



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: 21st November 2024

Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

Sunday 24th November, Sunday next before Advent,

Christ the King

9am **Skeffington** CW Holy Communion (Revd J Hopewell)

11am **Billesdon** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

6pm **Gaulby** Holy Communion (Revd Christine Blodwell)

DECEMBER

Sunday 1st December, Advent 1

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** Advent Choral Evensong (Revd John Taylor)

6.30pm **Keyham** Lights Remembrance Service (Revd Philip Norwood)

Sunday 8th December, Advent 2

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**

4pm **Hungarton** Carols & Christingle (Revd Philip Norwood)

Sunday 15th December, Advent 3

10.30am **Keyham** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am **Billesdon** Songs of Praise (Revd Christine Blodwell)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

4pm **Godby** Carol Service (Revd Philip Norwood)

6pm **Illston** Evening Service (Hilary Painter)

Wednesday 18th December, Advent 3

6.30pm **Little Stretton** Carol Service

7.30pm **Skeffington** Lessons & Carols (Revd Philip Norwood)

Thursday 19th December, Advent 3

6pm Launde Deanery **Zoom Carol Service** (preceded by Christmas Party at 5pm)

6.30pm **Keyham** Carol Service (Revd Philip Norwood)

6.30pm **Gaulby Lodge Farm** Carols in the barn (Hilary Painter)

Sunday 22nd December, Advent 4, Christmas

9am **Skeffington** CW Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

6pm **Gaulby** Holy Communion (Revd Christine Blodwell)

6pm **Billesdon** Nine Lessons & Carols (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

Tuesday 24th December, Advent 4, Christmas Eve

5pm **Hungarton** Crib Service (Revd John Taylor)

5pm **Illston** Carol Service (Hilary Painter)

10pm **Billesdon** Christmas Communion (Revd Philip Norwood)

Wednesday 25th December, Advent 4, Christmas Day

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Philip Norwood)

10am **Billesdon** Christmas Day Service (Revd Jonathan Dowman)

10am **Gaulby** Christmas Day Holy Communion (Revd Christine Blodwell)

10.30am **Keyham** Holy Communion (Revd Philip Norwood)

11am Launde Deanery **Christmas Day Zoom Service**

Sunday 29th December, 1st Sunday after Christmas

11am **Tilton** Launde Deanery/ Minster Community Service, *livestreamed on Zoom*

📅 Sunday 24th November 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Leader & Reflection: Madeleine Wang

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

PLEASE USE THIS LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKI91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.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 #

📅 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

Collect for Sunday 24th November

Sunday next before Advent,

Christ the King

Eternal Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven

that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit

and in the bond of peace,

and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Contact Us:

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Reflection: 24th November 2024

Sunday next before Advent,

Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King is not even 100 years old. In 1925 Pope Pius XI established it on the last Sunday of October as a prelude to All Saints, though it was widely thought by other denominations the idea was to have a Roman Catholic festival to counterbalance Reformation Sunday that Lutherans and others celebrate on that day. It was moved in 1969 to the last Sunday of the Church's year because of its link to the Second Coming of Christ. Subsequently, all the major denominations have adopted the feast and what may have started out as a symbol of division has become a symbol of unity. And so it should. As Christians we all acknowledge Christ as our King and that is what sets us apart from the secular world. The gospel preached by Jesus and the kingdom he chose are the yardstick by our society is measured and often found wanting. By declaring our faith in him we declare that we do not depend on the world's standards and values for our identity, nor do we use them in our assessment of others. We confess our faith in a kingdom that is in the world but not of the world.

Wolf Hall is back on our television screens and reminds us of the problems many faced when confronted by a king who declared himself Supreme Head of the Church of England, when the head of the church is not a mere mortal but Christ himself. Today our King is Supreme Governor of the Church of England but his role in the church is now largely symbolic in a similar way to his secular authority. However, in China the state insists that its authority overrides any religious affiliations and, with the Russian Orthodox church largely in the pocket of the state, the situation there is much the same. We can celebrate the Feast of Christ the King with joy and without fear of reprisal but, in so doing, remember those who do so in the knowledge it may cost them dearly.

Rev'd Jeff Hopewell

Bible Readings:

Sunday 24th November 2024

Sunday next before Advent,

Christ the King

Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

9 As I watched, thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
10 A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement,
and the books were opened.

13 As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
14 To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Revelation 1.4b-8

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
6 and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
7 Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.
8 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18.33-37

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'
34 Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'
35 Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?'
36 Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.'
37 Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

Launde Deanery Zoom Service on Sunday 17th November – Quote from C S Lewis *The Presence of the Lord*

On Sunday, Joanne Newlon, South Carolina, USA, led our Intercessions. Joanne included this powerful quote from C S Lewis:

“In the encounter with the divine we feel something grander than ourselves. It is not a feeling of comfort but a sense of inescapable reality. Before God all illusions fall away, and we realize we are seen, known, and loved like never before. When we pray sincerely we can feel the presence of the Lord.”

