



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: 5th & 12th September and
Harvest Thanksgiving 2024

Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

Sunday 8th September Trinity 15, Harvest Thanksgiving

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 15th September Trinity 16, Harvest Thanksgiving

10.30am **Keyham** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am **Billesdon** Songs of Praise (Revd Christine Blodwell)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

6pm **Illston** Evening Prayer (Lay Led, Hilary Painter)

6pm **Skeffington** Evensong (Revd Philip Norwood)

Sunday 22nd September Trinity 17, Harvest Thanksgiving

9am **Skeffington** CW Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am **Billesdon** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

TBC **Gaulby Lodge Farm** Harvest Festival

Sunday 29th September Trinity 18, Michael & All Angels

11am **Gaulby** Launde Deanery/ Minster Community Service, *livestream on Zoom*

11am **Billesdon** Harvest Festival (Revd Philip Norwood)

4pm **Hungarton** Harvest Festival (Revd David Palmer)

6.30pm **Keyham** Harvest Festival (Revd David Palmer)

Saturday Mornings

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Every week at 9am (meeting open from 8.45am)

If you would like to join our Zoom Prayers, please email

Hilary Painter: hilarypainter@icloud.com

Sundays 8th and 15th September

11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

PLEASE USE THIS LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqG18Q.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

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07754395006 keithevans6@btinternet.com

Reflection for Sunday 8th September 2024 Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

Mark is giving us a great amount of detail now about the ministry of Jesus and of the people who are coming to him for help. We hear of just how well known and popular he has become because of the many people he has helped and healed, so much that now he can hardly go anywhere without attracting people to him. Here we have a Syro- Phoenician woman who comes to him on behalf of her daughter who is demon possessed. Jesus deals with her in what seems to be a very 'unJesus way'. Because she is Greek and not Jewish he tells her that first the children must be fed and not the dogs. It was widely believed that the Messiah had come first and foremost to the Jewish people but perhaps Jesus is testing the woman's faith. She passes the test with flying colours pointing out that even the dogs under the table could have the crumbs which fell there. Jesus, impressed by her faith, tells her that she will go home and find the demon has left her daughter. This was healing at a distance but next there is a more physical healing of a deaf and dumb man which involves much more intimate contact. Jesus responds to the individual needs of those before him not just healing them but sensitively helping them too.

James in his letter deals with relationship between faith and deeds. Faith must come first but needs to be supported by action. As he says it is no use when confronted by someone in need to just send them off with a few encouraging words but we must also do something practical to help them. It is important for us to learn from the way Jesus ministered to people and also to do practical things to help people. This will not always be easy and at the very least we should try to direct or take the person to where they can get the best help that they need. If we are truly faithful to Jesus and trust in him for all things then we can do this however hard it may seem. After all if we think deeply about what Jesus went through for us on the Cross, we can surely make the necessary sacrifice which will enable us to help someone in need and bring them to know, love and serve Jesus for them and be the good and faithful servant of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who have his all to save us.

Revd Christine Blodwell

Bible Readings:

Sunday 8th September 2024

Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

Isaiah 35.4-7a

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For
waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

7 the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of
jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

James 2.1-10 [11-13] 14-17

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

1 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of
favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus
Christ?

2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes
comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty
clothes also comes in,

3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine
clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the
one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my
feet',

4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves,
and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God
chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be
heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who
love him?

6 But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich
who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?

7 Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that
was invoked over you?

8 You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according
to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as
yourself.'

9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are
convicted by the law as transgressors.

10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one
point has become accountable for all of it.

[11 For the one who said, 'You shall not commit
adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do
not commit adultery but if you murder, you have
become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by
the law of liberty.

13 For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who
has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.]

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say
you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save
you?

15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,
16 and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep
warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their
bodily needs, what is the good of that?

17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7.24-end

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

24 From there he set out and went away to the region of
Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to
know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,

25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean
spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and
bowed down at his feet.

26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician
origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her
daughter.

27 He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is
not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the
dogs.'

28 But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the
table eat the children's crumbs.'

29 Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go-the
demon has left your daughter.'

30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed,
and the demon gone.

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went
by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region
of the Decapolis.

32 They brought to him a deaf man who had an
impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay
his hand on him.

33 He took him aside in private, away from the crowd,
and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and
touched his tongue.

34 Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to
him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.'

