



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 17th April 2025

Thursday 17th April, Holy Week

7pm **Billesdon** Maundy Thursday

Friday 18th April, Holy Week, Good Friday

2pm **Skeffington** "The Crucifixion" by Stainer *Everyone is welcome*

7pm **Gaulby** Good Friday Service (Hilary Painter) *This service will be live streamed on Zoom (see link opposite)*

Sunday 20th April, Easter Day

5.15am **Sunrise Service on top of the Caudle**, led by Revd Jonathan Dowman. Meet just off the Stonton Wyville crossroads. We will walk up the hill in time for sunrise at 5:40 am. Everyone is then welcome to join us at our house for croissants and coffee. If you'd like to join, please let me know so that we don't leave you behind.

Jonathan.Dowman@LeicesterCofE.org

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

9am **Skeffington** Easter Sunday (Revd John Taylor)

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

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 J 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 20th April 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Easter Day Zoom Service

Leader & Responder: Hilary Painter

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 #

Contact Us:

Hilary Painter: 0116 259 9752

hilarypainter@rocketmail.com

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/

07754395006 keith.evans6@btinternet.com

Collect for Sunday 20th April

Easter Day

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen**

Friday 18th April 7.00pm Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Good Friday Service Live from Gaulby

Leader: Hilary Painter

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

PLEASE USE THIS SPECIAL LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87997426465?pwd=EJwqplpxZHdSyq29gOeexX6kxt2pc9.1>

Meeting ID: 879 9742 6465

Passcode: 127761

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:

T. 0203 481 5240

Enter the **Meeting ID:** 879 9742 6465 followed by #

Enter the **Passcode:** 127761 followed by #

Holy Week – Services at Launde Abbey

All from Launde Deanery are welcome to join

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

Reflection: Sunday 20th April 2025

Easter Day

Walking with Christ to the Cross

As we journey through Holy Week, we are invited to walk alongside Jesus in His final days, his path marked by humility, suffering, and ultimately, victory. From the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the sorrow of the cross and then the joy of the resurrection, this week is a powerful reminder of God's love poured out for us. On Palm Sunday we were called to reflect on the kind of King Jesus is - not one who conquers by force, but a humble King, riding a donkey, who reigns with mercy. Maundy Thursday reveals the depth of Jesus, the servant king, as He kneels to wash the feet of His disciples and shares the Last Supper, offering His body and blood as the new promise of grace and blessing.

On Good Friday we are faced with the enormity of the cross. In its solemn moments, we are reminded that the cost of sin is real - but so is the limitless mercy of God. Jesus's final words on the cross, 'It is finished,' echo with both suffering and triumph. He bore our failings to bring us healing.

And then comes the silence of Holy Saturday - a day of waiting and uncertainty, but also a day of quiet hope. It echoes times in our own lives when God seems silent but, honestly, His promise still stands.

Finally, Easter dawns bringing the truth that death does not have the final word. Jesus is risen. Hope lives. And because He lives, we know we can face all our tomorrows with courage and peace.

As we reflect this week, may our lives be transformed by Christ's love, knowing that we're not alone, that he died for us and rose to glory. Have a lovely Easter!

Hilary Painter

Additional Collect for Sunday 20th April Easter Day

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

Bible Readings: Sunday 20th April Easter Day

Acts 10.34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ-he is Lord of all.
37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,
41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

1 Corinthians 15.19-26

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;

22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

John 20.1-18

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.'

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb.

4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

13 They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'

14 When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.'

16 Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'

18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Alternative Reading to John 20.1-18:

Luke 24.1-12

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

3 but when they went in, they did not find the body.

4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

5 The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,

7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'

8 Then they remembered his words,

9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.



John 20.1-18

Communications from Revd Canon Jonathan Dowman, Bishop Martyn Snow and Archdeacon Richard Worsfold on Sunday 13 April 2025:

From Revd Canon Jonathan Dowman, Co-Area Dean:

Dear friends,

I have some news to share with you all.

Last week I was invited to become the next Rector of the Glaven Valley Benefice in North Norfolk (Diocese of Norwich) and I have accepted. While Bishop's Lodge has sent out an official communication to Office Holders and Church Wardens, I wanted to send a personal message to all in the wider Minister Community.

