



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 6th March 2025

Friday 7th March, World Day of Prayer

10am **Hallaton** World Day of Prayer Service (Deanery Community Led) *Also to be live-streamed on Zoom – see link opposite*

Sunday 9th March, Lent 1

9am **Skeffington** BCP Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)

10am **Gaulby** Morning Prayer (Hilary Painter)

11am **Billesdon** 1st Lent Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

Sunday 16th March, Lent 2

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 Philip Norwood)

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

Sunday 23rd March, Lent 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)

Sunday 30th March, Lent 4, Mothering Sunday

10am **Gaulby** Morning Prayer Mothering Sunday (Hilary Painter)

11am **Hungarton** Mothering Sunday (Revd John Taylor)

11am **Church Langton** Mothering Sunday **Launde Deanery/ Minister Community Service**

11am Launde Deanery **Mothering Sunday Zoom Service**

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=HD1LgaqamMFBN2y1m7p226w0h2KVKj.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2029 7969

Passcode: 470000

Sunday 9th March 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

World Day of Prayer Zoom Service

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

PLEASE USE THIS LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKI91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqG18Q.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 #

Friday 7th March 10.00am Zoom

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE *Livestream*

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

PLEASE USE THIS SPECIAL, ONE-OFF LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81878110480?pwd=yT3FbAAPNR2hgTgwofbSjks6NBBUHZ.1>

Meeting ID: 818 7811 0480

Passcode: 512402

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:

T. 0203 481 5240

Enter the **Meeting ID:** 818 7811 0480 followed by #

Enter the **Passcode:** 512402 followed by #

Contact Us:

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Collect for Sunday 9th March

First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,

whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,

and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;

and, as you know our weakness,

so may we know your power to save;

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 9th March 2025

First Sunday of Lent

The season of Lent is upon us as we remember Jesus spending 40 days and nights in the desert. We are told that he was filled by the Holy Spirit and presumably was planning to spend time praying to God, his Father, for help and guidance as he prepared to begin his ministry. It is just as well he does this because Satan is seeing his chance to take over Jesus in order to thwart God's plan to save his people, which would ultimately cause Satan to lose his own power in the world. Jesus would have been very open to being tempted. He had been fasting and therefore very physically weak. He was alone and he knew what God was asking of him - to give himself as the sacrifice needed to allow his human brothers and sisters to be forgiven - that includes all of us too. But Jesus does not give in. He has been strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit and also by the word of God. Each temptation is repelled by words from the bible. The temptation to turn stones into bread, which Jesus could certainly have done, was answered by "Thou shall not live by bread alone but by every word which comes from

the mouth of God". The temptation to bow down and worship Satan and be given power over the world by "Thou shall worship only the Lord thy God." And the temptation to hurl himself off the highest point of the Temple having faith that God his Father will save him and thus convince the people that Jesus is indeed his Son, by "Thou shall not put God to the test. "After all this, Satan leaves him but planning to find another opportune moment.

We too can follow Jesus's example. When we feel God is calling us to serve him in a way which will be hard and not something we are sure about then we can take time out to pray about it. We can ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit and let God speak to us about what he wants us to do for him. This is when our knowledge of the bible will help and we may not have the wonderful knowledge that Jesus had but we will have a copy of God's Word in a way that people in the past and in many places still today do not. Even so a good and regular reading of our bible will enable us to more easily find the appropriate verses we need to help us hear God's voice and to repel any rejection of God's calling which may come from us or from Satan trying to prevent us following him.

Lent is a good time to improve our bible knowledge and is about so much more than giving up chocolate - although there is nothing wrong with us purposely making sacrifices especially if we give any money saved to help those in need. Our Bishops are making their Lent appeal for The Leprosy Mission this year which does some remarkable work helping those who are still suffering in many ways in which those who Jesus healed when he was here on earth with us.

Revd Christine Blodwell

Bible Readings:

Sunday 9th March 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

26 When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it,

2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.'

4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God,

5 you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.

6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us,

7 we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

8 The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;

9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God.

11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Romans 10.8b-13

8 But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

11 The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.'

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

13 For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Luke 4.1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,

2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

3 The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.'

4 Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

6 And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.

7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.'

8 Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,

10 for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you",
 11 and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."
 12 Jesus answered him, "It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."
 13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Additional Collect for Sunday 9th March First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father,
 your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert:
 help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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
This service will be livestreamed. See page 1 of this newsletter for the Zoom link.



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>

Hallaton Café Morrell 'Give in Lent' Donate a Tonne of Tins for Lent for the Jubilee Foodbank – that's just 74 tins a day! Can you help to make a difference this Lent?



