



# Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 **Goodby** Carol Service (Revd Philip Norwood)  
6pm **Illston** Evening Service (Hilary Painter)

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 3

6.30pm **Gaulby Lodge Farm** Christmas Carols in the Barn for all the family (Hilary Painter)

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 3

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

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 3

6pm Launde Deanery **Zoom Carol Service** (preceded by Christmas Party at 5pm)  
6.30pm **Keyham** Carol Service (Revd Philip Norwood)

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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)

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

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

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am Zoom Launde Parishes Zoom Service**

**Leader & Reflection:** Mike Hammond

**To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:**

**PLEASE USE THIS LINK:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQK191dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqG18Q.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 15<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday of Advent**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom  
of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## **Contact Us:**

Hilary Painter: 0116 259 9752

[hilarypainter@rocketmail.com](mailto:hilarypainter@rocketmail.com)

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/

07754395006 [keithevans6@btinternet.com](mailto:keithevans6@btinternet.com)

## **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 6pm Zoom**

### **Launde Parishes Zoom Carol Service**

**(Same link for Christmas Party at 5pm)**

**To Join our Zoom Services, click on this **SPECIAL** link:**

**PLEASE USE THIS LINK:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5571435547?pwd=eXB3Y3NjB3lubXBDRm53ZU1DaStodz09&omn=89505825350>

**Meeting ID:** 557 143 5547

**Passcode:** 886481

**DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:**

**T. 0203 481 5240**

Enter the **Meeting ID:** 557 143 5547 followed by #

Enter the **Passcode:** 886481 followed by #

## **Reflection: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

This week we read of John the Baptist preparing for the joyful news to be brought by Jesus. But what kind of joy?

This is echoed in Philippians 4:4-7, where Paul offers a powerful and caring message of joy and peace that comes by trusting in God, especially in the midst of anxiety.

Paul, despite writing from prison, commands us to rejoice. He's not denying circumstances or pretending that everything is fine, rather it's about finding joy in God's presence, remembering who God is and what He has done.

He emphasises the word 'always' because joy in the Lord isn't just for the good times.

Paul speaks of gentleness, not as a weakness, but rather strength under control. He tells us: do not be anxious. Instead of letting anxiety rule our hearts, bring every concern, large or small, to God in prayer; an antidote to anxiety.

Finally Paul asks that 'the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

The result of choosing joy, gentleness, and prayer is a deep, spiritual peace beyond human understanding. It doesn't necessarily make sense, especially when times are hard, but it's an inner peace that comes from knowing God is in control and that He cares for us deeply.

Paul's words are a comforting and practical guide to dealing with the challenges of life, reminding us that we are called to rejoice because our joy is grounded in who God is and His unshakable promises. Instead of allowing circumstances to dictate our emotions, we are invited to anchor ourselves in the unchanging truth of God's presence and gifts. When we do so, His peace will guard our hearts, enabling us to live with hope and joy, even in uncertain times.

**Hilary Painter**

## **Bible Readings:**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

### **Zephaniah 3.14-end**

- 14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!
- 15 The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel,  
the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.
- 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not  
fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.
- 17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you  
with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you  
with loud singing
- 18  
as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- 19 I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time. And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame  
into praise

and renown in all the earth.

20 At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you; for I will make you  
renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore  
your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

### **Philippians 4.4-7**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is  
near.

6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by  
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your  
requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all  
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in  
Christ Jesus.

### **Luke 3.7-18**

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized  
by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee  
from the wrath to come?'

8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say  
to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I  
tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up  
children to Abraham.

9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees;  
every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut  
down and thrown into the fire.'

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we  
do?'

11 In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats  
must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has  
food must do likewise.'

12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they  
asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'

13 He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount  
prescribed for you.'

14 Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we  
do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone  
by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your  
wages.'

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all  
were questioning in their hearts concerning John,  
whether he might be the Messiah,

16 John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you  
with water; but one who is more powerful than I is  
coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his  
sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his  
threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary;  
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the  
good news to the people.

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**Additional Collect for  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Third Sunday of Advent**

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your  
Son:

give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**A prayer for advent by Henri Nouwen**

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for  
Christmas.

We who have so much to do  
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things  
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for  
the complete joy of your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy  
seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people,  
walking in darkness yet seeking the light.

