



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 23rd January 2025

Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

Sunday 26th 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 Comunion (Revd Christine Blodwell)

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd February, Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

10am **Skeffington** Songs of Praise (Congregation Led)

10.30 **Illston** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

4pm **Billesdon** Choral Evensong Candlemas (Revd John Taylor)

Sunday 9th February, 4 Before Lent

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 16th February, 3 Before Lent

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

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

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

6pm **Skeffington** Evensong (Revd Jeff Hopewell)

6pm **Illston** Evening Prayer (Hilary Painter)

Sunday 23rd February, 2 Before Lent

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

11am **Billesdon** Holy Comunion (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=HD1LgaqamMFBN2y1m7p226w0h2KVki.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2029 7969

Passcode: 470000

Sunday 26th January 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Leader & Reflection: Madeleine Wang

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

PLEASE USE THIS LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKI91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.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:

Hilary Painter: 0116 259 9752

hilarypainter@rocketmail.com

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/

07754395006 keithevans6@btinternet.com

Collect for Sunday 26th January Third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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: Sunday 26th January 2025

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Today's gospel reading marks the start of Jesus' public ministry, in which he sets out his agenda. And right at the top is this: Bring good news to the poor.

Jesus took a very different line on wealth from the established wisdom of this day, and his sayings about the rich are uncomfortable for us to hear, because, although we are not necessarily rich by the standards of this country, we know that in comparison with millions of others elsewhere in the world we are immensely wealthy. But he also took a very different line on poverty as well. Jesus always stood up for the poor, affirming their worth and dignity in a society that had devalued them. He understood that they often have a greater reliance on God than the rich, and that, comparatively speaking, they may well be more generous.

Surely Jesus wanted to give more than guilt to the rich, and more than sympathy to the poor.

We can respond to these things at a number of different levels:

We can do it through the ballot box. When the next general election comes round, ask yourself which party most represents good news for the poor - though that may be less easy to determine than perhaps it might once have been.

We can get involved in local politics; write to our local MP on issues of poverty. Campaign for just and fair laws that don't impoverish whole sections of society.

We can donate to aid agencies that are working among the world's poorest communities. Remember, in many situations what the poor want most is justice, not just charity. We give money in order to allow greater empowerment of the poor, not only to try and sort out their problems.

We could sponsor a child in the third world.

Or there are charities in this country like Emmaus which give homeless people, often with mental health problems, a community to live in and a purpose in life,

doing up donated furniture or serving in the community's charity shop or cafe.

Perhaps more importantly, we can try to live more simple lives ourselves, so that we may be as generous as we can.

Finally, we can, and should, pray. Never underestimate the power of identifying spiritually in prayer with those who are poor - and prayer is as much about offering ourselves to God as a possible solution to our prayers as it is expecting him just to wave a magic wand.

Jesus came to bring good news to the poor. We are his followers and it is up to us to carry on his work here on earth and be, in as many ways as we can, good news to the poor.

Revd Jeff Hopewell

Bible Readings: Sunday 26th January 2025

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10

8 1 all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel.

2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.

3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

10 Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

15 If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body.

16 And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?

20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'

22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

23 and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;

24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member,

25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

31 But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Luke 4.14-21

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to
proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'
20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the
attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the
synagogue were fixed on him.
21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture
has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Additional Collect for Sunday 26th January Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Amen



Food Bank Appeal:

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks. All donations welcome, which may be left in any of our Church porches, or you can donate online.

To make a donation to The Well's Food bank fund,
by bank transfer to *The Well Kibworth*

Sort Code: 40-32-04 **Acc:** 41666959 **Ref:** 'Foodbank'
Gift Aid Forms can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.thewellkibworth.org/support-us>



NOTE: Back copies of Newsletters available on Launde Minster Community website

Do you want to have a look for something in previous editions of the Gaulby and Coplow, and the Hallaton, Whatborough and Loddington Newsletters?

Back copies can be downloaded from the Launde Minster Community website at: <https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/newsletters>

Snowdrop Sunday, 9th February St Thomas a Becket Church, Tugby



Come and walk through the Churchyard to see the snowdrops and other lovely spring flowers.

We will be serving tea, coffee and cakes in the Church between 2-4.30pm.

World Day of Prayer 2025 Service

St Michael and All Angels Church, Hallaton

Friday 7 March at 10am. *Suitable for all the family*

Everyone is very welcome



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>

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/>

Launde Deanery Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training 30th January 2025 in Billesdon

Course: Basic Awareness Course Code

LF2FBA2300125

Time 10am – 12.30pm

The Old School Billesdon, next to St John The Baptist Church,
at the Junction of Brook Lane and Church Street.

To book contact Wendy Lewis on

wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org



Living with Loss - A Bereavement Retreat

Friday 7 February to Monday 10 February – Launde Abbey

Come and join with others who have also experienced life-changing loss through bereavement.

This is a gentle retreat with a Christian perspective, sensitively led by Abi May and team, suitable for those who have lost a husband or wife, children or other close family members, or who have suffered multiple losses.

Find more information and booking details on the Launde Abbey website:

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/livingwithloss2025/>

'Six Inches of Soil' Film Showing

Saturday 8 February, 7pm (Doors 6pm) – St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray

The first six inches of soil feed 8 billion people. This film offers a look at biodiversity, carbon, food justice, and working with nature rather than against it.

Watch the trailer: <https://sixinchesofsoil.vhx.tv>

There will be a raffle and refreshments. Bring your own popcorn or sweets! Booking essential. **Get your free tickets here:** <https://kinema.com/events/six-inches-of-soil-rpl1uw>

Embrace the Diversity

Saturday 8 February, 10am-3pm – St Martins House, Leicester

A training day on tackling contemporary, systemic and interpersonal discrimination, with a view to developing a healthy intercultural church.

For more information and to book your space, email Dinta.Chaohan@LeicesterCofE.org

OWL Network – Growing Community

Saturday 15 March, 10-11.30am – Zoom

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

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

Register to receive Zoom link:

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

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/>

3rd Anglican Intercultural Mission Conference

Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 March – Fountains Church, Bradford

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

Under the theme, 'How will we make disciples of all nations in our different contexts?', the conference will include dynamic keynote sessions, practical workshops, and transformative discussions. **More information and registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-third-anglican-intercultural-mission-conference-tickets-1004427518747?aff=oddtcreator>

Step Forward Vocations Event

Saturday 8 March, 10.30am-4pm – Bishophorpe Palace, York

Step Forward is an opportunity for those aged 18 and 30 to find out about ministry in the Church of England. It includes input from Archbishop Stephen Cottrell and those with recent experience of the discernment process and theological training. **Register your interest:**

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

Storytelling for Everyone

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

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

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

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

Register on the Learning Hub:

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

