



# Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, Baptism of Christ, Epiphany 1

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**

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Epiphany 2, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January

10.30am **Keyham** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)  
11am **Billesdon** Songs of Praise (Revd Christine Blodwell)  
11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**  
5pm **Hungarton** Compline (Churchwarden Led)  
6pm **Illston** Evening Prayer (Hilary Painter)  
6pm **Skeffington** Evensong (Revd Philip Norwood)

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, Epiphany 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)

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> January 11.00am Zoom**

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

**Leader & Reflection:** 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 #



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>

## 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)

---

## Collect for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January First

### Sunday of Epiphany,

### Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted  
children;  
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**

---

## Reflection: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### First Sunday of Epiphany,

### Baptism of Christ

#### **The Baptism of Jesus**

One of the names we give to Jesus, our Saviour, is Emmanuel, God with us. This is because he came to earth to live as one of us. His baptism by John the Baptist is a great example of this. Jesus, along with many other people - all of whom were in need of having their sins washed away in the waters of baptism - submitted to being baptised by John, even though we are told he had no sin within him. This is the occasion when the people present heard the voice of God declaring that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, (not John as some were thinking). Then the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon Jesus, an early example of our three person God.

In our reading from Acts we are told of Peter and John baptizing Simon and his household. Peter has been commanded by God to do this and at first questions this command because Simon is a Gentile not a Jew. Peter like many others believed that the promise of the Messiah was made only to the Jewish people. Peter had no doubt that Jesus was the Messiah and seems to have forgotten that Jesus's teaching makes it clear that he had come to save all people - that one day every knee would bow to him and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Of course, it is St Paul who is initially chosen to be the apostle to bring Gentiles to know and worship Jesus, but very early in the history of our faith many Gentiles are drawn into the Church and play a vital role in spreading the Gospel, the Good News for all people.

This is something we are really grateful for. We too can be baptised into the family of Jesus Christ. We too can receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit at our baptism and we too can have all the blessings and promises which

Jesus gives to those who accept him as their Saviour, their Lord and King. We have just celebrated Jesus's coming into our world 2000 years ago, but there is so much more for us to celebrate, most importantly that because he allowed himself to be crucified for our sins and then was resurrected on Easter Day and later ascended back to God, his Father, there is a certain way for us to join with him one day, sins washed away by baptism, and having lived with the Holy Spirit within us, we will spend eternity with our loving and gracious Saviour, our Lord and King, Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.

**Revd Christine Blodwell**

## **Bible Readings: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

### **First Sunday of Epiphany, Baptism of Christ**

#### **Isaiah 43.1-7**

43 But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
3 For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
4 Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
5 Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth-'  
7 everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

#### **Acts 8.14-17**

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.  
15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit  
16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).  
17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

#### **Luke 3.15-17, 21-22**

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.'  
21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,  
22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

---

### **Additional Collect for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **First Sunday of Epiphany, Baptism of Christ**

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**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>

---

#### **Food For Thought**

**Wednesday 22nd January 7.00 for 7.30pm**

**Fox and Hounds, Tugby**

Our speaker is Vanessa Li

**'From Roots to Wings. Connecting the dots of my life story from HK to U.K.'**

2 course supper £17.50

Further information contact Mary Twidell on 01858 555204  
or [mary.twidell@gmail.com](mailto:mary.twidell@gmail.com))

---

#### **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/>

---

## Launde Deanery Safeguarding Training

### Safeguarding Training

Monday 20th January 2025 in Tugby

Course: Basic Awareness Course

Code LF2FBA120012

Time 10 am – 12.30 pm

St Thomas Becket Church, Tugby, LE7 9WD

Travelling east from Leicester on the A 47, turn right into the village, and the church is on the right-hand side. Parking is available outside the church.

Safeguarding training 30th January 2025 in Billesdon

Course: Basic Awareness Course Code

LF2FBA2300125

Time 10am – 12.30pm

The Old School Billesdon, next to St John The Baptist Church, at the Junction of Brook Lane and Church Street.

To book contact Wendy Lewis on

[wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org](mailto:wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org)



## The Emergence of Focal Ministry



**As the shape of ministry changes across our diocese, many people are feeling called to offer spiritual leadership in their local church.**

Focal Ministry is the name being given to this emerging form of ministry, which involves enabling prayer and worship, encouraging others in deepening their faith and equipping local churches to bless their communities.

The role of a Focal Minister is to offer spiritual leadership to a local church or benefice. They are faithful people who are:

- **Rooted** in their community
- The **visible** face of the church
- **Fruitful** in encouraging the growth of faith and gifts in others.

Liz Rawlings, our Discipleship and Vocations Enabler, has been reflecting on what she has been noticing, and explains: “As I have travelled around the diocese, I have met a number of people offering local leadership in their churches, enabling

prayer and worship, building faith in others and connecting the church with the community.

“It seems that God is at work growing local spiritual leaders and it’s inspiring to hear their stories. Our task now is to serve and support this ministry and share what the Spirit is doing among us.”

There’s more information about Focal Ministry on our website, including a video introduction.

**If you’d like to explore Focal Ministry, please join us for an introductory session on Tuesday 14 January at 7pm on Zoom.**

Find out more: <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/focal-ministry/>



**Our latest prayer diary for January – April 2025 takes us on a wonderful journey of revelation through Epiphany and Candlemas, through the anguish of Lent and onto the glorious celebration of Easter.**

Copies can be requested by emailing James Pickersgill, the Bishop’s Chaplain:

## Racial Justice Sunday – Save the Date

**Next year’s Racial Justice Sunday is on 9 February 2025 and marks the 30th anniversary of the initiative.**

A pack of resources to help plan services has been compiled by the Racial Justice Sunday Writers’ Group and produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The pack includes service plans, sermon outlines and articles. **Find more information and resources:** <https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-9-february-2025/>

## 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>

