



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: 5th December 2024

Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

Sunday 8th December, Advent 2

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**

4pm **Hungarton** Carols & Christingle (Revd Philip Norwood)

Sunday 15th December, Advent 3

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

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

11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

4pm **Godby** Carol Service (Revd Philip Norwood)

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

Wednesday 18th December, Advent 3

6.30pm **Little Stretton** Carol Service

7.30pm **Skeffington** Lessons & Carols (Revd Philip Norwood)

Thursday 19th December, Advent 3

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

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

6.30pm **Gaulby Lodge Farm** Carols in the barn (Hilary Painter) TBC

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**

Sunday 29th December, 1st Sunday after Christmas

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



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>

Sunday 8th December 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Leader & Reflection: Hilary Painter

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 #

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

Collect for Sunday 8th December

Second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power

and come among us,

and with great might succour us;

that whereas, through our sins and wickedness

we are grievously hindered

in running the race that is set before us,

your bountiful grace and mercy

may speedily help and deliver us;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

Contact Us:

Hilary Painter: 0116 259 9752

hilarypainter@rocketmail.com

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/

07754395006 keithevans6@btinternet.com

Reflection: 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

The important message that comes out of our readings today is that one of our main purposes as Christian disciples is to speak about God's love to as many people as we can and also to demonstrate that love to others in the way we live our lives. We hear of John the Baptist, commanded by the words of the prophet Isaiah, to go out to prepare the way and the people to get ready for the coming of the long awaited Messiah by urging them to repent of their sins and to seek forgiveness through the baptism John would give them. The early Christians too are encouraged by Paul to make sure that they are telling people about the forgiveness that Jesus had won for them by his loving sacrifice upon the Cross. They

were also to show their love for each other and others just as Paul was showing his for them, even when he was in chains for the Gospel.

Sometimes we find it hard to talk about our faith to others, especially to those who are showing opposition to us and/or the Gospel of Jesus. The idea of us telling such people that an act of repentance would be a good way for them to be saved and spend eternity with Jesus may certainly be difficult for us, especially given some of the happenings in the Church recently! But Jesus has called us to do this and has also promised to be with us always and to give us all we need to answer the call he is making upon our lives. We must also remember that Paul and the early Christians faced very extreme opposition, as did Jesus himself. We may not be asked to face these extreme circumstances but we can probably be much braver in our speaking about our faith than we often are. It may help to give some thought to what it is in our relationship with Jesus that most helps us through life and what it is that helps us to remain faithful. Doing this helps us to have the right word to say to someone when the opportunity arises and will also help us to be clear that we too are trying to allow Jesus to help us to live more godly and faithful lives. None of this is easy but we can pray that Jesus will be with us give us the right words and way of approaching the person in a loving and supportive way. And he will do this because he has promised to do so and it is his work we are doing.

Revd Christine Blodwell

Bible Readings:

Sunday 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 1 Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.
- 2 Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
- 3 for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.
- 4 For God will give you evermore the name,
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.
- 5 Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
- 6 For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
- 7 For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

- 8 The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
- 9 For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Alternative Reading to Baruch 5:

Malachi 3.1-4

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.
- 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
- 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.
- 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Philippians 1.3-11

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 3 I thank my God every time I remember you,
4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.
- 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.
- 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel.
- 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.
- 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight
10 to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,
11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3.1-6

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

- 3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,

2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Additional Collect for Sunday 8th December Second Sunday of Advent

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge
and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. **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>

Gaulby Church Candlelight Concert

Sunday 15th December at 3pm

Christmas Carols for all the family Gaulby Lodge Farm

Tuesday 17th December 6.15 or 6.30pm start



McCabe Educational Trust concerning the needs of the AL SHUROOQ Christian-run school for blind children in Bethlehem.

Is your Church thinking about a Charity to support this Christmas? What about the

The school currently has 34 pupils aged 3 – 12 years. 21 pupils who come from Hebron, Jericho and remote parts of the West Bank, live and stay at the school all week as transportation is no longer available to take them home for weekends. Pupils from around Bethlehem commute every day as it is difficult for the school to provide for them to live in-house. This year the school started taking on social cases of children with visual disabilities and opened a new class for 10 pupils with multiple disabilities and behavioral problems. There are plans to bring blind children from Gaza to the school. 24 teachers are currently employed, in addition to therapists who work with special cases.

The school is facing an existential financial crisis with an annual deficit of £140,000. Half of the £1050 raised on Saturday 9th November at the Coffee Morning at Billesdon will be sent to Al Shurooq.

Could you or your church help?

