or call on 01858 555249 and she will send you the Zoom link.



The Emergence of Focal Ministry



As the shape of ministry changes across our diocese, many people are feeling called to offer spiritual leadership in their local church.

Focal Ministry is the name being given to this emerging form of ministry, which involves enabling prayer and worship, encouraging others in deepening their faith and equipping local churches to bless their communities.

The role of a Focal Minister is to offer spiritual leadership to a local church or benefice. They are faithful people who are:

- **Rooted** in their community
- The **visible** face of the church
- **Fruitful** in encouraging the growth of faith and gifts in others.

Liz Rawlings, our Discipleship and Vocations Enabler, has been reflecting on what she has been noticing, and explains: "As I have travelled around the diocese, I have met a number of people offering local leadership in their churches, enabling prayer and worship, building faith in others and connecting the church with the community.

"It seems that God is at work growing local spiritual leaders and it's inspiring to hear their stories. Our task now is to serve and support this ministry and share what the Spirit is doing among us."

There's more information about Focal Ministry on our website, including a video introduction.

If you'd like to explore Focal Ministry, please join us for an introductory session on Tuesday 14 January at 7pm on Zoom.

Find out more: <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/focal-ministry/>

General Synod Election

Voting will take place in January in the election to fill two vacant clergy places on General Synod.

An email will be sent by Civica Election Services to those eligible to vote on 8 January and the deadline for voting will be 12 noon on 30 January 2025.

The candidates in the election in alphabetical order are: **Caroline Brown, Ben Gardner, Sarah Gill, Matthew Gough, Jitesh Patel, Simon Shouler, Chris Taylor, Paul Towns, Clive Watts**

Candidates are able to request contact details for voters and therefore may make direct contact with those who are eligible to vote.

Any questions about the election should be directed (from 3 January onwards) to: Andy.Brockbank@LeicesterCofE.org

Tanzania Trip – Initial Meeting

Tuesday 21 January, 7-9pm – The Church of the Martyrs, Leicester

We are currently working towards a visit to our partner diocese in Tanzania in 2025. Would you like to be part of this link diocese learning exchange visit?

In particular, we would like to invite ‘developing’ leaders to be part of the team, including curates, lay ministers in training, emerging leaders in Intercultural Worshipping Communities and the Mothers’ Union.

Whether you consider yourself to be in one of the above categories, if you are a supporter of someone who is one of those leaders, or if you just have a keen interest to discover more about our link dioceses and the visit, then you are warmly invited to this initial meeting. **Find out more:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/link-diocese-learning-exchange-visit-for-leaders.php>

Bishops’ Christmas Message 2024



The Bishops’ Christmas Message reminds us that Christ came for all people.

The video features Christmas wishes in many languages, thanks to the community of Hope Hamilton Church of England Primary School.

Reflecting on the variety of cultures represented at this year’s Global Carol Service, Bishop Sajju says; “We must remember that Jesus grew up in a rich tapestry of cultures, and it is no wonder that He is described as the saviour of the world.”

Bishop Martyn celebrates the diversity across our diocese and encourages us to pray for the many places around the world caught up in violence and oppression; “At this Christmas time, we remember in particular that this Christ child was born as the Prince of Peace; the one who came to

break down the barriers of this world, the one who came to reconcile communities even as we are reconciled with God.”

You’re most welcome to download this video to play in your services.

Watch here: <https://leicester.anglican.org/news/the-bishops-christmas-message.php>



Our latest prayer diary for January – April 2025 takes us on a wonderful journey of revelation through Epiphany and Candlemas, through the anguish of Lent and onto the glorious celebration of Easter.

Copies can be requested by emailing James Pickersgill, the Bishop’s Chaplain:

Racial Justice Sunday – Save the Date

Next year’s Racial Justice Sunday is on 9 February 2025 and marks the 30th anniversary of the initiative.

A pack of resources to help plan services has been compiled by the Racial Justice Sunday Writers’ Group and produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The pack includes service plans, sermon outlines and articles. **Find more information and resources:** <https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-9-february-2025/>

2025 Environment Awareness Days Calendar

A new resource has been published by the Church of England to help churches keep environmental issues in focus.

The 2025 Environment Days and Key Events Calendar lists key days, weeks and months which are associated with the environment, climate change awareness, and reaching net zero carbon.

It is hoped the calendar will help parishes raise awareness about climate change, as well as assist with event and campaign planning to boost support for local eco projects. It can be downloaded as a PDF with links to more information about the events featured.

Download the Calendar PDF here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/environment-calendar-2025.pdf>

See more from the Church of England Environmental Programme:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme>

