



Launde Minster Community

Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 18th December 2025

Sunday 21st December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

and Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day

Attached is the MC Worship Plans for **DECEMBER 2025 and JANUARY 2026** (as of 18th December)
This is your newsletter so please use it to share your notices, events and invite others to join you.

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

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

l.jones2k@btinternet.com 07851163712

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

Our Churches Online:

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



Every Sunday at 8am Launde Abbey Chapel

Holy Communion - Please come quietly into the chapel via the external north door to join the Abbey Community and those on retreat.

Morning Prayer on Zoom

Everyone is welcome

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

All welcome. Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 817 5122 7280 Passcode: 419620

Sunday 21st December 11am Zoom

Launde Minster Community Zoom Church

Carols of Praise

All are welcome

Leader: Linda Jones

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGI8Q.1>

Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342

Passcode: 079282

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE: T. 0203 481

5240 Enter the Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342 followed by #

Enter the Passcode: 079282 followed by #

Contact Us:

Crystal Mcallister pioneerocrystal136@gmail.com

07890 020012

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07777 934092

Thursday 25th December 11am Zoom

Launde Minster Community Zoom Church

Christmas Day

All are welcome

Leader: Linda Jones

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this special link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84690517497?pwd=CWbPRvkKUkgjOazEF0wu4m6vJ8kmNW.1>

Meeting ID: 846 9051 7497

Passcode: 209982

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE: T. 0203 481

5240 Enter the Meeting ID: 846 9051 7497 followed by #

Enter the Passcode: 209982 followed by #

Collects for Sunday 21st 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

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

Reflection: Sunday 21st December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The more I read this story of the birth of Jesus, perhaps one of the most retold stories of all time, the more I come to realise what a lot is hidden inside it. Mary knew the source of her pregnancy but how long did she carry the burden alone before Joseph found out? How isolated must she have felt? What risks she ran. How must she have trusted God!

We're told Joseph was a *righteous man*. In biblical language this implied merciful as well as law-abiding. Again, we are told that he contemplated divorce which shows compassion too.

Then, the angel visited him in a dream. 'Do not be afraid,' the angel says. What a lot he has to fear. Scandal and loss of honour are the least of his worries! A pregnancy outside marriage would have carried

immense shame for both Mary, Joseph and their families. God's actions puts them both at social risk, reminding us today that divine action doesn't always match with 'respectability'.

The visit from the angel doesn't alter the risks or the emotions that must have been stirred up for Joseph, but it does make him look at things in a different way. God's way.

If we think about it, the passage also invites us to reflect on the way God has always worked in messy, compromised human situations; through people on the margins of respectability and society and in the way that can upend our social expectations.

God isn't one to like neat and tidy stories. Let us pray for all those today who are about to give birth but living in fear or shame, outcasts from their society, living in messy situations and afraid for the future. They too are God's children and where he is to be found.

Hilary Painter

Bible Readings:

Sunday 21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying,

11 Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.

12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.

13 Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Romans 1.1-7

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,

3 the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

4 and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,

6 including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

7 To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1.18-end

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

22 All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sunday 21st December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Psalms 80.1-8, 18-20

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.

18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

19 And so will we not go back from you;

give us life, and we shall call upon your name.

20 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.



Collects for Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen

Bible Readings: Thursday 25th December 2025 Christmas Day

Isaiah 9.2-7

- 2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of
deep darkness-
on them light has shined.
- 3 You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 4 For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace for the throne of
David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of
the Lord of hosts will do this.

Titus 2.11-14

- 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation
to all,
12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,
and in the present age to live lives that are self-
controlled, upright, and godly,
13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the
manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour,
Jesus Christ.
- 14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem
us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his
own who are zealous for good deeds.

Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]

- 1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor
Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2 This was the first registration and was taken while
Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee
to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because
he was descended from the house and family of David.
- 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was
engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for her to
deliver her child.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped
him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because
there was no place for them in the inn.
- 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were
terrified.
- 10 But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see-
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the
people:
- 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- 14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'
- [15 When the angels had left them and gone into
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go

now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols;
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Honour and majesty are before him;
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
- 12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Christmas Carols at Gaulby Church

NOTE: the change of venue

Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm

Mulled wine and mince pies

Collection for GEMS (a charity offering support to patients receiving chemotherapy treatment) and Church funds.

All are welcome

Sunday 28th December at 11am

**Launde Deanery and Minster Community Service
St Peter's, Tilton on the Hill**



The Christmas Story – Blankety Blank Style

Sunday 21st December at 5pm, Tugby Church



Praying Pilgrims

Launde Minster Community December

As part of our ongoing support to all the parishes across the LMC, a group of us, **Praying Pilgrims**, will join together at the churches listed, to reflect and pray for the needs of the church and community.

Every Wednesday for a 9.00am start.