I have been serving Leicester Diocese for 12 years and have loved my time here. Each of our children has passed through Church Langton Primary School, my family and I have led projects and services at Laude Abbey (especially Watershed) and I have had the privilege of working with churches across the Minster Community over the years as we have explored family services, new missional initiatives and navigated COVID 19 together.

For the past three years I have sought to lead our parishes through what becoming a Minster Community might mean for us and although there are many questions and challenges that remain, we have made good progress and I will be sad to leave. I have loved working amongst you and I have held the work with our four schools close to my heart.

The whole family is excited to be taking on a new challenge and we will seek to move to Blakeney once the local schools break up for the summer in July. Although moving is hard, we believe this is where God is leading us and ask for your prayerful support and blessing as we leave.

There will be opportunities to share more over the coming weeks, but I know that the Diocese is preparing for the cover needed for when I leave, that creating a reshaped permanent appointment will be a priority and that there are plans to apply for funding and to appoint a Growing Faith Enabler to continue the work with our schools.

Thank you for your love and support and I will continue to pray for you and our parishes as you pray for me and my family. I would encourage you to share this email with all those who you think need to know this news.

Many thanks,

God Bless!

Jonathan

Revd Jonathan Dowman, Oversight Minister and Co-Area Dean

From The Bishop, Rt Revd Martyn Snow:

With grateful thanks for his ministry and prayers of blessing for the future, we announce that The Revd Canon Jonathan Dowman, currently Oversight Minister, Growing Faith Enabler and Co-Area Dean in the Launde Minister Community and Deanery - having previously been seconded from the role of Parish Transition & Ministry Development Enabler Pioneering - has been appointed as Rector of the Glaven Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Norwich.

Jonathan's final Sunday in the benefice will be 29th June 2025 with a final ministry day of 8th July 2025, before being licensed in the Diocese of Norwich on Monday 28th July 2025 at 7pm at St Nicholas, Blakeney.

Arrangements are in place to enable the provision of interim oversight ministry for the Minster Community pending the appointment of a permanent new Oversight Minister.

From the Archdeacon, the Ven Richard Worsfold:

Dear all

Provision of Interim Oversight Ministry for the Launde Minster Community

Further to the announcement being given out today concerning Jonathan Dowman's new appointment, the following provides additional information relating to arrangements for the provision of interim oversight ministry for the Minster Community which may also be shared as appropriate in churches today and in the coming week: In connection with today's announcement, a stipendiary priest within the diocese has, in response to Bishop Martyn's request, indicated a willingness to offer ministry as an associate priest within the Launde Minster Community, subject to PCC agreement, and to be commissioned by the Bishop as interim oversight minister for a three month period after Jonathan's departure pending the appointment as soon as possible of a permanent new oversight minister.

I will be requesting a meeting with the PCCs of the Coplow Benefice, where the priest would be initially licensed, to discuss this proposal. The Bishop's postponed February meeting with the Launde Minster Community will also be rescheduled for Tuesday 13th May 7pm at Glooston Village Hall in order to discuss this proposal for interim oversight ministry, the arrangements for appointing a permanent oversight minister and other potential forms of ministry support for the Launde Minster Community.

Please be assured of my prayers today for Jonathan, Jonathan's family and all who minister, worship and live within the Launde Minster Community.

Billesdon Morning Coffee Concert

10.30 am, in Billesdon church, this coming Saturday, 19th April We will have "Proper Coffee". Dr Simon Ainge is giving a recital of organ music.

Everyone from our MC would be very welcome

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>



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/>

NOTE: Back copies of Newsletters available on Launde Minster Community website

Do you want to have a look for something in previous editions of the Gaulby and Coplow, and the Hallaton, Whatborough and Loddington Newsletters?

Back copies can be downloaded from the Launde Minster Community website at: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/newsletters>



NEW: Where might we recognise Jesus?

An Easter Message From Bishops Martyn & Saju



In their Easter video message Bishops Martyn and Saju reflect on the ways and places we might recognise Jesus.

See the video and full transcript:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/the-bishops-easter-message-2025.php>

NEW: VE Day 80th Anniversary

On 8 May 2025, we're marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day), when the nation will unite to remember the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Prayers and an outline service to help your church plan services and events are now available online.

