



# Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Advent 1

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)  
 10am **Skeffington** Morning Praise (Congregation led)  
 10.30am **Illston** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)  
 11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**  
 4pm **Billesdon** Advent Choral Evensong (Revd John Taylor)  
 6.30pm **Keyham** Lights Remembrance Service (Revd Philip Norwood)

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 2

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**  
 4pm **Hungarton** Carols & Christingle (Revd Philip Norwood)

### 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 **Godby** Carol Service (Revd Philip Norwood)  
 6pm **Illston** Evening Service (Hilary Painter)

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

6.30pm **Little Stretton** Carol Service  
 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)  
 6.30pm **Gaulby Lodge Farm** Carols in the barn (Hilary Painter)

### 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)  
 11am Launde Deanery **Christmas Day Zoom Service**

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

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

### 📺 Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 11.00am Zoom

#### Launde Parishes Zoom Service

**Leader & Reflection:** Sue Sills

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

**PLEASE USE THIS LINK:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKI91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGl8Q.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 1<sup>st</sup> December

### First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God,  
 give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
 and to put on the armour of light,  
 now in the time of this mortal life,  
 in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great  
 humility;  
 that on the last day,  
 when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to  
 judge the living and the dead,  
 we may rise to the life immortal;  
 through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Contact Us:

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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>

## Reflection: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### First Sunday of Advent

When we wish someone a “Happy New Year”, we are expressing a hope for good things in the future, and rightly so. On this first Sunday in our year of Christian faith, we see our Bible readings looking forward. Paul is looking forward to seeing his friends in Thessalonica again, so thankful that their new-found faith is alive and well, and praying that their love for the Lord and each other will be strong and growing. Jeremiah is looking forward to someone who will be a replacement for King David, a leader who will bring the people back to righteousness, peace, and faith in God. Jesus is looking to the future as well, but with a stark realism. He warns that there will be very disturbing events caused by upheavals in the natural world. For us, who are becoming increasingly familiar with predictions of the results of change in the climate, the words of Jesus are very sobering. ‘Look around at the signs of obvious change’, Jesus is saying, ‘And be warned’. But Jesus is also saying two other things. First, he is saying ‘look to your faith’. In all the turmoil and sufferings that people will always experience, one thing is certain: truth - “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away”. And the second thing Jesus is saying is, ‘Be careful how you live’. He warns against “dissipation, drunkenness and the worries of this life.” There could hardly be a more timely message for our generation today, not least as our community prepares to celebrate ‘Yuletide’ with what sometimes cannot be disguised as over-indulgence and extravagance. It does not help to be scrooge-like, but it is important for all of us step back and remember what it is that we are celebrating at Christmas, and what this special time of looking forward in Advent will help us achieve: hopefully, a Happy New Year!

**Revd Philip Norwood**

### Bible Readings:

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

#### First Sunday of Advent

##### Jeremiah 33.14-16

##### New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

#### 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end

##### New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

#### Luke 21.25-36

##### New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

25 ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory.

28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

29 Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees;

30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly,

35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

#### Additional Collect for

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

#### First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God,

as your kingdom dawns,

turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you

in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**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>

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## 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/>

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## 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/>



## 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>

## Discover Churches: A New Toolkit

**Discover Churches is a new resource designed to help volunteers extend a warm and meaningful welcome to visitors exploring church heritage, art, and community.** It was launched at the recent Church Visitor and Tourist Association conference. **Find out more at the National Churches Trust website:**

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore/discover-churches-toolkit>

## 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://leicester.anglican.org/news/mothers-union-rise-up-to-16-days-of-activism-against-gender-based-violence.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.churchnearyou.com)**

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.churchnearyou.com) 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>

## Waiting for Light – Music and Readings for Advent

**Saturday 7 December, 3pm – Launde Abbey**

An afternoon of scripture and song led by Launde Abbey and the Aylesbury Consort of Voices, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. **See more information and book your place:** <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/waitingforthelight-advent/>

For more information contact [tristan.owen@launde.org.uk](mailto:tristan.owen@launde.org.uk)



## Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025

**The bishops have chosen to support The Leprosy Mission as their Lent Appeal charity for 2025.**

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. That's more than 200,000 new cases a year. 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.

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Everything the charity does is focused on its goals of zero leprosy transmission, zero leprosy disability and zero leprosy discrimination. They work in four key areas to achieve this – diagnosing and treating leprosy; caring for disabled people; fighting stigma; and advocating for change and pioneering research.

The Leprosy Mission runs projects in countries across Africa and Asia, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Niger, Myanmar, Mozambique and Sri Lanka.

*The Bishops' Lent Appeal will centre around the charity's work in Sri Lanka. More details will be shared in the new year. Visit Leprosy Mission UK:*

<https://www.leprosymission.org.uk>

## Supporting our Link Diocese: Fundraising for New Benches in Kiteto Cathedral



**A diocesan campaign to raise enough money to provide durable, long-lasting seating in Kiteto Cathedral, is appealing to churches to donate the price of one bench.**

The Dioceses of Leicester and Kiteto in Tanzania have been linked since 1982. We, as a diocese, partner with Kiteto to support the area in improving education, training pastors, planting churches and by offering financial support for emergencies arising from natural causes.

At the moment, much of the seating is plastic chairs that gradually and inevitably depreciate. The Cathedral currently have six benches and are asking for 62 – at £55 each. Could your church donate a bench? **Read the full story and how to donate:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/supporting-our-link-diocese-fundraising-for-new-benches-in-kiteto-cathedral.php>



**Everyone is warmly invited to our Global Carol Service, an intercultural celebration of Christmas followed by refreshments and drinks.**

In addition to the cathedral choir, we will have carols, readings, and prayers in various languages. Join us as we come together to embrace one another across cultural and ethnic boundaries, celebrating with joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

