



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 20th March 2025

Sunday 23rd March, Lent 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)

Sunday 30th March, Lent 4, Mothering Sunday

10am **Gaulby** Morning Prayer Mothering Sunday (Hilary Painter)
11am **Billesdon** Mothering Sunday (Revd Christine Blodwell)
11am **Hungarton** Mothering Sunday (Revd John Taylor)
11am **Church Langton** Mothering Sunday **Launde Deanery/ Minister Community Service**
11am Launde Deanery **Mothering Sunday Zoom Service**

APRIL

Sunday 6th April, Lent 5, Passiontide begins

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
10.30am **Illston** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**
4pm **Billesdon** Stainer's Crucifixion sung by Billesdon Church Choir

Sunday 13th April, Holy Week, Palm Sunday

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

Monday 14th April, Holy Week

7pm **Keyham** Compline (Revd Philip Norwood)

Tuesday 15th April, Holy Week

7pm **Hungarton** (Revd Philip Norwood)

Thursday 17th April, Holy Week

7pm **Billesdon** Maundy Thursday

Friday 18th April, Holy Week, Good Friday

2pm **Skeffington** Words & Music
7pm **Gaulby** Good Friday Service (Hilary Painter) **This service will be live streamed on Zoom**

Sunday 20th April, Easter Day

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
9am **Skeffington** Easter Sunday (Revd John Taylor)
10am **Gaulby** Easter Sunday (Hilary Painter)
10.30am **Keyham** Easter Sunday (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
11am **Billesdon** Easter Sunday Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)
11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service** Easter Sunday

Sunday 27th April, Easter 2

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)

Holy Week – Services at Launde Abbey

All from Launde Deanery are welcome to join

Holy Week Days	Service
Monday	12pm Midday Eucharist
Tuesday	12pm Midday Eucharist
Wednesday	12pm Midday Eucharist
Thursday	12pm Midday Prayer with Anointing // 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist
Friday	12pm The Midday Passion
Saturday	
Sunday	7.30am Easter Eucharist

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=HD1LgagamMFBN2y1m7p226w0h2KVKj.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2029 7969

Passcode: 470000

Sunday 23rd March 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

World Day of Prayer Zoom Service

Leader & Responder: Madeleine Wang

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 #

Collect for Sunday 23rd March

Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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**

Contact Us:

Hilary Painter: 0116 259 9752

hilarypainter@rocketmail.com

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/

07754395006 keithevans6@btinternet.com

Reflection: Sunday 23rd March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

Luke 13:1-9

The two stories and a parable set for our gospel reading this Sunday are all about repentance, while at the same time challenging a notion that was prevalent in the thoughts of Jewish people at those times, and still lurking in human thought today, that if bad things happen to you it must be because you were an evil person. So, the first story told to Jesus by some in the crowd is the murder by Pontius Pilate of some Galilean pilgrims in Jerusalem. We are not told the circumstances of this judicial murder only that it happened, but we know that this type of act was completely within Pilate's character. Jesus rejects the notion that their deaths were due to their sinfulness and strengthens his argument by referring to another contemporary tragedy of that time, the collapse of a tower in Jerusalem, which killed 18 people. In both cases he refutes sinfulness as the cause of the tragedies but warns his listeners that they too will perish if they do not respond to his gospel. To conclude his point, he then tells the parable of the fig tree. The fig tree was a symbol of Jewish Nationhood, so the choice of that tree was not an accident, and the overall message of the parable was clear. The whole nation of Israel would be given one more chance to flourish by God by accepting Jesus, with the implication being that if they again failed to bear the fruit of righteousness through faith in Jesus, then they would be supplanted and others including gentiles would be planted there instead, who would through faith bear the fruit of righteousness. A sobering thought as we reflect on our own lives during lent.

Mike Hammond

Bible Readings:

Sunday 23rd March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55.1-9

- 1 Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters; and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
- 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not
bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen
carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- 3 Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an
everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- 5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

- 6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
- 7 let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to
the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord .
- 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 10.1-13

- 1 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all
passed through the sea,
2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in
the sea,
3 and all ate the same spiritual food,
4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank
from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock
was Christ.
- 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of
them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.
- 6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that
we might not desire evil as they did.
- 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is
written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they
rose up to play.'
- 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of
them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.
- 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them
did, and were destroyed by serpents.
- 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were
destroyed by the destroyer.
- 11 These things happened to them to serve as an
example, and they were written down to instruct us, on
whom the ends of the ages have come.
- 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you
do not fall.
- 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to
everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be
tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will
also provide the way out so that you may be able to
endure it.

