

Launde Minster Community



Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 19th March 2026

Sunday 22nd March Fifth Sunday of Lent

Attached is the MC Worship Plan for **MARCH 2026** (as of 19th March)

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 **Launde Minster Community Worship Plan**, 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. See *Worship Plan for details*

Saturday 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=VtUdahsUf34Vc7Bbr5qVFoeiobrOO8.1>

Meeting ID: 817 5122 7280 Passcode: 419620

Sunday 22nd March 11am

Launde Minster Community Online Church

All are welcome

Leader: Linda Jones

Reflection: Revd James Pickersgill, Bishop's Chaplain

To join the livestream, click on this zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqG18Q.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:

Revd Crystal Mcallister, Oversight Minister of Launde Minster Community. Vicar of the Coplow Benefice and Priest in Charge of The Gaulby Group; The Whatborough Group; Hallaton and Allexton with Horninghold, Slawston, Tugby and East Norton; The Langtons and Shangton; and Welham, Glooston, Cranoe and Stonton Wyville. pioneerystal136@gmail.com 07890 020012

Wendy Lewis, Administrator

wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org 07777 934092

Collects for Sunday 22nd March Lent 5

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;

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

Gracious Father,

you gave up your Son

out of love for the world:

lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace

through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reflection: Sunday 22nd March Lent 5

This week's Gospel reading gives us an insight into the way that Jesus comes alongside people, entering fully into all that they are thinking and feeling.

Jesus' relationship with Lazarus, Mary and Martha had been a very close one. We know this because of the rawness of their reaction to him when he arrives, 'Lord, if you had been here...'. It is often the people closest and dearest to us with whom we can fully share our disappointments and be honest about our feelings.

It must have been heart-breaking for Jesus to have lost a true friend and to have lost the trust and confidence of the two sisters. Their disappointment is clearly expressed; they feel that Jesus has let them down.

Perhaps they wondered how Jesus could have raised others to life, yet he was not there for them when they needed him most. But Jesus hadn't deserted them. He may have delayed, but he made a difficult choice to go to them, putting his own life at risk in order to return to their home. And, as we see, when he comes to them he turns their sadness into joy and their loss to celebration and rejoicing. In John's Gospel, there is a recurring

theme of transformation. It is John who tells of water-transformed wine, and of a small picnic becoming a feast for a crowd.....

Transformation comes to us in many forms. We can't all be fortunate to have an experience like that, but we can perhaps be aware of small transformations happening around and within us. Springtime fills us with the hope of returning new life. Easter will soon be upon us, reassuring us that death is not the end of our story and that hope can transform us and refresh us. Perhaps the greatest message we can draw from this story is that we believe in a God who came to earth to share in all our trials and disappointments. Jesus weeps with us and rejoices with us; he wants to be alongside us in the ups and downs of our journey through life.

Extract from Roots on the Web

Bible Readings:

Sunday 22nd March

Lent 5

Ezekiel 37.1-14

37 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

2 He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

3 He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.'

4 Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.'

10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely."

12 Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

13 And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Romans 8.6-11

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-indeed it cannot,

8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11.1-45

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.'

4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.'

8 The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?'

9 Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.

10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.'

11 After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.'

12 The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.'

13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead.

15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'

16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,

19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

21 Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'

23 Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'

24 Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'

25 Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

27 She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.'

29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

34 He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.'

35 Jesus began to weep.

36 So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'

37 But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

39 Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.'

40 Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'

43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Sunday 22nd March

Lent 5

Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?

3 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning, more than the night watch for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him is plenteous redemption and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Lent Resources and Courses

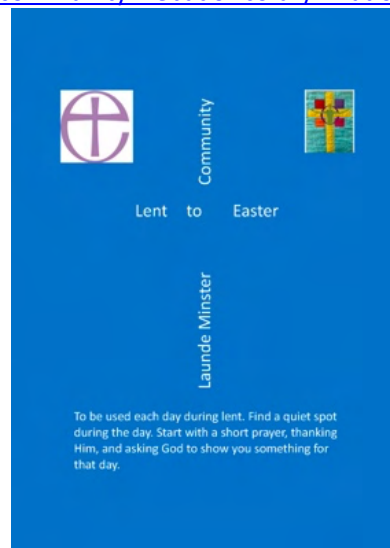
Please send details of proposed Lent courses to Wendy Lewis, Administrator

wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org 07777 934092

1. Revd David Palmer has prepared a Resource for Lent. Each day comprises a Bible verse and a short thought or prayer. This is this week's extract.

If you would like to read or download a copy of Revd David's complete resource for Lent, you can do so here:

<https://launde-minster-community.webador.co.uk/what-s-on>



Fifth Week of Lent, Beginning:

Thursday 19 March

Reading: Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. (Luke 11:42)

Prayer: Lord, do not let me lose sight of your bigger picture when I focus on the small details of life and worship. May the thoughts of my heart and my actions in the world be acceptable to you.

Friday 20 March

Reading: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. (Luke 6:20-21)

Prayer: Dear God, you are the creator and ruler of all that is. Be especially close to people in our community who currently don't have enough to eat. Bless the work of the foodbanks and voluntary agencies which seek to help poor people.

