



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 13th March 2025

Sunday 16th March, Lent 2

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

Sunday 23rd March, Lent 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)

Sunday 30th March, Lent 4, Mothering Sunday

10am **Gaulby** Morning Prayer Mothering Sunday (Hilary Painter)
11am **Hungarton** Mothering Sunday (Revd John Taylor)
11am **Church Langton** Mothering Sunday **Launde Deanery/ Minister Community Service**
11am Launde Deanery **Mothering Sunday Zoom Service**

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 16th March 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

World Day of Prayer 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=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGl8Q.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

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/

07754395006 keithevans6@btinternet.com

Collect for Sunday 16th March

Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,

you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,

that they may return to the way of righteousness:

grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,

that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,

and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reflection: Sunday 16th March 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

Jesus is a controversial figure. This week's gospel shows the backdrop of tension 2000 years ago between freedom to practise faith and necessary allegiance to the Roman occupying forces. There were huge inequalities in the society of the time and anyone offering the possibility of change presented hope to the general population but a threat to both the ruling class and the Roman occupiers.

As Jesus' following grew, so did the anxiety that his preaching might inflame passions and alter the delicate balance, thus upsetting the status quo. So, was the Pharisees' warning to Jesus out of genuine concern for his welfare, or did they feel that it was a challenge to their authority, which might cause civil unrest? Or, maybe, was this one of the 'opportune moments', mentioned in last week's gospel, for the devil to tempt Jesus to walk away from his calling?

Jesus, however, was clear about his purpose – while he lived, he proclaimed the kingdom of God and he had not yet fulfilled all that he came to do.

There is nothing new. Two thousand years of 'progress' haven't really altered the challenges that face us.

This week, can we pray for women and men of courage in our own times? We pray that when faced with similar challenges (is the offer on the table made out of concern for the welfare of the people, for the convenience of leading factions, or to maintain the status quo between external forces), they will make the right decisions. We pray for them to have courage, determination, compassion, hope and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our world is often hostile or indifferent to the message of Jesus. God has deep love for His people. May we all rise to the challenge of living out this mission with courage, compassion, and hope.

Hilary Painter

Bible Readings: Sunday 16th March 2025 Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.'

2 But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'

3 And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.'

4 But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.'

5 He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'

6 And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7 Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.'

8 But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?'

9 He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.'

10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Philippians 3.17-4.1

17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.

18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.

19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

21 He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the

power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

4 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13.31-end

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'

32 He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work."

33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."

34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.""

Additional Collect for Sunday 16th March Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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>

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>

A request for Ukraine – Can you help?

Some of our Ukrainian guests have joined Rotary and formed an Impact Club (one with a special mission). They are collecting unused and unwanted medical equipment which is sent to Ukraine for distribution. If anyone has anything spare, let Hilary Painter know: hilarypainter@icloud.com and she will arrange collection.



Hallaton Café Morrell 'Give in Lent' Donate a Tonne of Tins for Lent for the Jubilee Foodbank – that's just 74 tins a day! Can you help to make a difference this Lent?



Launde Zoom Lent Course

From Thursday 6 March 6pm-7pm for 6 weeks

Exploring Bishop Guli's Book 'Cries for a Lost Homeland, Reflections on Jesus' Sayings from the Cross'

Everyone is welcome at any session(s).

To join use this link: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82936355714?pwd=loggmtzbfNZJlKfqZkgyBDYW9uFWVw.1>

Meeting ID: 829 3635 5714

Passcode: 810997



For more information, contact Hilary Painter:

hilarypainter@icloud.com or Linda Jones: l.jones2k@btinternet.com

Fridays in Lent at Gaulby Church 12.30-2pm



Postage Stamps in aid of the Episcopal Churches in Sudan

Message from Jill Parry:

'I thought I'd let you know, if you hadn't heard already, that postage goes up on April 7th as follows:

Second class from 85p to 87p and First class from £1.65 to £1.70. If you need any before that date, I've got plenty of stamps marked 2nd. And I've got a lot of Christmas stamps if you're interested!'

Mary Twidell is passing on this message on in case you would like to buy single denomination 2nd class stamps at the old price - (they will be valid when the price goes up as they say 2nd class rather than a numeracy value). You might also be interested in Christmas stamps. If you would like to order, please email Mary by Wednesday 19th March:

Mary.twidell@gmail.com

Agape Service Maundy Thursday at 6.30pm St Thomas Becket Church, Tugby

To reserve your place contact Madeleine Wang:

madeleine.v.wang@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/>





Church as Experienced by Those With Invisible Illnesses

Penny Pullan has been researching the experience of church for those with hidden disabilities, and several members of our diocese have made valuable contributions.

Penny's findings have recently been shared on the [Church of England website](#) and featured in their 'Disability Matters' newsletter.

Penny is leading a webinar to talk more on this research, exploring themes around the challenges of living with a hidden disability. She will suggest ways that churches could engage positively with this theme to improve accessibility, and she will respond to live questions.

The webinar will be on **Monday 17 March at 2pm**. You can register to attend here: https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/2117383245200/WN_gcnhHJhYTAayOG5I4mu86Q#/registration

Bishop Martyn Calls for an Intercultural Approach To LLF

As lead bishop for the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process, Bishop Martyn has released a new booklet entitled: 'Can We Imagine a Future Together? Intercultural lessons for Living in Love and Faith'.

In this literature, he asks those on different sides of the LLF debate whether they want to remain together as one church, and how that might be possible.