The rota for December is:

December 03: Skeffington

December 10: Loddington

December 17: Tugby

December 24: **Owston**

We would greatly welcome and encourage anyone to join us, if they can.

Rev David Palmer and Rev Crystal McAllister



St Peter's Church, Tilton:

Friday Mornings 'Coffee and Chat'

Between 10.30 – 12.00noon

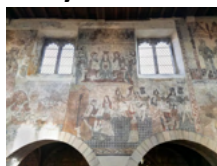
**Café Morrell St Michael and All Angels
Church, Hallaton**

Tuesday Mornings Coffee, Cake and Chat

Between 10.00 to 12.30pm

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

Tuesday 27th January at 7pm by Zoom



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

Everyone is welcome

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

A date for your diary: Friday 6th March 2026

World Day of Prayer 'I will give you rest, come' at St Thomas Beckett Church, Tugby

The service in March 2026 has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria.



We would love you to join with us from other churches across the Minster Community to plan this special service. It is a team effort, so it is not too time-consuming. The next meeting of the Planning Group is on Friday 16th January at 10.30am in Tugby Church. Let Linda Jones know if you would like to attend:

l.jones2k@btinternet.com

Celebration of Christmas in words & music

Saturday 20th December at 7.30pm

St Dionysius Church, Market Harborough

Conductor: Charlie Penn, Accompanist: Andrew King with Dan Antopolski, BBC New Comedy Award Winner

Tickets £16 or £9

Box Office: 01858 467463 j.r.balme@btinternet.com



Food Bank Appeal: The Well

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

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

Sort Code: 40-32-04 Acc: 41666959 Ref: 'Foodbank'

Gift Aid Forms can be downloaded from the website:

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

Food Bank Appeal: Jubilee Foodbank

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks.

Jubilee Foodbank Market Harborough

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

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

Crackers, Fray Bentos pies, Tinned vegetarian meals.

They also need:

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

The list of food always required is on the website:

<https://www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk>

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



Extracts from Diomail

15th December

For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 15th December:

[https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-15-december-](https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-15-december-2025/?newsletter_email=l.jones2k@btinternet.com)

[2025/?newsletter_email=l.jones2k@btinternet.com](https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-15-december-2025/?newsletter_email=l.jones2k@btinternet.com)

You can subscribe to receive the weekly Diomail here:

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

New Beginnings: Living and Singing the Lord's Song in Launde



It was a double service celebration in the Launde Deanery Minster Community recently as the Revd Crystal Mcallister was licensed into the parishes and commissioned in her role as Oversight Minister.

On Advent Sunday, at St Thomas a Becket Church in Skeffington, Crystal was legally licensed during a service of welcome and commitment to shared ministry. The following evening, parishioners once again gathered for a joyful service of welcome and commissioning for the Revd Crystal in the role of Launde Deanery Minster Community Oversight Minister.

Reflecting on her new role, Revd Crystal said: "I long for a church where the next generation inherits not exhaustion

but hope – a community rooted and grounded in prayer, learning to dwell, discern, and explore together.

"I am excited about moving forward, together with those in the Launde Minster Community, as we seek to form communities of hope, where we travel together in faith, waiting, stopping, and listening for the Spirit's guidance. "Jesus always said, 'Follow me'; he didn't ask, 'What can I do for you today?' In that obedience, my heart has always been to connect those outside the church walls with those within, asking not only how to fix or reform and encourage the 'new', but how to live and sing the Lord's song in this place."

Read the full story here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/new-beginnings-living-and-singing-the-lords-song-in-launde.php>

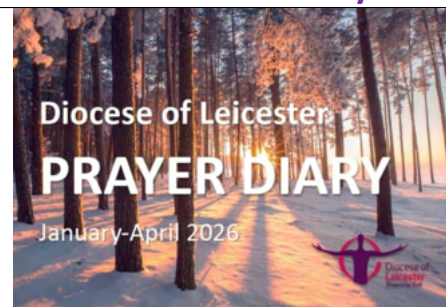
A Christmas Invitation

The Church of England has published a video inviting everyone to discover the joy of Christmas at their local church.

You can watch it and share it on their social media channels:

[YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#)

New Format For Our 2026 Prayer Diary



We are encouraged in 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 to 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you'.

Our Prayer Diary offers daily prayer requests to help us 'pray without ceasing' for those across our diocese and the world. Our new diary for January – April 2026 is now available. In our responsibilities as an Eco Diocese, our commitment to be net zero carbon by 2030, as well as weighing up staff time and the cost of printing and postage, we have taken the decision to cease production of the Prayer Diary in a printed booklet format.

Instead, you can access a printable, digital version on our **Prayer Diary webpage:**

<https://leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/prayer-diary/>
or at this link:
<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffd8a9f6aa/content/pages/documents/prayerdiary-jan-apr-2026.pdf>