Donations can be made to the McCabe Educational Trust at:

<https://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/projects/>

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/>



Safeguarding in the Launde Deanery/ Minster Community

An important letter from Revd Canon Jonathan Dowman and Revd Jayne Lewis:

Dear Churchwardens, PCC Secretaries and Parish
Representatives

(and copied to Safeguarding Co-ordinators)

Recent news regarding the resignation of the
Archbishop of Canterbury makes this communication
very timely and poignant.

At the last two deanery synod meetings we have
spoken about our wish to support PCCs to have a
working understanding of their responsibilities
regarding the safeguarding of children, young people
and vulnerable adults and to know what good
safeguarding should look like in our small rural
parishes. Every member of the PCC is a charity
trustee and, as such, has responsibilities outlined by
the Charity Commission and the Church of England.
This was recently reinforced by Bishop Martyn in his
presidential address to Diocesan Synod (which can be
found at [Presidential Address to Diocesan Synod -
November 2024 - Diocese of Leicester](#). (See below)

Training pathways have been provided to help us with
this.

All members of the PCC are required to complete the
following short safeguarding training courses every 3
years: Basic Awareness, Foundation, & Raising
Awareness of Domestic Abuse. These can be
completed online through the National Safeguarding
team training portal

at safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/ or in- person if
the PCC member would rather.

**We would therefore urge you to check with your PCC
members to discover the following:**

- Are all the members of your PCC up to date
with their Safeguarding training? **Yes/No**
- For those who need to complete or update
their training, please answer the following:

a) PCC members are able to access to the online
training portal and will do so independently. **Yes/No**

b) PCCs will arrange support for members locally to
enable completion of online training. **Yes/No**

c) **In person training is preferred** (see below).

NB. Please keep a record of your PCC members and
their training record (see link below to Excel
spreadsheet).

**We have arranged Basic Awareness training with
Louise Warner, Leicester Diocese Safeguarding
Training Officer on either Monday 20th, Monday
27th or Thursday 30th January (10.00am-12.30pm) at
The Old School, Billesdon. Once we know who needs
in-person training, Wendy will make contact to find
the date that suits the largest number of people.**

Please notify our Administrator, Wendy Lewis
(copying in Revd Jayne Lewis and your safeguarding
co-ordinator) of those who wish to attend in-person
training: wendy.lewis@LeicesterCofE.org
or phone 07777 934092.

A response from all PCCs by Thursday 12th
December 2024 would be greatly appreciated. NB If
you have any questions please contact Revd Jayne
Lewis 0116 259 7244.

[Parish Safeguarding Training Record](#)

With our sincere thanks and God bless,

Jonathan and Jayne

Rev Canon Jonathan Dowman, Oversight Minister
for the Launde Deanery Minster Community and
Rev Jayne Lewis, Co-Area Dean



Ride+Stride and Grants to Churches in 2024

**The LeicesterShire Historic Churches Trust is
delighted to announce that more than £40,000 has
been raised through Ride+Stride, held on 14
September.**

Sean Dudley (Ride+Stride Co-ordinator) and Janet Arthur
MBE (Chair) of LHCT write:

“We were hoping to break through £40,000 and we’ve done
it! We are very grateful to everyone who registered and
opened their church or chapel for Ride+Stride, to everyone
who raised funds through riding, striding or welcoming, and
to all their sponsors – thank you for a wonderful, collective
Ride+Stride effort. Sponsorship moneys are still being
received and we will look forward to announcing the final
total in January. The Trust’s share of the Ride+Stride funds
will all be used for grants in 2025.

“The Trust recently held its Autumn Grants Meeting at which
grants totalling £22,700 were awarded to seven Anglican
churches and one Methodist church. In the Spring, we
awarded £29,400 to 11 Anglican churches and one Baptist
church. This is a considerable increase in grant applications
following (we believe) a lull due to Covid. The total of grants
awarded in 2024 is therefore £52,100 raised through
Ride+Stride 2023 and grants from the Jack Patston, Edith
Murphy, Florence Turner and Maud Elkington charitable
trusts, and a generous private donation.

“Some great news of wonderful participation, support and
generosity in the Trust’s 60th Anniversary Year.”

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>

Face-to-face Safeguarding Training

The following face-to-face safeguarding training is available:

- Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse – 5 December, 11am-3.15pm, St Nicholas Church, Fleckney. Bring your own lunch. Code: LF2FRADA2051224
- Foundation Training – 7 December, 9.30am-1pm, All Saints Church, Church Lane, Sheepy Magna. Code: LF2FF3071224

View the booking form:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ULdo7-8FGsLgdwITR0vz8NYyHV7I5kQn/edit>

For further information visit our website:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/training-and-events>



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 2, 9, 16, 23 December, 12.30pm – Leicester Cathedral

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

Admission free.

Living Love and faith



A new video and leaflet have been published, providing information and updates on the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process.