To you we say  
"Come, Lord Jesus". Amen



**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>

**Gaulby Church Candlelight Concert**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm**

**Christmas Carols for all the family  
Gaulby Lodge Farm**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6.15 or 6.30pm start**



**McCabe Educational Trust concerning the needs of the AL SHUROOQ Christian-run school for blind children in Bethlehem.**

**Is your Church thinking about a Charity to support this Christmas? What about the**

The school currently has 34 pupils aged 3 – 12 years. 21 pupils who come from Hebron, Jericho and remote parts of the West Bank, live and stay at the school all week as transportation is no longer available to take them home for weekends. Pupils from around Bethlehem commute every day as it is difficult for the school to provide for them to live in-house. This year the school started taking on social cases of children with visual disabilities and opened a new class for 10 pupils with multiple disabilities and behavioral problems. There are plans to bring blind children from Gaza to the school. 24 teachers are currently employed, in addition to therapists who work with special cases.

The school is facing an existential financial crisis with an annual deficit of £140,000. Half of the £1050 raised on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November at the Coffee Morning at Billesdon will be sent to Al Shurooq.

**Could you or your church help?**

**Donations can be made to the McCabe Educational Trust at:**

<https://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/projects/>

**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>

## Safeguarding in the Launde Deanery/Minster Community

### An important letter from Revd Canon Jonathan Dowman and Revd Jayne Lewis:

**Dear Churchwardens, PCC Secretaries and Parish Representatives**

**(and copied to Safeguarding Co-ordinators)**

Recent news regarding the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury makes this communication very timely and poignant.

At the last two deanery synod meetings we have spoken about our wish to support PCCs to have a working understanding of their responsibilities regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to know what good safeguarding should look like in our small rural parishes. Every member of the PCC is a charity trustee and, as such, has responsibilities outlined by the Charity Commission and the Church of England. This was recently reinforced by Bishop Martyn in his presidential address to Diocesan Synod (which can be found at [Presidential Address to Diocesan Synod - November 2024 - Diocese of Leicester](#). (See below) Training pathways have been provided to help us with this.

All members of the PCC are required to complete the following short safeguarding training courses every 3 years: Basic Awareness, Foundation, & Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. These can be completed online through the National Safeguarding team training portal at [safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/](https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/) or in- person if the PCC member would rather.

**We would therefore urge you to check with your PCC members to discover the following:**

- Are all the members of your PCC up to date with their Safeguarding training? **Yes/No**
- For those who need to complete or update their training, please answer the following:
  - a) PCC members are able to access to the online training portal and will do so independently. **Yes/No**
  - b) PCCs will arrange support for members locally to enable completion of online training. **Yes/No**
  - c) **In person training is preferred** (see below). NB. Please keep a record of your PCC members and their training record (see link below to Excel spreadsheet).

We have arranged Basic Awareness training with Louise Warner, Leicester Diocese Safeguarding Training Officer on either Monday 20th, Monday 27th or Thursday 30th January (10.00am-12.30pm) at The Old School, Billesdon. Once we know who needs in-person training, Wendy will make contact to find the date that suits the largest number of people. Please notify our Administrator, Wendy Lewis (copying in Revd Jayne Lewis and your safeguarding co-ordinator) of those who wish to attend in-person training: [wendy.lewis@LeicesterCofE.org](mailto:wendy.lewis@LeicesterCofE.org) or phone 07777 934092.

A response from all PCCs by Thursday 12th December 2024 would be greatly appreciated. NB If you have any questions please contact Revd Jayne Lewis 0116 259 7244.

[Parish Safeguarding Training Record](#)

With our sincere thanks and God bless,

**Jonathan and Jayne**

Rev Canon Jonathan Dowman, Oversight Minister for the Launde Deanery Minster Community and Rev Jayne Lewis, Co-Area Dean



## 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>

## Ride+Stride and Grants to Churches in 2024

The LeicesterShire Historic Churches Trust is delighted to announce that more than £40,000 has been raised through Ride+Stride, held on 14 September.

Sean Dudley (Ride+Stride Co-ordinator) and Janet Arthur MBE (Chair) of LHCT write:

“We were hoping to break through £40,000 and we’ve done it! We are very grateful to everyone who registered and opened their church or chapel for Ride+Stride, to everyone who raised funds through riding, striding or welcoming, and to all their sponsors – thank you for a wonderful, collective Ride+Stride effort. Sponsorship moneys are still being received and we will look forward to announcing the final total in January. The Trust’s share of the Ride+Stride funds will all be used for grants in 2025.