Luke 13.1-9

- 1 At that very time there were some present who told
him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled
with their sacrifices.
- 2 He asked them, 'Do you think that because these
Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners
than all other Galileans?'
- 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish
as they did.
- 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of
Siloam fell on them-do you think that they were worse
offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?

Fridays in Lent at Gaulby Church 12.30-2pm




Agape Service Maundy Thursday at 6.30pm St Thomas Becket Church, Tugby

To reserve your place contact Madeleine Wang:
madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com



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>

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/>



Christian Aid News – Unstoppable Hope amidst Aid cuts

By Pete Moorey

Last month the UK government cut the Aid budget – a decision that, along with the decimation of US aid, is having a devastating impact on the world's poorest countries: from people in refugee camps whose food parcels will shrink to children awaiting life-saving vaccines. The support of churches is now more important than ever as Christian Aid is uniquely placed to bring hope and make a real difference by working through local partners.

We witnessed this unstoppable power of hope recently through a partner in Gaza, who formed a group called *Let's Create a Life* to give children respite from the trauma of war. Support from churches like yours allows this group to provide fun learning activities for displaced children. Abdullah from *Let's Create a Life* told Christian Aid: "In the children's ward of a hospital, there was a child who wouldn't engage with the doctors and was always depressed. I came dressed as a clown doctor, and we started playing and laughing with the kids. The doctors said it was the first time they'd seen that child laugh. That's what life is about. In *Let's Create a Life*, we can shape the lives we want, despite the pain and wounds, the losses we've experienced."

To continue to support Christian Aid's work in conflict zones across the world, visit www.christianaid.org.uk

Photo by Majdi Fathi

Abdullah, 26, Mossab (rabbit), and Mazen, 18, are children's entertainers in Gaza. Here they perform as clowns at a school fun day. The school is currently used to shelter families displaced from Gaza city. Mossab also lives inside the school. All of the performers are displaced.





NEW - Cathedral Services to Mark the 10th Anniversary of the Reinterment of King Richard III

Service of Compline – Sunday 23 March, 7pm (doors 6.30pm)

A solemn and contemplative evening service of music and prayer honouring the memory of the last Plantagenet king. The ancient office of Compline derives its name from the Latin completorium ('completion'). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

NEW: Sacred Stories: Retelling the History of Horninghold



St Peter's Church in Horninghold was recently awarded a grant of £174,926 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), to address repairs, make the building more accessible, and celebrate its history

The project began in response to urgent repairs beyond the means of the small village community, but it became clear there were greater possibilities for St Peter's, as PCC member Mary Twidell explains:

"Through making the application for the NLHF grant we became aware of, and excited by, the opportunities this could give to tell the story of the history of our church and village," she says

"It is very humbling and inspiring when you walk along the path to the church and pray within it to realise that for over eight centuries people have come here and offered prayers of joy and sorrow. We want this to continue over the next centuries.

"From the very start we have offered prayers for the task before us and we saw the answer to our prayers with the success of the NLHF grant and other grants that, together with

the years of fundraising within our community, are making the project possible. It is our hope that by encouraging others to engage with the heritage and come into the church they will experience a sense of a welcoming Christian community."

Read the full story:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/sacred-stories-retelling-the-history-of-horninghold.php>

NEW: Dean's Discussion: Whose Story is it Anyway?

Thursday 25 March, 7pm – Leicester Cathedral (doors 6.30pm)

The Very Revd Karen Rooms, Dean of Leicester, will be joined by a panel to discuss untold stories and connected histories that will challenge us to see the world differently.

The panel will include:

Eleanor Nesbitt, professor in the University of Warwick. Her research has focused on the lives of Sikh, Hindu and Christian families.

Surinder Kaur Sandhu, who has had a sterling career as a radio newscaster and read the news in Punjabi for the Leicester BBC Asian Network.

Manjit Atwal QPM, a retired Chief Supt. who was commended for her distinguished Policing career and awarded the Queens Policing medal. She was one of the highest-ranking Sikh women locally and nationally.

Register for free on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/deans-discussion-whose-story-is-it-anyway-tickets-1270174519179?aff=oddtcreator>

This discussion will take place alongside 'Medieval Women Forging the Way: Influential Women of the Sikh World and Beyond,' an exhibition being held in Leicester Cathedral until 31 March.