35 And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue
was released, and he spoke plainly.

36 Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the
more he ordered them, the more zealously they
proclaimed it.

37 They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He
has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to
hear and the mute to speak.'

Collect for Sunday 8th September

Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel

that, always abiding in you,

they may be found steadfast in faith and active in
service;

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 Prayer for Sunday 8th September Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Collects, Readings and Reflection for Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 8th, 15th & 22nd September

Collect for Harvest Thanksgiving

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-
being;
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 for Harvest Thanksgiving Extract from 'Roots on the Web'

"...In a 2019 poll, 67 per cent of parents, from all faiths and none, expressed warm memories of taking part in Christian harvest festivals, saying that they wanted their children to do the same. The perceived benefits were: giving thanks for the good things in our lives, teaching children where their food comes from and showing generosity to people in need.

Harvest is one of our farming village's best-attended services. Even the smallest child can understand. The church is lovingly decorated with flowers and fruit. I organise a choir, to belt out well-loved hymns: *We Plough the Fields and Scatter, All Things Bright And Beautiful* and *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*. The children bring up harvest gifts to the altar, destined for our local food bank.

Harvest is more than a nostalgia trip for traditionalists. Certainly, older people revisit happy childhood memories and there is the aroma of apples stored for the winter and smoke from the post-harvest burning of the fields, and people make a corn dolly to take to church. However, recognising the cyclical nature of human existence — "for everything there is a season"

(Ecclesiastes, iii, 1) — has what feels like a renewed modern resonance. After 18 months dominated by the Pandemic, our human vulnerability to challenges such as disease, weather problems and disruptions to the supply chain feels more relevant than ever.

Our food bank's stock is running low. News reports of empty supermarket shelves add a poignancy to realising our interdependence, reliance on others and the need for connection, for the supply of our most basic human needs.

Farmers' reports at harvest suppers offer insight into lives lived on the land. The TV series *Clarkson's Farm* has recently engendered a wider respect for farmers and a more sympathetic understanding of the problems that they face every year. Their livelihood is dependent almost entirely on the weather and other factors beyond their control. No prayer is perhaps more heartfelt than a farmer's prayer for rain — or for it to stop raining. Small rural churches often seem rather marginalised, treated in diocesan league tables like "failed" urban churches...Yet harvest allows countryside communities a big moment of celebration.

Harvest conveys a feeling of handing on the baton to the next generation. I have so far failed to pass on my Christian faith to my own children, who accept the common social attitude that religion is the cause of war. However, in my own life, Christianity has been nothing but a source of comfort and joy. The author John Buchan said that an atheist was a man who had "no invisible means of support". I hope that small rural churches will stay open long enough for my children to return to them if they ever want to do so.

Harvest suppers showcase the glories of nature, coming to terms with not being in control, looking after the hungry and needy and the wonderful reading from St Matthew about the lilies of the field, advising against worrying about what to wear. They add up to a message that the nation's mental health problems could be addressed if we looked not inwards but upwards and outwards, with gratitude at all the good gifts around us."

Emma Thompson is a freelance writer and a member of Save the Parish

Additional Prayer for Harvest Thanksgiving

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Bible Readings:

Harvest Thanksgiving

Joel 2.21-27

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 21 Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!
- 22 Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree
bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
- 23 O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the
early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
- 24 The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- 25 I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the
destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.
- 26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people
shall never again be put to shame.
- 27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no
other. And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

1 Timothy 2.1-7

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers,
intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for
everyone,
2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we
may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and
dignity.
- 3 This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our
Saviour,
4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.
- 5 For there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and
humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,
6 who gave himself a ransom for all-this was attested at
the right time.
- 7 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am
telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles
in faith and truth.

Alternative Reading to Joel Timothy 2.1-7

1 Timothy 6.6-10

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 6 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined
with contentment;

7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can
take nothing out of it;

8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content
with these.

9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and
are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that
plunge people into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and
in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away
from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Matthew 6.25-33

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

25 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,
what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your
body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and
the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor
reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father
feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to
your span of life?

28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the
lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor
spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not
clothed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is
alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will
he not much more clothe you-you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?"
or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?"

32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things;
and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need
all these things.

33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his
righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as
well.