He hopes that by applying an intercultural approach to our profound differences, we might be able to navigate a new path in our LLF journey.

Bishop Martyn said: "Despite the great depths in our disagreements over Living in Love and Faith, I believe there is still a longing for unity among most of us in the Church of England..."

"Far from attempting to offer a quick fix solution, this book explores how we might imagine a new future together and maintain unity across a variety of theological differences."

All licensed clergy will be receiving a complimentary copy. If any licensed lay ministers, clergy with PTO or church officers wish to request a copy, please contact bishops.office@leicestercofe.org, noting that we have limited supply.

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.***

NEW - Good Friday Walk of Witness

Friday 18 April, 9am-1pm – Leicester City Centre

We are delighted to say that we are partnering again with the New Testament Church of God and other churches in Leicestershire in a Good Friday Walk of Witness starting with singing in Victoria Park and stopping at various points to pray.

See poster for more information:

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

Volunteers are needed, especially in stewarding and first aid.

See more information about the event and becoming a partner church:

https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffd8a9f6aa/content/pages/documents/wow_proposal_churchpack_v013.pdf

The Bishop's Lent appeal 2025 – The Leprosy Mission

The Bishops' Lent Appeal for 2025 is in support of The Leprosy Mission, a Christian charity who work to provide healing and hope to those affected by leprosy.

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy.

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.

Caring for those with leprosy is a cause close to the heart of the Bishop of Loughborough, Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly, and a cause which has historical roots in Leicestershire.

Bishop Saju recently visited the village of Burton Lazars and the site of what was an historic administrative centre for the care of leprosy across the nation.

He also stopped by St James' Church, which is home to 'Roger', a carved stone leper head, and one of just a few preserved relics from this time.

Here, he was taken back to his days growing up in a leprosy hospital in Bengaluru where his mother served as a nurse and, in this video, speaks about that time and the plight of The Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka today.

Watch Bishop Saju and find everything you need:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/lent2025.php>

Evangelist Retreat

Thursday 10 April to Friday 11 April – Launde Abbey

Are you a lay evangelist? Would you like to spend time with others, sharing ideas, worship, reflection and resourcing? Church Army's Resources team are joining with Launde Abbey to facilitate a retreat for anyone who is an evangelist or whose work includes mission and evangelism.

Cost £150. **Click here to book:**

[https://booking.eu.guestline.app/LAUNDE/availability?hotel=LAUNDE&arrival=2025-04-10&departure=2025-04-11&adults=1&children=0&filters\[rates\]\[\]=ENT_CHU_ARMY](https://booking.eu.guestline.app/LAUNDE/availability?hotel=LAUNDE&arrival=2025-04-10&departure=2025-04-11&adults=1&children=0&filters[rates][]=ENT_CHU_ARMY) or call Launde Abbey on 01572717254.

For more information email jane.henderson@churcharmy.org

Lent and Easter at Launde Abbey

There are lots of opportunities to pray and reflect at Launde Abbey throughout Lent and Holy Week.

A number of 'Soul-Filled Meanderings' are taking place, led by Jo de Graff, and including a guided walk, prayer service and soup lunch. **See details here:**

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events/category/soulfilledmeanderings/>

On *Ash Wednesday*, 5 March, the administration of ash will be offered at all of Launde's services – midday and 5pm for non-residents.

A retreat is being held throughout *Holy Week*. You can join for as much as you like by booking an overnight stay or attending for the day. **See details here:**

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/holyweek2025/>

Being Missional Today - Day Conference

Tuesday 10 June, 9:30am-5pm – Coventry Cathedral

A festival of missional thinking exploring the impact of disruptions in church and world, the liminality of this current season, and the role of reconciliation practices.

Featuring 22 different speakers, with Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani and Revd Dr Al Barrett headlining.

Being Missional Today promises to be a stimulating event for those looking for inspiration in the missional challenges facing us today. **Full details and bookings:** <https://reconciliation-initiatives.org/being-missional-today/>

OWL Network – Growing Community

Saturday 15 March, 10-11.30am – Zoom

Come and be inspired by a morning with Revd John White.

John is the founder and leader of the Hazelnut Community, a worshipping community that has social innovation, economic inclusion, political and spiritual transformation at its heart. He is passionate about connecting with creation and addressing the reality of the climate emergency.

This will be a wonderful chance to think about using our church land differently, creatively growing community and deepening our roots in God our creator and sustainer. **Register to receive Zoom link:**

<https://htl.churchsuite.com/events/1ipewiye>

3rd Anglican Intercultural Mission Conference

Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 March – Fountains Church, Bradford

Following the success of the previous Intercultural Mission Conference in Leicester, this gathering promises to unite over 300 participants dedicated to advancing intercultural mission in the Church of England.

Under the theme, 'How will we make disciples of all nations in our different contexts?', the conference will include dynamic keynote sessions, practical workshops, and transformative discussions. **More information and registration:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-third-anglican-intercultural-mission-conference-tickets-1004427518747?aff=oddtcreator>

Storytelling for Everyone

Saturday 15 March, 10am-3pm – St Martins House, Leicester

A practical workshop to gain confidence in leading others in worship in the local church. The session includes:

- Our experience of worship
- The shape of worship
- Engaging with the Bible
- Leading others in prayer
- Resources and guidelines

Refreshments served from 9.30am, session starts at 10am.

Register on the Learning Hub:

<https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/learning-resources/storytelling-for-everyone/>