Launde Zoom Lent Course
From Thursday 6 March 6pm-7pm for 6 weeks
 Exploring Bishop Guli's Book '*Cries for a Lost Homeland, Reflections on Jesus' Sayings from the Cross*'
Everyone is welcome at any session(s).

To join use this link: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82936355714?pwd=lorgmtzbfNZllkfqZKgyBDYW9uFWvw.1>
 Meeting ID: 829 3635 5714
 Passcode: 810997



For more information, contact Hilary Painter:
hilarypainter@icloud.com or Linda Jones:
l.jones2k@btinternet.com

Food for Thought
Wednesday 12th March 7 for 7.30pm
The Fox and Hounds, Tugby
 Bookings by Thursday 6th March: mary.twidell@gmail.com
 01858 555204/ 07464 309966



Food for thought

An evening with
 Dr Caroline Beardsmore

Learning Through Life

Meal and talk £17.50

Wednesday 12th March
 7pm meet for 7.30pm start
 The Fox and Hounds, Tugby

Bookings by Thursday 6th March
marytwidell@gmail.com / 01858 555204 / 07464 309966

About the speaker: Caroline combined university teaching with practical studies of long London in children. She spent time living in Jerusalem and Montreal. She took up backpacking 25 years ago and studied to become a Master Backpacker, which she became.

About Food for Thought: Talks about life, faith and contemporary issues, arranged by a local group of Christians, including support from Launde C of E Deanery.

Fridays in Lent at Gaulby Church 12.30-2pm



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/>

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>



Launching the Bishop's Lent appeal 2025 – The Leprosy Mission



The Bishops' Lent Appeal for 2025 is in support of The Leprosy Mission, a Christian charity who work to provide healing and hope to those affected by leprosy.

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. Although it is curable, millions of people worldwide are living with the effects of the disease, from physical disability to mental health problems, poverty and discrimination. Caring for those with leprosy is a cause close to the heart of the Bishop of Loughborough, Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly, and a cause which has historical roots in Leicestershire.

Bishop Saju recently visited the village of Burton Lazars and the site of what was an historic administrative centre for the care of leprosy across the nation.

He also stopped by St James' Church, which is home to 'Roger', a carved stone leper head, and one of just a few preserved relics from this time.

Here, he was taken back to his days growing up in a leprosy hospital in Bengaluru where his mother served as a nurse and, in this video, speaks about that time and the plight of The Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka today.

Watch Bishop Saju and find everything you need:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/lent2025.php>

Evangelist Retreat

Thursday 10 April to Friday 11 April – Launde Abbey

Are you a lay evangelist? Would you like to spend time with others, sharing ideas, worship, reflection and resourcing? Church Army's Resources team are joining with Launde Abbey to facilitate a retreat for anyone who is an evangelist or whose work includes mission and evangelism.

Cost £150. **Click here to book:**

[https://booking.eu.guestline.app/LAUNDE/availability?hotel=LAUNDE&arrival=2025-04-10&departure=2025-04-11&adults=1&children=0&filters\[rates\]\[\]=ENT_CHU_ARMY](https://booking.eu.guestline.app/LAUNDE/availability?hotel=LAUNDE&arrival=2025-04-10&departure=2025-04-11&adults=1&children=0&filters[rates][]=ENT_CHU_ARMY) or call Launde Abbey on 01572717254.

For more information email jane.henderson@churcharmy.org

Lent and Easter at Launde Abbey

There are lots of opportunities to pray and reflect at Launde Abbey throughout Lent and Holy Week.

A number of 'Soul-Filled Meanderings' are taking place, led by Jo de Graff, and including a guided walk, prayer service and soup lunch. **See details here:**

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events/category/soulfilledmeanderings/>

On *Ash Wednesday*, 5 March, the administration of ash will be offered at all of Launde's services – midday and 5pm for non-residents.

A retreat is being held throughout *Holy Week*. You can join for as much as you like by booking an overnight stay or attending for the day. **See details here:**

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/holyweek2025/>

Being Missional Today - Day Conference

Tuesday 10 June, 9:30am-5pm – Coventry Cathedral

A festival of missional thinking exploring the impact of disruptions in church and world, the liminality of this current season, and the role of reconciliation practices.

Featuring 22 different speakers, with Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani and Revd Dr Al Barrett headlining.

Being Missional Today promises to be a stimulating event for those looking for inspiration in the missional challenges facing us today. **Full details and bookings:** <https://reconciliation-initiatives.org/being-missional-today/>

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>

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 – Bishopthorpe 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/>



The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is Living Hope.

This special webinar explores the resources available for churches this Lent and Easter, explaining more about the theme, and featuring reflections and various printed and digital resources for use in your worshipping communities. They'll also be an opportunity to ask any questions you might have about making the most of Lent and Easter and the Living Hope theme.

Find out more about Living Hope:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-resources-lent-2025>