“The Trust recently held its Autumn Grants Meeting at which grants totalling £22,700 were awarded to seven Anglican churches and one Methodist church. In the Spring, we awarded £29,400 to 11 Anglican churches and one Baptist church. This is a considerable increase in grant applications following (we believe) a lull due to Covid. The total of grants awarded in 2024 is therefore £52,100 raised through Ride+Stride 2023 and grants from the Jack Patston, Edith Murphy, Florence Turner and Maud Elkington charitable trusts, and a generous private donation.

“Some great news of wonderful participation, support and generosity in the Trust’s 60th Anniversary Year.”

## Advent Reflections



Advent is a time when our calendars can be very busy and our heads become filled with the festivities, yet it is also a season to pause, prepare, and wait with hopeful hearts. We hope you’ll find time to reflect on the Christmas story through Advent in ways that might help you prepare room for Jesus.

Each day from 1 December until Christmas Day, we’ll be releasing a short daily bible verse or a line from a carol. We encourage you take a few minutes reflecting on these words using a spiritual practice called Lectio Divina (divine reading).

**You’ll find our Advent verses shared on our Facebook and X accounts, and on our website:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/advent-2024--let-every-heart-prepare-him-room.php>



## Each day throughout Advent we’ll be releasing a Bible verse or a line from a carol.

We hope taking a few minutes each day to reflect on these words will help you to ‘prepare room’ for Jesus during this season.

Find the posts on [Facebook](#) and [X](#), or on our website along with a guide to Lectio Divina (divine reading).

**Visit our Advent 2024 webpage:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/advent-2024--let-every-heart-prepare-him-room.php>

## Advent Meditations

**Monday 16, 23 December, 12.30pm – Leicester Cathedral**

Seasonal meditations with organ music, Bible readings, and poetry. Admission free.

## Living Love and faith



## A new video and leaflet have been published, providing information and updates on the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process.

Following the decision at July General Synod to develop proposals to introduce standalone services including Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) alongside pastoral reassurance, there will be continued input from four working groups into this process.

The new information outlines that between February and July 2025, diocesan synods will be expected to consult on the developments around the prayer implementation, pastoral oversight and guidelines for vocations with regards to new entrants.

As the lead Bishop for the LLF process, Bishop Martyn features in the video.

He said: "I am deeply thankful to all the members of the working groups, for their continued support in this process. This work is costly to many, both in terms of the time and energy it takes, but also because of the personal impact it can have. I hope and pray their work will continue to be fruitful, helping us build relationships, bringing a variety of perspectives, and further advance the work on PLF."

**Watch the video and find out more:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/living-in-love-and-faith-update.php>

## Diocesan Synod November 2024: Bishop Martyn's Presidential Address



A meeting of the Diocesan Synod took place on Saturday 23 November 2024 at Emmanuel Church in Loughborough.

The gathering opened with intercultural worship which included the commissioning of Sophie Holder as Diocesan Director of Racial Equity.

Bishop Martyn's Presidential Address was centred around the Makin Review, in which he spoke about the Church with deep regret, introspection, and a call to action for better safeguarding practices and support for survivors.

A fuller summary of the Synod meeting will be made available soon. **Read Bishop Martyn's full address:** <https://leicester.anglican.org/presidential-address-to-diocesan-synod--november-2024.php>

## 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](https://safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk)*

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

## Advent and Christmas resources available on [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/achurchnearyoucom)

The Church of England Digital Labs team have compiled a list of their 'Calm and Bright' Advent and Christmas resources so churches can easily access them all in one place. You can find the relevant links and details compiled here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/achurchnearyoucom-advent-and-christmas-resources-and-how-you-can-use-them>

We're encouraging churches to make the most of [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/achurchnearyoucom) by adding Christmas services and events to their church/benefice pages. **You can read a practical guide to doing that here:**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/add-your-advent-and-christmas-services-and-events-me> There are 'Calm and Bright' graphics, social media templates, music, and other resources available. **You can watch a demo of how to access the resources on the Resource Hub here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4otbtIA1wz4> and you can read a summary of the key resources and links here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/achurchnearyoucom-advent-and-christmas-resources-and-how-you-can-use-them>



## Carol Concerts by Candlelight

**Tuesday 17, Thursday 19 December, 7.30pm – Leicester Cathedral**

Join us for two special concerts of Christmas carols and music sung by the Cathedral Choir, surrounded by real candlelight in the final resting place of King Richard III.

Tickets are £12 / £10 concessions, which include a mince pie and festive drink.

**Book here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carol-concerts-by-candlelight-with-leicester-cathedral-choir-tickets-1074167526989>