**Readings, Collects and Reflection for
Sunday 15th September
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Collect for Sunday 15th September
Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear
the prayers of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know what
things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil
them;
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 for Sunday 15th September
2024 Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity**

Reflection - James 3:1-12

We all make mistakes. James is brutally honest about the human condition, how deliberately hurtful words or even a slip of the tongue can destroy a relationship or a community. James says this is like starting a forest fire (like by careless the use of a barbecue). When this happens, it's usually because people have ignored the warning signs and they should bear the consequences.

As I write this, there are forest fires in Madeira, around Athens and on the west coast of the US. Sadly some of these were started deliberately by arsonists but many were caused by the careless actions of people with no thought of the impact of casual dumping of rubbish. As James observes, careless or misplaced words too can cause untold damage; a mistake I'm sure all of us have made at one time or another. If we are lucky, we merely 'put our foot in it' and the situation is saved by an apology or the understanding of the person on the receiving end that no harm was meant. However, increasingly more and more people are taking umbrage, seeing insults or 'disrespect' where none were intended.

James calls for Christian distinctiveness in what we say and how we say it. However, we should also look at this from the other side by thinking about Christian distinctiveness in how we listen and receive what is said. It's all too easy to rush to prejudiced conclusions without thinking about the intentions of the speaker. Not everyone is good at expressing themselves; we're not all able to remember the preferred pronoun of everyone we meet; we're not all aware of the previous experiences of the speaker.

This week, can we all be more aware, think before we speak and consider what was meant, rather than actually said, before we snap back?

Hilary Painter

**Bible Readings:
Sunday 15th September 2024
Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity**

Isaiah 50.4-9a

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 4 The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to
sustain
the weary with a word. Morning by morning he
wakens-
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
- 5 The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
- 6 I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I
did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
- 7 The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have
set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
- 8 he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with
me?
Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
- 9 It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out
like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

James 3.1-12

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 3 Not many of you should become teachers, my
brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach
will be judged with greater strictness.
- 2 For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes
no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the
whole body in check with a bridle.
- 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them
obey us, we guide their whole bodies.
- 4 Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes
strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very
small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.
- 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of
great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small
fire!
- 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among
our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole
body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on
fire by hell.
- 7 For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea
creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the
human species,
- 8 but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of
deadly poison.

9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.

10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water?

12 Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Mark 8.27-end

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?'

28 And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.'

29 He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.'

30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Additional Prayer for Sunday 15th September Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
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>

Ride & Stride 2024



It's time to put on the battered old boots or retrieve the bike from the depths of the garage to raise money for the LeicesterShire Historic Churches Trust by going on their **Ride & Stride on Saturday 14th September**. You will find details on their website as to how you can join in. If you can't do it yourself then you can always pay someone else to do it for you. Jeff Hopewell is looking forward to walking around the city churches that day, and would be delighted to have your support. Sponsor him on <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jeff-hopewell-lhct2024> - even retrospective donations are more than welcome!



Open Doors

Saturday 12th October



Revd David Palmer, Pioneer Priest

Pilgrimage Walks in the Launde Minster Community

A series of mini pilgrimages this spring and summer across the Minster community.

The next Pilgrimage walk for this summer is on

Sunday 15th September: Goadby to Gaulby (5 miles with a stop in Illston)

So why not walk with us and perhaps invite others to share the journey.

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/>



Diocese of Leicester Featured in the Latest Journal of Intercultural Mission

The fourth issue of the Oxford Journal for Intercultural Mission, which features an article by Bishop Martyn, is now available to read.

The edition focuses on South Asian Heritage Month (SAHM) and how might we as a church respond to the needs of our South Asian communities.

In his article, Bishop Martyn describes becoming more conscious of the significance of his Whiteness, the efforts within the Church of England to achieve greater racial justice, and the intercultural approach taken in the Diocese of Leicester.

He lays out three principles to Intercultural Gift Exchange and three traits which undergird them, and which are crucial in addressing Whiteness in the Anglican Church – humility, de-centring and curiosity. Read more here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/diocese-of-leicester-featured-in-the-latest-journal-of-intercultural-mission.php>

Taking the Next Steps on Your Journey in Faith

If you are seeking to grow in your knowledge of the Christian Faith, deepen your relationship with God and explore how to live out your faith in your whole life, then our Journey in Faith course – starting later this month – is a great place to start.

Talking about their experiences of the Journey in Faith course, previous participants, said:

"If you want to know more about yourself and your Christian faith, then Jif is the course for you. You'll be welcomed and challenged, affirmed and changed, and you'll definitely be glad you came."

