



# Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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

### 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**  
*See special Zoom link below*

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

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

## JANUARY

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January, Christmas 2, Epiphany

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** Choral Evensong Epiphany (Revd John Taylor)

### 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=HD1LgagamMFBN2y1m7p226w0h2KVkj.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2029 7969

Passcode: 470000

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

### Christmas Day 11.00am Zoom

#### Launde Parishes Zoom Service

**Leader & Reflection:** Hilary Painter

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5571435547?pwd=eXB3Y3NjB3lubXBDRm53ZU1DaStodz09&omn=81719448007>

**PLEASE USE THIS LINK:**

**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 #

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am Zoom

#### Launde Parishes Zoom Service

#### Launde Deanery/ Minster Community Service

*Livestreamed from St Peter's Church, Tilton*

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 #

## Contact Us:

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## Collect for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December

### First Sunday after Christmas

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## A reminder: Launde Deanery/ Minster Community Service

Sunday 29th December at 11am

at St Peter's Church, Tilton

*We look forward to seeing you - in person and on Zoom*

## Reflection: 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### First Sunday after Christmas

Just under a week ago, the church celebrated the birth of the Christ child; His coming was the fulfilment of God's promise of a Messiah.

Now, a few days later, our Gospel reading tells us of the 12-year-old Jesus. How time flies!

But how little we know of Jesus' childhood and early manhood. We note a record of his circumcision and presentation to the Lord (Luke Ch 2). We know that Joseph was a carpenter/mason in Nazareth, and that ultimately Jesus would have four brothers and at least two sisters (Matthew 13). But there is little else – no detail of the 'wondrous childhood' mentioned in the carol 'Once in Royal David's city'.

Today we read of Jesus in the temple, at the feast of unleavened bread, with his parents, fulfilling the law that adult males should attend three feasts annually; Unleavened Bread, Harvest and Tabernacles (Exodus 23).

That visit to the temple reveals something of a family drama. Following the feast, Jesus' parents depart without him. One can imagine their reaction and feelings when they realise that He is not with them or their party. Anger, worry, guilt? However, they do find him, still in the temple listening to the teachers. To his distressed parents, he says 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' Here is the young Jesus, embracing His calling as God's Son, declaring His vocation to make God's ways known and to begin the building of God's kingdom.

Yes, we may have little knowledge of his early life, but we recognise that we are not to live looking to the past, but to live in Him, as he leads us on to the future, into the fulfilment of God's promises and purposes and to His coming again.

Revd John Taylor

### Bible Readings:

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024

#### First Sunday after Christmas

##### 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod.

19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

##### Colossians 3.12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### Luke 2.41-end

41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.

43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

44 Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.'

49 He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'

50 But they did not understand what he said to them.

51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

### Additional Collect for

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December

#### First Sunday after Christmas

God in Trinity,

eternal unity of perfect love:

gather the nations to be one family,

and draw us into your holy life

through the birth of Emmanuel,

our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

## Bible Readings:

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Christmas Day

#### Isaiah 52.7-10

7 How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
9 Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his  
people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
10 The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of  
the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

#### Hebrews 1.1-4 5-12

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and  
various ways by the prophets,  
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,  
whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he  
also created the worlds.  
3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact  
imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by  
his powerful word. When he had made purification for  
sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on  
high,  
4 having become as much superior to angels as the  
name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.  
5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are  
my Son;  
today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his  
Father,  
and he will be my Son'?  
6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the  
world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'  
7 Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire.'  
8 But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever  
and ever,  
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your  
kingdom.  
9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'  
10 And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
11 they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;  
12 like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the  
same,  
and your years will never end.'

#### John 1.1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God.  
2 He was in the beginning with God.  
3 All things came into being through him, and without  
him not one thing came into being. What has come into  
being  
4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.  
5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did  
not overcome it.  
6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was  
John.  
7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all  
might believe through him.  
8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to  
the light.  
9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming  
into the world.  
10 He was in the world, and the world came into being  
through him; yet the world did not know him.  
11 He came to what was his own, and his own people  
did not accept him.  
12 But to all who received him, who believed in his  
name, he gave power to become children of God,  
13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the  
flesh or of the will of man, but of God.  
14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and  
we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only  
son, full of grace and truth.

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### Collect for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on  
earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
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**

### Additional Collect for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

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## A Reminder: Coplow Benefice and Gaulby Group Meeting

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm at the Old School in Billesdon (*Venue to be confirmed*)



### 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>

### 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>



### Hallaton Museum

#### Online Talk on Zoom

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm

Mathew Morris, University of Leicester Archaeological Services returns to give the talk, this time on: 'Cardinals, Chariots and Queens: The archaeology of Abbey Park, Burrough Hill and Bradgate Park, An overview of the archaeology in some of Leicestershire's best loved parks'. The talk is free but, as always, if you would like to make a donation to the museum that would be appreciated. (Account name: Hallaton Museum Sorting code: 40-32-04 Number: 91125559)

**All are welcome**

If you would like to join us please let Linda Jones know on [l.jones2k@btinternet.com](mailto:l.jones2k@btinternet.com) or call on 01858 555249 and she will send you the Zoom link.



## 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/>

**Launde Abbey to Feature on Songs of Praise Sunday 29 December, 1.15pm – BBC 1**

Pam Rhodes visited Launde Abbey recently to film the Christmas special of BBC Songs of Praise. Make sure to tune in and see if you can spot some familiar backdrops.

## Bishops' Christmas Message 2024



**The Bishops' Christmas Message reminds us that Christ came for all people.**

The video features Christmas wishes in many languages, thanks to the community of Hope Hamilton Church of England Primary School.

Reflecting on the variety of cultures represented at this year's Global Carol Service, Bishop Saju says; "We must remember that Jesus grew up in a rich tapestry of cultures, and it is no wonder that He is described as the saviour of the world."

Bishop Martyn celebrates the diversity across our diocese and encourages us to pray for the many places around the world caught up in violence and oppression; "At this Christmas time, we remember in particular that this Christ child was born as the Prince of Peace; the one who came to break down the barriers of this world, the one who came to reconcile communities even as we are reconciled with God."

***You're most welcome to download this video to play in your services.***

Watch here: <https://leicester.anglican.org/news/the-bishops-christmas-message.php>



**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>

## Kiteto Cathedral Bench Appeal

**There's still time to donate to the Kiteto Cathedral bench appeal and help our Christian brothers and sisters in our link diocese in Tanzania.**

At the moment, much of their seating is plastic chairs that gradually and inevitably depreciate. The Cathedral currently have six hard-wearing and locally made benches and are raising funds to buy 62 at £55 each. **Find full details here:** <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/supporting-our-link-diocese-fundraising-for-new-benches-in-kiteto-cathedral.php>

## A Christmas prayer of adoration

Glorious God, we praise you for the gift of Christmas, for its holy magic and the gift of your Son.  
Lord Jesus, we celebrate your birth and the healing wonder

that your life will bring to all creation.

Holy Spirit, you inspire the song of the angels and we praise you for the music of Christmas, which fills our hearts and echoes around the world.  
Holy Trinity, we adore you this Christmas and rejoice at the gifts of new life, hope and beauty.

**Amen (From Roots on the Web)**