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>



Discover Churches: A New Toolkit

Discover Churches is a new resource designed to help volunteers extend a warm and meaningful welcome to visitors exploring church heritage, art, and community. It was launched at the recent Church Visitor and Tourist Association conference. **Find out more at the National Churches Trust website:**

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore/discover-churches-toolkit>

Pastoral Message from Bishop Martyn



Bishop Martyn has recorded a pastoral message, following the release of the Makin Review and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

In it he also talks more generally about Safeguarding and shares an update on the Minster Community process.

Watch the Pastoral Message:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/pastoral-message-from-bishop-martyn.php>

If you or anyone you are in contact with are affected by the recent publication of the Makin Review and want to talk to someone independently, you can [contact the diocesan safeguarding team](#).

Alternatively, call the Safe Spaces helpline on 03003031056 or visit safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

It's never too late to come forward. You will be listened to, supported, cared for, and advised.



Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025

The bishops have chosen to support The Leprosy Mission as their Lent Appeal charity for 2025.

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. That's more than 200,000 new cases a year. 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.

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Everything the charity does is focused on its goals of zero leprosy transmission, zero leprosy disability and zero leprosy discrimination. They work in four key areas to achieve this – diagnosing and treating leprosy; caring for disabled people; fighting stigma; and advocating for change and pioneering research.

The Leprosy Mission runs projects in countries across Africa and Asia, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Niger, Myanmar, Mozambique and Sri Lanka. *The Bishops' Lent Appeal will centre around the charity's work in Sri Lanka. More details will be shared in the new year. Visit Leprosy Mission UK:* <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk>

The Bishop of Leicester and the Bishop of Loughborough are pleased to announce the appointment of Sophie Holder as Director of Racial Equity for the Diocese of Leicester.

Bishop Martyn said: "I am delighted that Sophie has agreed to take on this key role in the diocese. Sophie brings a wealth of experience in equality, diversity, inclusion and most significantly, racial equity, and will take the lead in forging ahead with this important work in the diocese. I look forward to welcoming her."

"I am passionate about creating a culture of inclusion and belonging and, as Director of Racial Equity for the Diocese of Leicester, will ensure that community, compassion and equity – as exemplified by Christ – is at the heart of my work," said Sophie. "...Building and achieving racial equity will be a journey, one that will take time, change, wisdom and faith. There will be triumphs and challenges, but I believe if we stay the course, God will transform our diocese into a place that welcomes, serves, and introduces all to Christ."

Sophie will be commissioned to her new role at Diocesan Synod on Saturday 23 November 2024 and will begin work on Friday 6 December 2024.

The role of Diocesan Director of Racial Equity has been made possible by national church Racial Justice funding and has been offered on an initial three-year term, by approval of our Bishops' Council and Diocesan Synod.

Read more about Sophie and her role:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/bishops-appoint-sophie-holder-as-diocesan-director-of-racial-equity.php>

New Webinar: Digital Giving for Advent and Christmas

This webinar will explore how Digital Giving can support your church, from online donations to contactless and in-person giving options, plus QR codes and promotional material. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to schedule a 1:1 Zoom session with Ariel Baker from Generous Giving, where you'll receive personalised guidance on setting up a free digital giving QR code.

Webinar Dates:

- November 22, 11am

To reserve your spot, or if you have any questions, please email: Ariel.Baker@LeicesterCofE.org

Supporting our Link Diocese: Fundraising for New Benches in Kiteto Cathedral



A diocesan campaign to raise enough money to provide durable, long-lasting seating in Kiteto Cathedral, is appealing to churches to donate the price of one bench.

The Dioceses of Leicester and Kiteto in Tanzania have been linked since 1982. We, as a diocese, partner with Kiteto to support the area in improving education, training pastors, planting churches and by offering financial support for emergencies arising from natural causes.

At the moment, much of the seating is plastic chairs that gradually and inevitably depreciate. The Cathedral currently have six benches and are asking for 62 – at £55 each. Could your church donate a bench? **Read the full story and how to donate:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/supporting-our-link-diocese-fundraising-for-new-benches-in-kiteto-cathedral.php>



Everyone is warmly invited to our Global Carol Service, an intercultural celebration of Christmas followed by refreshments and drinks.

In addition to the cathedral choir, we will have carols, readings, and prayers in various languages. Join us as we come together to embrace one another across cultural and ethnic boundaries, celebrating with joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
