Launde Minster Community Newsletter



Edition Date: Wednesday 24th December 2025

<u>Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day and Sunday 28th December, First Sunday of Christmas</u>

Attached is the MC Worship Plans for **JANUARY 2026** (as of 24th December)

This is <u>your</u> newsletter so please use it to share your notices, events and invite others to join you.

Please send me any contributions by Tuesday before the Thursday publication.

If you know anyone who would like to be added to the list to receive a copy of the newsletter, please send me their name and email address to:

l.jones2k@btointernet.com 07851163712

You can also find the Minster Community Worship Plan, and the links for online services, on the website: https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk

Our Churches Online:

All of our churches have web pages on
'A Church Near You' – This link takes you to the
Launde Minster Community page, where you can
access each of the churches: https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/our-churches-on-acny

Every Sunday at 8am Launde Abbey Chapel

Holy Communion - *Please come quietly into the chapel* via the external north door to join the Abbey Community and those on retreat. **See Worship Plan for details**

■ Morning Prayer on Zoom

Everyone is welcome

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

All welcome. Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81751227280?pwd=VtUdahsUf34 Vc7Bbr5gVFoeiobrOO8.1

Meeting ID: 817 5122 7280 Passcode: 419620

☐ Thursday 25th December 11am Zoom
Launde Minster Community Zoom Church
Christmas Day

All are welcome

Leader: Linda Jones

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this <u>special</u> link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84690517497?pwd=CWbPR vkKUkgjOazEF0wu4m6vJ8kmNW.1

Meeting ID: 846 9051 7497

Passcode: 209982

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE: T. 0203 481 5240 Enter the **Meeting ID**: 846 9051 7497 followed by #

Enter the Passcode: 209982 followed by #

Contact Us:

Crystal Mcallister <u>pioneercrystal136@gmail.com</u> 07890 020012

Wendy Lewis <u>wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org</u> 07777 934092

■ Sunday 28th December 11am

Launde Deanery Minster Community Service

<u>Livestream from Tilton</u> All are welcome

Leader: Revd Crystal McAllister

To join the livestream, click on this zoom link:

 $\frac{\text{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKI9}}{1 \text{dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.1}}$

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 #

Christmas Day



Collects for Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen

Bible Readings: Thursday 25th December 2025 Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.2-7

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-

on them light has shined.

- 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Titus 2.11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

12 training us to renounce implety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,

13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

- 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' [15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name; tell out his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols; it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Honour and majesty are before him; power and splendour are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

- he will judge the peoples with equity.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
- 12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; with righteousness he will judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

Sunday 28th December First Sunday of Christmas Collects

Almighty God,

who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Reflection: Sunday 28th December First Sunday of Christmas

Matthew 2: 13-end

The reading today surrounds the story of the flight from Israel into Egypt by the holy family and the subsequent murder of the holy innocents in Bethlehem by Herod, which forms part of Matthew's narrative of the birth story of Jesus. This story is doubted by many theologians as there is no record of it in the histories of the time, and Josephus (a Jewish Historian) for example was very keen to catalogue the crimes of Herod's despotism, including the murder of two of his own sons, who Herod believed were seeking to remove him as King. Cesar Augustus commented on hearing the story that he would sooner be Herod's pig than Herod's son! This fact alone should suggest that Herod was perfectly capable of such a despicable act and given the number and variety of his appalling crimes, historians could have deemed this act not to be worthy of a mention! What are we to learn from this story? Despite Herod's evil, God's providence allowed the Holy Family to survive and like the original Jewish people return from Egypt in due season to fulfil the work that God had given Jesus to do. As a new year dawns we can trust God to do the same for us.

Mike Hammond

Bible Readings: Sunday 28th December First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63.7-9

7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us,

and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy,

according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

8 For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour

9 in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hebrews 2.10-end

10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12 saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'
13 And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again,
'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'
14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood,
he himself likewise shared the same things, so that
through death he might destroy the one who has the
power of death, that is, the devil,

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2.13-end

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,

15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 'A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.'

21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Sunday 28th December First Sunday of Christmas Psalm 148

- Alleluia.
 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people

and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia

Sunday 28th December at 11am

Launde Deanery and Minster Community Service St Peter's, Tilton on the Hill



Praying Pilgrims

Launde Minster Community December

As part of our ongoing support to all the parishes across the LMC, a group of us, *Praying Pilgrims*, will join together at the churches listed, to reflect and pray for the needs of the church and community.

