



Launde Minster Community

Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 1st January 2026

Sunday 4th January, Christmas 2, Epiphany

Attached is the MC Worship Plan for **JANUARY 2026** (as of 1st January)

This is your newsletter so please use it to share your notices, events and invite others to join you.

Please send me any contributions by Tuesday before the Thursday publication.

If you know anyone who would like to be added to the list to receive a copy of the newsletter, please send me their name and email address to:

l.jones2k@btinternet.com 07851163712

You can also find the **Minster Community Worship Plan**, and the links for online services, on the website: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk>

Our Churches Online:

All of our churches have web pages on 'A Church Near You' – This link takes you to the Launde Minster Community page, where you can access each of the churches: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/our-churches-on-acny>



Every Sunday at 8am Launde Abbey Chapel

Holy Communion - Please come quietly into the chapel via the external north door to join the Abbey Community and those on retreat. *See Worship Plan for details*

Morning Prayer on Zoom

Everyone is welcome

Every week at 9am (meeting open from 8.55am)

All welcome. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81751227280?pwd=VtUdahsUf34Vc7Bbr5gVFoeiobrOO8.1>

Meeting ID: 817 5122 7280 Passcode: 419620

Sunday 4th January 11am

Launde Minster Community Online Church

All are welcome

Leader: Madeleine Wang

To join the livestream, click on this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.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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Collects for Sunday 4th January 2026 Epiphany

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reflection: Sunday 4th January 2026 Epiphany

"Well, I never knew that!" As times change, it's something perhaps we say more and more. It's something St. Paul must have said as the reality of his amazing conversion began to sink in and he had time to think. What he then came to realise was utterly life-changing – that "the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3.6).

Paul's life up to that point, like most of his Jewish contemporaries, had been dedicated to excluding Gentiles from faith in the Lord. The great prophets taught that God's Temple was a House of Prayer for all nations, but that was obscured by the rampant nationalism in which Paul and his contemporaries had been raised. "Nations shall come to your light" Isaiah had said; but people had chosen to ignore teachings like that.

Until Jesus came. Jesus inaugurated a new Creation when the Spirit hovered over the water of his baptism. He changed the ritual water of the old religion into the wine of Spirit-filled faith. He cleansed the old Temple to open it to all, and he formed the new Temple of his body, built on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets. And all this was to open faith and belonging to people of all races.

Enter the Wise Men from the East. They come on to the stage for one reason, to represent Gentiles coming to worship the Saviour of all. Did St. Paul know about

them? We have no idea. But he was sure that his ministry was “to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all thingsin accordance with the eternal purpose which God has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Thank God this Epiphany-tide that these truths have been revealed to us.

Revd Philip Norwood

Bible Readings:

Sunday 4th January 2026

Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6

- 1 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- 2 For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- 3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 4 Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- 5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Ephesians 3.1-12

- 1 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-
- 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you,
- 3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
- 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
- 5 In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
- 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- 7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power.
- 8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,

9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;
10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2.1-12

- 2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,
- 2 asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'
- 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
- 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
- 6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '
- 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.
- 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'
- 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
- 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sunday 4th January 2026

Epiphany

Psalm 72 [1-9]10-15

- [1
Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
- 2
Then shall he judge your people righteously
and your poor with justice.

- 3
May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people.
- 4
May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the
oppressor.
- 5
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- 6
May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.
- 7
In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.
- 8
May his dominion extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- 9
May his foes kneel before him
and his enemies lick the dust.]
- 10
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
- 11
All kings shall fall down before him;
all nations shall do him service.
- 12
For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,
the needy and those who have no helper.
- 13
He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14
He shall redeem their lives from oppression and
violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- 15
Long may he live;
unto him may be given gold from Sheba;
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long.



St Peter's Church, Tilton:
Friday Mornings 'Coffee and Chat'
Between 10.30 – 12.00noon

**Café Morrell St Michael and All Angels
Church, Hallaton**
Tuesday Mornings Coffee, Cake and Chat
Between 10.00 to 12.30pm

Licensing of John Morrison as Focal Minister at Rosewood Manor

On Sunday 14th December, there was a very special event in the Launde Minster Community: the licensing of John Morrison as a Focal Minister in the Care Home in which he lives.