"Imagine being in the company of like-minded people, being encouraged to ask questions, contribute to discussions and activities, all the while gaining in confidence."

"We were guided through the bible with humility and humour by our leaders – from factual historical background to our

response to spiritual calling in Christ today."

The course begins with an introductory session on Saturday 28 September, followed by weekly evenings at a variety of locations around the diocese. **Find out more here:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/taking-the-next-steps-on-your-journey-in-faith.php>

LeicesterShire Historic Churches Trust – Sixtieth Anniversary

Friday 6 September, 7-9pm – St Martin's Church, Desford, LE9 9GR

Come along and enjoy an evening celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of the LeicesterShire Historic Churches Trust, who support churches across our diocese, and are the organisers behind Ride + Stride. There will be refreshments and a presentation on the work of the trust.

Making the Most of Creationtide



Creationtide, or the Season of Creation, takes place in the Church calendar from 1 September to 4 October, and is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Creationtide began in the Orthodox Church in 1989 and has been supported by a growing number of churches across Europe since then, including the Church of England.

Many churches use this time of year to hold themed services and events, including Harvest celebrations, giving thanks for God's gift of creation, and renewing their commitment to caring for the planet we call home.

We've compiled a selection of Creationtide resources you might like to make use of in your worshiping communities, including service plans, ideas for community events, and more. **See Creation ideas here:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/how-could-your-church-make-the-most-of-creationtide.php>

Ride+Stride

Saturday 14 September – all across Leicestershire.

Nearly 300 churches and chapels have registered to welcome visitors for this year's Ride+Stride.

There is still plenty of time to **Register on the website:**

<https://www.lhct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

If you have registered and your paperwork has not arrived, please contact the Ride+Stride Co-ordinator, Sean Dudley: sean.lhct@gmail.com

To raise funds by riding, striding or welcoming, you can download a sponsorship form on the website (above) or **set up a Just Giving page here:**

<https://www.justgiving.com/l-h-c-t>

Eco Church Conversations

Saturday 14 September, 10am-2pm – Holy Trinity, Leicester

A wonderful opportunity to move forward in your Eco Church journey.

The day will begin with a time of worship, followed by a half hour workshop to help lead your eco adventures: Beyond Registration, Beyond Bronze and Silver, and Beyond Community.

There will be time to talk to a wide range of people and organisations who can give you relevant help and advice in each area of the award, including:

Theology – The John Ray Initiative and Green Christian.

Purchasing – The Energy Footprint Tool, Energy Audit Projects with De Montfort University, Infrared Heating and Bat Protection.

Caring for your Land – Partnering with Friends of the Earth and Climate Action Leicester and Leicestershire, and Sustainable Transport.

Plus, many more resources and opportunities.

Food will be available from Kings Coffee House who will be serving “Food Waste Meals”, which are pay-as-you-feel.

Book online here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leicestershire-eco-church-conversations-tickets-929120332927>

A voluntary donation of £5 per person is suggested to cover contributors' expenses.

Please do share the event with other churches. All denominations are welcome to come and join the fun.

Download the poster here:

<https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Engaging-Eco-Church-Conversations.jpeg>

LeicesterShire Historic Churches Grants

It's the 60th anniversary year of the LeicesterShire Historic Churches Trust (LHCT), for which Ride+Stride is the principal fundraising event.

Ride+Stride 2023 raised £37,253, which was shared between churches and chapels nominated by sponsored participants, and the LHCT.

The Trust's share of the funds, together with generous grants from other charitable trusts, means they have at least £36,000 available for grants in 2024. At a recent meeting they awarded 12 grants totalling £29,400.

Their next grants meeting will be in November. **Click here for more information and to apply for a grant:**

<https://www.lhct.org.uk/apply-for-grant/>

New Everyday Faith App



Everyday Faith is the new daily devotional app from the Church of England.

The app aims to help individuals to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the whole of life by providing carefully curated daily reflections, including selected Bible readings, a simple prayer for the day ahead, and thoughts based on that week's theme. **Find out more here:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/everyday-faith-app-develop-a-daily-connection-with-god.php>

'easyfundraising' Webinar

Tuesday 24 September 2024, 12.30pm-1.30pm – Zoom

ACAT are offering a free webinar on generating income for your church using easyfundraising. **Learn more and book your free place:** <https://www.acat.uk.com/product/meet-the-funder-easyfundraising-free-unrestricted-funding-for-your-church/>

Mental Health and Wellbeing Day

Saturday 21 September, 9am-2pm – St John's Church, Hinckley

This training day is for all who want to know how to look after their own mental health better, and the mental health of others, particularly in a church setting.