Every Wednesday for a 9.00am start.

The rota for December is:

December 03: Skeffington December 10: Loddington December 17: Tugby December 24: Owston

We would greatly welcome and encourage anyone to join us, if they can.

Rev David Palmer and Rev Crystal McAllister

Launde Minster Community: Consolidation of Sunday Morning Services

Message from Revd Crystal McAllister

Dear Friends,

I am writing to share an important update regarding our worship pattern across the Launde Deanery Minster Community.

After much discussion and discernment at our recent Chapter Meetings, and following conversations with lay ministers and clergy with Permission to Officiate (PTO), we have agreed to adjust our Sunday service times. From 1st January, our services will move to 9.30am and 11.00am.

This change is intended to help us sustain worship well across our many churches, and it will be **reviewed after a suitable period** to ensure it continues to serve our communities effectively.

There are several reasons behind this decision:

1. Supporting clergy with PTO who serve across multiple parishes

The new times will make travel between churches much more manageable, ensuring clergy are not overstretched and can be fully present pastorally at each service. This also helps us maintain consistent patterns of worship across the LDMC.

2. Strengthening and mentoring lay-led worship

The revised timetable creates more space for me—and others in leadership—to accompany, mentor, support and develop lay leaders. As we grow a culture of shared ministry, this time is essential for nurturing confidence, creativity, and good practice.

3. Continuing early Holy Communion at Launde Abbey Launde Abbey will continue to offer Holy Communion at 8.00am each Sunday. This ensures that those who value an early, reflective Eucharist still have this opportunity nearby.

4. Encouraging parishes to explore a wider range of worship

Alongside this change, I would also like to invite each church to consider whether **additional or alternative service types** might serve your community well. This could include, for example:

- a Service of Wholeness and Healing
- a contemplative or Celtic-style service
- a café-style gathering
- seasonal or community-focused worship
- services aimed at families, new communities, or those exploring faith

Please begin to reflect locally on what might nurture spiritual growth and deepen engagement in your village. I am very happy to support these conversations. Please also consider the types of services that you can provide with neighbouring churches. If you would like me to come and speak with your benefice or grouping, do get in touch.

I also ask for your patience as Linda [Jones] and I navigate this piece of work.

With every blessing,
Revd Crystal McAllister
Oversight Minister
Launde Deanery Minster Community



Licensing of John Morrison as Focal Minister at Rosewood Manor

On Sunday 14th December, there was a very special event in the Launde Minster Community: the licensing of John Morrison as a Focal Minister in the Care Home in which he lives.

John was a Churchwarden at Hungarton for over 20 years. He is now a very active member of the congregation of the Launde Minster Community Online Church.

Since John moved to Rosewood Manor, he has been a beacon of light to the life of the home and to his fellow residents. He spreads God's word and gives hope and spiritual succour by setting up and leading prayers and services. In his chaplaincy role, he supports and prays with those residents and their families who are in need. At 92 years old, his commitment and dedication are undimmed. John is loved by all at the home, residents and staff alike. We witnessed this when his licensing was held at Rosewood Manor.

The service was beautiful and emotional. Revd Crystal McAllister, Oversight Minister, led the service. 21 people attended in person, including residents, staff, his daughter Julia, and friends from churches, including Hungarton. The service was live-streamed, with 19 people joining from our Zoom Online Church and others, including Sarah, another of John's daughters who lives in Florida.

John's outstanding ministerial role at Rosewood Manor was recognised by him being licensed as a Focal Minster there and in the Launde Minster Community.

A powerful, moving, personal message was shared on video by Bishop Saju. Another video message of congratulations and blessings came from Canon Charlie Allen of Durham Cathedral, where John is a regular attender of their online services.

Our prayers and blessings go to John as he carries out God's calling at Rosewood Manor.













St Peter's Church, Tilton: Friday Mornings 'Coffee and Chat'

Between 10.30 – 12.00noon

<u>Café Morrell</u> St Michael and All Angels Church, Hallaton Tuesday Mornings *Coffee, Cake and Chat*

Between 10.00 to 12.30pm



Hallaton Museum – Online Talk 'Following in the footsteps of medieval church art' by Dr Miriam Gill

Tuesday 27th January at 7pm by Zoom





Miriam Gill, from Vaughan College, is an expert on medieval wall-painting. She gave an excellent talk at the Hallaton Festival of Archaeology this year, so we are delighted that she has agreed to give this talk online for us. The talk is free but donations are appreciated.