Following the decision at July General Synod to develop proposals to introduce standalone services including Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) alongside pastoral reassurance, there will be continued input from four working groups into this process.

The new information outlines that between February and July 2025, diocesan synods will be expected to consult on the developments around the prayer implementation, pastoral oversight and guidelines for vocations with regards to new entrants.

As the lead Bishop for the LLF process, Bishop Martyn features in the video.

He said: "I am deeply thankful to all the members of the working groups, for their continued support in this process. This work is costly to many, both in terms of the time and energy it takes, but also because of the personal impact it can have. I hope and pray their work will continue to be fruitful, helping us build relationships, bringing a variety of perspectives, and further advance the work on PLF."

Watch the video and find out more:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/living-in-love-and-faith-update.php>

Diocesan Synod November 2024: Bishop Martyn's Presidential Address



A meeting of the Diocesan Synod took place on Saturday 23 November 2024 at Emmanuel Church in Loughborough.

The gathering opened with intercultural worship which included the commissioning of Sophie Holder as Diocesan Director of Racial Equity.

Bishop Martyn's Presidential Address was centred around the Makin Review, in which he spoke about the Church with deep regret, introspection, and a call to action for better safeguarding practices and support for survivors.

A fuller summary of the Synod meeting will be made available soon. **Read Bishop Martyn's full address:**

<https://leicester.anglican.org/presidential-address-to-diocesan-synod--november-2024.php>

Pastoral Message from Bishop Martyn



Bishop Martyn has recorded a pastoral message, following the release of the Makin Review and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

In it he also talks more generally about Safeguarding and shares an update on the Minster Community process.

Watch the Pastoral Message:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/pastoral-message-from-bishop-martyn.php>

If you or anyone you are in contact with are affected by the recent publication of the Makin Review and want to talk to someone independently, you can [contact the diocesan safeguarding team](#).

Alternatively, call the Safe Spaces helpline on 03003031056 or visit safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

It's never too late to come forward. You will be listened to, supported, cared for, and advised.

Advent and Christmas resources available on [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/achurchnearyoucom-advent-and-christmas-resources-and-how-you-can-use-them)

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](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/add-your-advent-and-christmas-services-and-events-me) 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>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/achurchnearyoucom-advent-and-christmas-resources-and-how-you-can-use-them>

Waiting for Light – Music and Readings for Advent

Saturday 7 December, 3pm – Launde Abbey

An afternoon of scripture and song led by Launde Abbey and the Aylesbury Consort of Voices, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. **See more information and book your place:**

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/waitingforthelight-advent/>

For more information contact tristan.owen@launde.org.uk



Carol Concerts by Candlelight

Tuesday 17, 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>



Everyone is warmly invited to our Global Carol Service, an intercultural celebration of Christmas followed by refreshments and drinks.

In addition to the cathedral choir, we will have carols, readings, and prayers in various languages. Join us as we come together to embrace one another across cultural and ethnic boundaries, celebrating with joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Listening to Children and Young People Webinar

Wednesday 11 December, 12.30pm-1pm – Online

Join the Growing Faith Foundation for a webinar exploring Listening Groups as a technique for listening to children and young people, co-hosted by Matt Long from the Diocese of Leicester.

Register your place here:

<https://churchofengland.tfaforms.net/4904123>



Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025

The bishops have chosen to support The Leprosy Mission as their Lent Appeal charity for 2025.

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. That's more than 200,000 new cases a year. 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.

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Everything the charity does is focused on its goals of zero leprosy transmission, zero leprosy disability and zero leprosy discrimination. They work in four key areas to achieve this – diagnosing and treating leprosy; caring for disabled people;

fighting stigma; and advocating for change and pioneering research.

The Leprosy Mission runs projects in countries across Africa and Asia, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Niger, Myanmar, Mozambique and Sri Lanka.

The Bishops' Lent Appeal will centre around the charity's work in Sri Lanka. More details will be shared in the new year. Visit Leprosy Mission UK:

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

Supporting our Link Diocese: Fundraising for New Benches in Kiteto Cathedral



A diocesan campaign to raise enough money to provide durable, long-lasting seating in Kiteto Cathedral, is appealing to churches to donate the price of one bench.

The Dioceses of Leicester and Kiteto in Tanzania have been linked since 1982. We, as a diocese, partner with Kiteto to support the area in improving education, training pastors, planting churches and by offering financial support for emergencies arising from natural causes.

At the moment, much of the seating is plastic chairs that gradually and inevitably depreciate. The Cathedral currently have six benches and are asking for 62 – at £55 each. Could your church donate a bench? Read the full story and how to donate:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/supporting-our-link-diocese-fundraising-for-new-benches-in-kiteto-cathedral.php>