John was a Churchwarden at Hungarton for over 20 years. He is now a very active member of the congregation of the Launde Minster Community Online Church.

Since John moved to Rosewood Manor, he has been a beacon of light to the life of the home and to his fellow residents. He spreads God's word and gives hope and spiritual succour by setting up and leading prayers and services. In his chaplaincy role, he supports and prays with those residents and their families who are in need. At 92 years old, his commitment and dedication are undimmed. John is loved by all at the home, residents and staff alike. We witnessed this when his licensing was held at Rosewood Manor.

The service was beautiful and emotional. Revd Crystal McAllister, Oversight Minister, led the service. 21 people attended in person, including residents, staff, his daughter Julia, and friends from churches, including Hungarton. The service was live-streamed, with 19 people joining from our Zoom Online Church and others, including Sarah, another of John's daughters who lives in Florida.

John's outstanding ministerial role at Rosewood Manor was recognised by him being licensed as a Focal Minister there and in the Launde Minster Community.

A powerful, moving, personal message was shared on video by Bishop Saju. Another video message of congratulations and blessings came from Canon Charlie Allen of Durham Cathedral, where John is a regular attender of their online services.

Our prayers and blessings go to John as he carries out God's calling at Rosewood Manor.



Hallaton Museum – Online Talk 'Following in the footsteps of medieval church art' by Dr Miriam Gill

Tuesday 27th January at 7pm by Zoom



Miriam Gill, from Vaughan College, is an expert on medieval wall-painting. She gave an excellent talk at the Hallaton Festival of Archaeology this year, so we are delighted that she has agreed to give this talk online for us. The talk is free but donations are appreciated.

Everyone is welcome

If you would like to attend, please contact Linda Jones on l.jones2k@btinternet.com or 07851 163712

Board Game Social

Monday 19th January 1-3pm at A J Atkinson & Son,
12 London Road, Oadby

Board games optional but tea and cake are too good to refuse!

To book call 0116 2712340 or email:
victoria@ajadkinson.com or just drop in



Forwarded by Revd Philip Norwood

Food Bank Appeal: The Well

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 Bank Appeal: Jubilee Foodbank

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks.

Jubilee Foodbank Market Harborough

You can drop off donations at **Hallaton Church** or to Linda Jones at **25, Eastgate, Hallaton at any time**. Please note that all food collected is non-perishable, long-life or tinned.

The Foodbank has **MOST URGENT NEED of:**

Custard, Chicken in sauce, Tinned Ham, Peanut butter, Packet Rice (500g if possible), Tinned Vegetarian Meals, Teabags, Tinned Fruit, Jam, Corned Beef.

They also need:

Crackers, Fray Bentos pies, Porridge Oats, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), Sugar (500g), Deodorant, Cereal, Pasta sauces, Tinned Sweetcorn, Baked Beans with Sausages, Tinned chicken, Hot Dogs (Tins or jars,) Tinned red meat, Tinned Carrots, Tinned meatballs, Dried potatoes (Smash), Marmalade, Biscuits, Tinned potatoes, Crisps, Tinned tomatoes, Tinned chickpeas, mixed chilli beans, lentils, Tinned rice pudding, Sachet meals (pan or microwave), 'No Cook' meals for the homeless, Cordial, Coffee (small jars), Pasta sauce, Tinned soup, Cup of soup, Tinned peas, Meals that do not need cooking e.g. John West Fish and rice meals, Snacks and cereal bars, Fruit squash/ juice, Microwave puddings, Tinned Pasta, Sandwich paste, Tuna, ALPRO yoghurts (long-life, for the shelf not fridge), Long-life meals, Robinsons minis or similar for families (small squash concentrates), Small cartons of long life milk (for homeless people or someone without a fridge)

The list of food always required is on the website:

<https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk>

Where possible and available, consider giving tins with a ring-pull as these can also be used for homeless people where the food is appropriate (e.g. fish, tinned fruit, etc)

Diomail

There is no Diomail until 12th Januray

Meanwhile, you can subscribe to receive the weekly Diomail here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/diomail/>

