



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: 19th December 2024

Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

Thursday 19th December, Advent 3

6pm Launde Deanery **Zoom Carol Service** (preceded by Christmas Party at 5pm) *See Special Zoom link below*

6.30pm **Keyham** Carol Service (Revd Philip Norwood)

Sunday 22nd 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 24th 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 25th 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 29th December, 1st Sunday after Christmas

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

📺 Sunday 22nd December 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Leader & Reflection: Helen Bence

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 #

📺 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

Contact Us:

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📺 Thursday 19th December 6pm Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Carol Service

(Same link for Christmas Party at 5pm)

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

PLEASE USE THIS LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5571435547?pwd=eXB3Y3NjB3lubXBDRm53ZU1DaStodz09&omn=89505825350>

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 #

📺 Wednesday 25th 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 #

Collect for Sunday 22nd December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer,

who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary

to be the mother of your Son:

grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,

so we may be ready to greet him

when he comes again as our judge;

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 Gaulby



We look forward to see you - in person and on Zoom

Reflection: 22nd December 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

This Sunday's gospel reading tells of the meeting of two remarkable women – women who trusted in God. Elizabeth, despite her advanced years, has become pregnant, as the angel had announced to her husband, Zechariah, and so, some five or so months later, has her relative, Mary. Having heard the good news about Elizabeth's condition, Mary has lost no time in going to greet her. If she had any lingering doubts about what Gabriel had told her then Elizabeth's greeting, calling her 'the mother of my Lord' and the confirmation of John's response, as yet unborn, should have allayed her fears. Mary has been doubly blest – she is physically the mother of Jesus and spiritually as well. Jesus would later say 'My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it'. Mary has indeed heard the word of God and obeyed. Roman Catholics have no hesitation in using the expression 'Mother of God' to describe Mary, although Protestants are more uncomfortable with the term. The Orthodox churches refer to her as the 'Theotokos', which means 'God -bearer', a linguistically cumbersome but theologically neater way of putting it. She is the one who carries and then gives birth to the infant Jesus. She has a more intimate relationship with him than is possible for any other human being. And to do so she has taken a big risk. The stigma of being an unmarried mother was far greater than it is now and there was a distinct possibility that her planned marriage to Joseph would not go ahead. Yet she trusted in God that he could and would solve these problems.

Similarly, Elizabeth trusted in God, that he would fulfil his promise, and that mother and baby would come safely through the pregnancy. Remember, infant mortality and the risk to a mother's life were considerably greater in those days. We acclaim Elizabeth in being the first to recognise that Mary carried within her the Saviour of the world.

Here are two remarkable women with an essential part to play in God's purposes for humanity. Both present us with a challenge. Are we, like Mary, prepared to let Jesus into our hearts and lives, no matter what the cost? And are we, like Elizabeth, able to see that same Jesus Christ in one another? This is what today's reading asks of us.

Revd Jeff Hopewell

Bible Readings:

Sunday 22nd December 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5.2-5a

- 2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall
come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
- 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the
rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength
of the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And
they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

5 and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them
seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

Canticle: Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; •
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; •
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, •
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm •
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones •
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things •
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, •
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, •
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

Or

Psalm 80 1-8

1
Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, •
you that led Joseph like a flock;

2
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the
cherubim, •
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

3
Stir up your mighty strength •
and come to our salvation.

4
Turn us again, O God; •
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.

5
O Lord God of hosts, •

how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
6 You feed them with the bread of tears; •
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, •
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; •
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.

Hebrews 10.5-10

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he
said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
6 in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
7 Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O
God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'
8 When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor
taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-
offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according
to the law),
9 then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He
abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
10 And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for
all.

Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a
Judean town in the hill country,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth.
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child
leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother
of my Lord comes to me?
44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the
child in my womb leapt for joy.
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be
a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'[
46 And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his
servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me
blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.']

Additional Collect for Sunday 22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A prayer for advent by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for
Christmas.
We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for
the complete joy of your Kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people,
walking in darkness yet seeking the light.
To you we say
"Come, Lord Jesus".

Amen

Bible Readings: Wednesday 25th 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.

Collect for Wednesday 25th 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 25th 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

Coplow Benefice and Gaulby Group Meeting

**Thursday 9th January at 7.15pm at the Old
School in Billesdon (Venue to be confirmed)
To: All PCC Secretaries and Churchwardens
in the Coplow Benefice and Gaulby Group**

Dear All

We are arranging a series of evening get togethers
for all PCC members or anyone else who may wish
to attend. This email is an invitation to the meeting
for Coplow Benefice and the Gaulby Group which is

proposed to be held on Thursday 9th January at 7:15pm. It is intended that this will be held at **The Old School in Billesdon**, although that is to be confirmed.

This will be an informal opportunity to meet together, to get to know each other better and share views on being church in the changing context beyond Easter and the summer of 2025. Service rotas and church governance will be discussed among other matters of importance to you. Revd Jonathan Dowman and Phil Leech (from Leicester Diocese representing the Archdeacons) will be present. Similar meetings are being held with all of the benefices within our Minster Community.

Please would you circulate this email to all the members of your PCCs and confirm your attendance with Wendy Lewis by Friday 13th December if possible.

Jonathan

Jonathan Dowman
Oversight Minster for the Launde Deanery Minster Community



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/>



Hallaton Museum

Online Talk on Zoom

Thursday 9th 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 or call on 01858 555249 and she will send you the Zoom link.



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>



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>

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>



Each day throughout Advent we'll be releasing a Bible verse or a line from a carol.

We hope taking a few minutes each day to reflect on these words will help you to 'prepare room' for Jesus during this season.

Find the posts on [Facebook](#) and [X](#), or on our website along with a guide to Lectio Divina (divine reading).

Visit our Advent 2024 webpage:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/advent-2024--let-every-heart-prepare-him-room.php>

Advent Meditations

Monday 23 December, 12.30pm – Leicester Cathedral

Seasonal meditations with organ music, Bible readings, and poetry. Admission free.

Advent and Christmas resources available on [AChurchNearYou.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](#) 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>



Carol Concert by Candlelight

Thursday 19 December, 7.30pm – Leicester Cathedral

Join us for two special concerts of Christmas carols and music sung by the Cathedral Choir, surrounded by real candlelight in the final resting place of King Richard III.

Tickets are £12 / £10 concessions, which include a mince pie and festive drink.

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/carol-concerts-by-candlelight-with-leicester-cathedral-choir-tickets-1074167526989>