Everyone is welcome

If you would like to attend, please contact Linda Jones on l.jones2k@btinternet.com or 07851 163712

A date for your diary: Friday 6th March 2026 World Day of Prayer 'I will give you rest, come' at St Thomas Beckett Church, Tugby

The service in March 2026 has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria.



We would love you to join with us from other churches across the Minster Community to plan this special service. It is a team effort, so it is not too time-consuming. The next meeting of the Planning Group is on Friday 16th January at 10.30am in Tugby Church. Let Linda Jones know if you would like to attend:

L.jones2k@btinternet.com

Food Bank Appeal: The Well

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

Food Bank Appeal: Jubilee Foodbank

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks.

Jubilee Foodbank Market Harborough

You can drop off donations at **Hallaton Church** or to Linda Jones at **25**, **Eastgate**, **Hallaton** *at any time*. Please note that all food collected is non-perishable, long-life or tinned.

The Foodbank has **MOST URGENT NEED of:**Porridge Oats, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed),
Teabags, Sugar (500g), Deodorant, Tinned Fruit, Jam,
Corned Beef.

They also need:

Crackers, Fray Bentos pies, Tinned vegetarian meals, Cereal, Tinned Ham, Pasta sauces, Tinned Sweetcorn, Baked Beans with Sausages, Tinned chicken, Hot Dogs (Tins or jars,) Tinned red meat, Tinned Carrots, Tinned meatballs, Chicken in sauce, Dried potatoes (Smash), Marmalade, Biscuits, Tinned potatoes, Crisps, Tinned tomatoes, Tinned chickpeas, mixed chilli beans, lentils, Custard, Tinned rice pudding, Sachet meals (pan or microwave), 'No Cook' meals for the homeless, Cordial, Coffee (small jars), Pasta sauce, Tinned soup, Cup of soup, Tinned peas, Meals that do not need cooking e.g. John West Fish and rice meals, Snacks and cereal bars, Fruit squash/juice, Microwave puddings, Peanut butter, Tinned Pasta, Sandwich paste, Tuna, ALPRO yoghurts (long-life, for the shelf not fridge), Long-life meals, Robinsons minis or similar for families (small squash concentrates), Small cartons of long life milk (for homeless people or someone without a fridge) The list of food always required is on the website:

https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk

Where possible and available, consider giving tins with a ring-pull as these can also be used for homeless people where the food is appropriate (e.g. fish, tinned fruit, etc)



Extracts from Diomail Monday 22nd December

For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 22nd December:

https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-22-december-

2025/?newsletter email=l.jones2k@btinternet.com

You can subscribe to receive the weekly Diomail here:

https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/diomail/ https://leicester.anglican.org/calendar/

A Christmas Message from the Bishop of Leicester and the Bishop of Loughborough



In their Christmas Message for 2025, Bishop Martyn and Bishop Saju invite us to stop, look and really notice the people who show up in the Christmas story.

They remind us of the surprises of the Christmas story and that those who appear in the story are not the powerful or privileged, but rather the humble, marginalized, and diverse.

And that Christmas – notably Christ – is for all of us.

You can watch it now or **download it here** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PjAHstc4S9Ulfahp6DSyzb4gQtjjQl7o/view to share in your church.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas.

Watch now: https://leicester.anglican.org/news/a-christmas-message-from-the-bishop-of-leicester-and-the-bishop-of-loughborough.php

A Christmas Invitation

The Church of England has published a video inviting everyone to discover the joy of Christmas at their local church.

You can watch it and share it on their social media channels:

YouTube | Facebook | X | Instagram

One in Christ: Global Carol Service Unites



It was a colourful celebration of unity and diversity as the Diocese of Leicester hosted its annual Global Carol Service for 2025 at St Paul's Church in Oadby.

The evening, themed "Explore Love, Experience Joy, Embrace Unity," drew congregations, schools, chaplaincies and a diverse range of communities from across the diocese for worship through music, dance, poetry and prayer.

Seventeen languages filled the church with carols and readings reflecting the global character of Christmas, in a service that showcased the gift of intercultural worship and the hope found in Christ.

Talking about the service, Michael Ravuri, Intercultural Ministry Enabler said: "We are thankful to God for this opportunity and to those who invested their time and gifts to make this Global Carol Service a powerful testimony to the beauty of diversity and the unity we find in Christ, our Lord and Saviour."

Read the full story:

https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/one-in-christ-global-carol-service-unites.php