Speakers will be Dr Emma Hayward and Sangita Jobanputra. *Please bring a packed lunch.*

The event is free, but please

email Kim.Ford@LeicesterCofE.org if you would like to attend.

Holy Listening Course at Launde Abbey

Are you interested in helping people deepen their spiritual lives? Could God be calling you to be a spiritual director?

Spiritual direction is the practice of being with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with God, a prayerful ministry by which one Christian accompanies another as they discern the place and work of God in their life.

Holy Listening is a Launde Abbey training course which will help you develop skills and reflective practice for this ministry. You'll explore core aspects of Christian spirituality, and how we create and hold spaces that enable other people to hear God speaking in their lives.

Launde Abbey is seeking interested applicants to form its cohort for 2025 and 2026. Applications must be submitted by

Friday 27 September, with interviews to be held on 14 & 16 October.

Find out more about the ministry of spiritual direction and about *Holy Listening*:

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/holy-listening/>

Outdoor Church Gathering – Let’s go for a Walk

Saturday 7 September, 9.30am-1.30pm, Launde Abbey.

Whether you’re a regular Forest Church leader or just interested in exploring worship outside for the first time, this day is for you. **Download the flyer for more information:**

<https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/walk-flyer-aw-240524.pdf>

The aims of the gathering are to:

- Celebrate and share Outdoor Worship which is already established
- Support and encourage leaders of all ages within Outdoor Worshipping communities
- Inspire and birth new Outdoor Worshipping communities

There will also be an opportunity for an informal retreat after lunch, finishing at 4pm. **Book Now**

Early Bird Tickets cost £10 (including lunch) and are available until 8 July (regular price £12). We are also looking to welcome Young Leaders (14-18) at £8 each. **Book your place:**

<https://htl.churchsuite.com/events/t2as1ynm>

Embrace the Difference - Unconscious Bias Training

Saturday 14 September, 9.30am-12.30pm – St Martins House, Leicester.

This training workshop is a chance to examine our biases, understand how they become embedded, and explore God’s design in diversity. During the training, you will learn about different biases that exist in our society and church and how they influence our interactions with people who are different from us.

This training is free to attend. A finger lunch will be provided afterwards. Sign up via the Hub:

<https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/learning-resources/embrace-the-difference-unconscious-bias-training/> or by emailing the IWC project administrator at: Dinta.Chauhan@LeicesterCofE.org

Reconciling Habits Workshop using the Difference Course

Saturday 28 September, 9am-12.30pm – St Martins House, Leicester.

Monday 4 November, 7pm-8.30pm – a ‘regathering’ follow-up session on Zoom.

A two-session course where you’ll hear and share insights into the ways reconciliation is at the heart of the Christian faith and how it has a practical impact on our everyday lives and leadership as we serve through discipleship, pastoral work, and mission.

There’ll be the opportunity to practice using the habits personally and explore how to offer it to your communities by developing the three ‘reconciling habits’ – Be Curious, Be Present, and Reimagine. These habits are grounded in Biblical principles and seen in the life of Christ.

The course will be facilitated by Sharon March, Associate Minister and Lay Training Tutor, and Emma Crick de Boom, Reconciliation Enabler for Coventry Diocese.

Please make sure you can attend both sessions before registering. For more information & sign up here:

<https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/learning-resources/the-reconciling-habits-workshop/>

Renew Wellbeing Cafés - Information Sessions

The Diocese of Leicester has been selected to join a pilot scheme offering parishes training and support from *Renew Wellbeing* to launch simple, welcoming, café-style spaces to improve mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. **This video explains the project:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhm6nPKM_Z4

Find out more at one of two (repeated) introductory sessions:

Tuesday 17 September, 2-3pm and Thursday 19 September, 11am-12pm on Zoom.

Email Sharon Andrews to register: Revdsandrews13@gmail.com

Following these sessions there will be a training event for those wanting to take things further at St Martins House on Thursday 31 October, 10am-12pm.



Designed by Emma Hogarth and Rachel Pendleton, both aged 10, after a conversation about Harvest and our desire to thank God for all of creation.