Find out more: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/80th-anniversary-end-second-world-war>

NEW: 'We Believe' Nicene Creed Resources Webinar

Thursday 1 May, 2pm – Zoom

A special webinar exploring the new resources available to churches as we celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Learn about the creed and the new resources:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/nicene-creed>

Register for webinar: https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KhqQ5EQMSvaADctRtpBC-w#/registration

Walk of Witness - Good Friday 'It is finished'



While many of our churches will be holding their own walks, services and activities on Good Friday, you are also warmly invited to join the Walk of Witness being run in partnership with the New Testament Church of God and many other churches across Leicester.

Watch the promo video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jbKywvBHEE>

See poster for full details:

https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffd8a9f6aa/content/pages/documents/wow2025_poster.pdf

NEW - Renew Wellbeing Cafés Webinar

Thursday 1 May, 4pm – Zoom

The charity Renew Wellbeing offers a model specifically for a wellbeing café, where it's OK not to be OK.

The national church is partnering with Renew Wellbeing and looking for new parishes to be part of this new movement.

Around 50 parishes have already started a Renew Wellbeing space nationally and this is set to radically increase over the next two years.

Join this webinar find out if your church could be involved.

Learn more on the Church Support Hub:

<https://churchsupporthub.org/all-resources/promoting-community-spaces-in-our-churches/>

Register for the webinar: https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/6917424028769/WN_cSgC2iDwQXSEoS228Rj_YQ#/registration

New Festival Churches Resources Launched



A Festival Church is a church building which is not used for weekly worship, but is an open church, a local icon and a community asset. The model for becoming a Festival Church is increasingly being adopted by churches nationally as a way of rejuvenating parishes and giving new life to relevant mission and ministry within a local community.

The model in the Diocese of Leicester has been developed in the context of growing concern amongst some PCCs about their church's future. It may be that a church has unrealised potential and could become more sustainable if energy and effort was spent doing fewer things really well.

Becoming a Festival Church is a positive, proactive decision to do less, but to do what is done better, and differently, as a springboard to a sustainable Christian presence and mission. It is *not* a step on the road to closure.

St Mary's Church in Walton-le-Wolds were the first church in the diocese to pilot the Festival Church model in 2021 and have since seen many benefits. Revd Clive Watts is Rector of

the Benefice of Barrow-upon-Soar with Walton le Wolds, Wymeswold and Prestwold with Hoton, and has been leading this work. "Becoming a Festival Church has enabled us to engage with our local community, doing less but doing it better and with more people," he explains. "It has given us a way forward for a struggling church with a very small congregation, which gives us hope for a bright future. It is proving to be the best move we ever made."

This week we've released a new suite of resources, designed to enable Festival Church conversations to take place. The main document is a Pathway which is intended to help PCCs stop & re-imagine how they can work with the local community to deliver the worship they want to participate in.

Please do read on to understand what it means to be a Festival Church and whether this model could be the pathway for your church:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/new-festival-church-resources-launched.php>

Mental Health First Aid Training Course

Four weekly sessions from Wednesday 7 May, 9.30am-1pm, The Cube on Symingtons, Market Harborough

Mental Health First Aid training is aimed at leaders, paid or voluntary who work with young people and want to develop how they support young people's mental health and wellbeing.

This training is free as the cost is covered by the Diocese but spaces are limited, so we do ask that you only sign up if you can make all four dates (7 May, 14 May, 21 May, 4 June).

Booking is on a first come, first served basis. **Sign up here:**

<https://mhfaengland.org/course-booking-form/?id=021a1b42-8ff4-ef11-be1f-7c1e52765da6>

(The venue on the booking form says "London" – please ignore this.)

For more information, contact Lou: spyouth3@gmail.com

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.***



Chaplaincy Lecture with Dr Israel Olofinjana

Thursday 8 May, 6pm-7.30pm – Attenborough Film Theatre, University of Leicester

For the next event in our Chaplaincy Lecture Series, 'Decolonising the Church: An Intercultural Approach' we welcome Rev. Dr Israel Olofinjana, Honorary Research Fellow at Queens Foundation for Theological Ecumenical Education. He is a Baptist pastor, the author of several books, and sits on the Christian Aid Working Group of Black Majority Church leaders exploring the intersection of climate justice and racial justice.

The event is free, open to the public and will be followed by a drinks reception.

Book on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dr-israel-olofinjana-decolonising-the-church-an-intercultural-approach-tickets-1248174305949?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come 2025 will run from 29 May – 8 June.

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

We invite you to take part along with churches from over 85 different denominations and traditions in over 172 countries around the world.

How could your church be involved?

See full details and resources:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