Lent and Easter at Launde Abbey

There are lots of opportunities to pray and reflect at Launde Abbey throughout Lent and Holy Week.

A number of 'Soul-Filled Meanderings' are taking place, led by Jo de Graff, and including a guided walk, prayer service and soup lunch. **See details here:**

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events/category/soulfilledmeanderings/>

On *Ash Wednesday*, 5 March, the administration of ash will be offered at all of Launde's services – midday and 5pm for non-residents.

A retreat is being held throughout *Holy Week*. You can join for as much as you like by booking an overnight stay or attending for the day. **See details here:**

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/holyweek2025/>

NEW – Embrace the Difference: Unconscious Bias Training

Friday 11 April, 6pm-9pm -Thurnby Lodge, Christ Church, Leicester LE5 2HQ

A training workshop to help us examine our biases, understand how they become embedded, and explore God's design in diversity. Come and be equipped with knowledge and skills to help you better engage with people from all cultures.

This training is free and a meal will be provided.

Sign up by emailing the IWC project

administrator: Dinta.Chauhan@LeicesterCofE.org

Stations of the Cross at Leicester Cathedral

Exhibition: Stations of the Cross until 21st April

The Stations of the Cross are an ever-evolving form of devotion and contemplation in the Christian tradition. They form a narration of the final hours of the life of Jesus Christ on earth. Originating in Jerusalem, as Pilgrims arrived wanting to follow Jesus' journey, the practice was brought home to those unable to visit the Holy Land.

Different Christian traditions have included different stations; scriptural, imaginative or educational, all designed to bring us closer to the person of Jesus, the path he trod, the effect this wrought on those closest to him and on those he encountered for the first/only time.

Artist Mark Cazalet has painted images on Bread boards (Jesus being the Bread of Life), in dialogue with devotional poems and prompts from Richard Leaf, for pilgrims treading the path themselves. We invite you to follow the journey here at Leicester Cathedral and explore The Stations of the Cross for yourself. ***The stations of the cross can be seen with free admission during the Cathedral's opening hours.***



The Bishop's Lent appeal 2025 – The Leprosy Mission

The Bishops' Lent Appeal for 2025 is in support of The Leprosy Mission, a Christian charity who work to provide healing and hope to those affected by leprosy.

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. Although it is curable, millions of people worldwide are living with the effects of the disease, from physical disability to mental health problems, poverty and discrimination.

Caring for those with leprosy is a cause close to the heart of the Bishop of Loughborough, Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly, and a cause which has historical roots in Leicestershire.

Bishop Saju recently visited the village of Burton Lazars and the site of what was an historic administrative centre for the care of leprosy across the nation.

He also stopped by St James' Church, which is home to 'Roger', a carved stone leper head, and one of just a few preserved relics from this time.

Here, he was taken back to his days growing up in a leprosy hospital in Bengaluru where his mother served as a nurse and, in this video, speaks about that time and the plight of The Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka today.

Watch Bishop Saju and find everything you need:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/lent2025.php>

Evangelist Retreat

Thursday 10 April to Friday 11 April – Launde Abbey

Are you a lay evangelist? Would you like to spend time with others, sharing ideas, worship, reflection and resourcing? Church Army's Resources team are joining with Launde Abbey to facilitate a retreat for anyone who is an evangelist or whose work includes mission and evangelism.

Cost £150. **Click here to book:**

[https://booking.eu.guestline.app/LAUNDE/availability?hotel=LAUNDE&arrival=2025-04-10&departure=2025-04-11&adults=1&children=0&filters\[rates\]\[\]=ENT_CHU_ARMY](https://booking.eu.guestline.app/LAUNDE/availability?hotel=LAUNDE&arrival=2025-04-10&departure=2025-04-11&adults=1&children=0&filters[rates][]=ENT_CHU_ARMY) or

call Launde Abbey on 01572717254.

For more information email jane.henderson@churcharmy.org

Being Missional Today - Day Conference

Tuesday 10 June, 9:30am-5pm – Coventry Cathedral

A festival of missional thinking exploring the impact of disruptions in church and world, the liminality of this current season, and the role of reconciliation practices.

Featuring 22 different speakers, with Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani and Revd Dr Al Barrett headlining.

Being Missional Today promises to be a stimulating event for those looking for inspiration in the missional challenges facing us today. **Full details and bookings:** <https://reconciliation-initiatives.org/being-missional-today/>