Saturday 21 March

Reading: Bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure – you, the righteous God who probes minds and hearts. (Psalm 7:9)

Prayer: There is so much violence and hatred in the world. Please Lord, prosper the work of people who seek to be peacemakers, and help me to be peaceable with others.

Sunday 22 March

Reading: The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. (Romans 8:6)

Prayer: Lord at this time of great uncertainty, fear and anxiety, may we trust you with all our hearts, and may we experience afresh the peace which only you can bring through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Monday 23 March

Reading: He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:2-3)

Prayer: When the way ahead is dark or unclear, Lord, may I look for your gentle, patient guidance so that I can find the way you want me to live, speak and react.

Tuesday 24 March

Reading: Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Prayer: Thank you Lord for all your faithful saints who have gone before us. Help us to follow their example of following your will whatever the cost, and give us the grace and strength to do the same.

Sixth Week of Lent, Beginning:

Wednesday 25 March

Reading: Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

Prayer: Pray today for a deeper understanding of God's truth, for the determination to live by it, and therefore to experience the freedom from guilt and anxiety that our loving God promises to those who follow him.

Thursday 26 March

Reading: Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. (Psalm 105:4)

Prayer: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace." (Helen H Lemmell, "O soul, are you weary and troubled?")

2. Lent Group in Church Langton

Revd Martin Hathaway and Maxine Johnson will be running a Lent Group.

Tuesday Evenings at 7.30pm at Brook House, Stonton Road, Church Langton

Last year saw the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed we use regularly in Communion Services - remarkable! The Church of England has prepared a 5-session discussion course looking at how the creed came about and the focussing on key topics, so we will use this.

Everyone is very welcome!

If you would like to let us know you are coming that could help with numbers. Thank you.

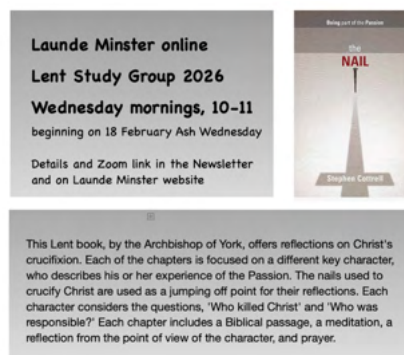
Contact:

revd.martinhathaway@tiscali.co.uk

maxinejohnson.1@btinternet.com

3. Launde Minster Community Online Lent Group

Every Wednesday for 6 weeks starting on 18th February 10-11am



Use this special Zoom Link to join the Lent group:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89249553263?pwd=NHCV9WSC0rXRNsKhRPK9tK930wdCbp.1>

Meeting ID: 892 4955 3263

Passcode: 658857

Everyone is welcome

4. Lent Course at St Peter's Church, Tilton

Starting on Tuesday 24 February, St Peter's Church in Tilton are running a Lent course.

There will be coffee, cake and conversation for anyone who wants to learn more about Lent. **This runs for 6 weeks until 31 March.** Each session will stand alone, so you can come to all or dip in and out.



Hallaton Church: Reverse Lent Challenge: GIVE instead of GIVING UP

Collecting 40 items in 40 days for the Market Harborough Foodbank

Collection point in the church



Soup Lunches at Gaulby during Lent

Every Friday during Lent 12.30-2pm



Praying Pilgrims in Launde Minster Community March & April 2026

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 March and April is:

March 25: **Lowesby**

April 01: **Cranoe**

April 08: **Ilston**

April 15: **Hallaton**

April 22: **Lowesby**

April 29: **Thorpe Langton**

We would encourage and greatly welcome others to join us for Morning Prayers.

Rev David Palmer and Rev Crystal McAllister

Holy Week

Services and Events at Launde Abbey in

See March and April Worship Plans for Services

Other events at Launde during Holy Week:

- Monday 30th March: A Holy Week Quiet Day
- Tuesday 31st March: Soul-filled Meandering (a led contemplative walk)
- Wednesday 1 April: Soul-filled Meandering (a led contemplative walk)
- Thursday 2 April: A reflective day making Hot Cross Buns

Bookings for all of these via the Abbey's website please.

Teas@Three at Launde Abbey

11 young at heart individuals from across a range of villages in the Launde Minster Community, and beyond, gathered at Launde Abbey on 9th March for a lovely, generous afternoon tea, meeting old friends and new acquaintances. A good time was had by all!



Revd David Palmer



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

Our Churches continue to support local Foodbanks:

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, 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. T

The Foodbank has **MOST URGENT NEED of:** Tinned Carrots, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Shower gel, Corned Beef, Tinned peas, Jam, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), Jars of Coffee (100grams), Jars of Pasta sauce, Dried Potato (Smash)

Other suggested donations: Custard, Tinned fruit, Dried Packet Rice, Baked Beans, Strong clean 'bags for life', Tinned Rice Pudding, Porridge Oats, Teabags, Sugar (500g), Jam, Tinned Baked beans with sausages, Cereal, Crackers, Tinned sweetcorn, Dried potatoes (Smash), Tinned red meat, Tinned meatballs, chicken in sauce, Biscuits, Sweets, Snacks and Crisps, Tinned tomatoes, Tinned chickpeas, mixed chilli beans, lentils, Tinned rice pudding, Sachet meals (pan or microwave), 'No Cook' meals for the homeless, Cordial, Marmalade, Tinned potatoes, Fray Bentos pies, Tinned ham, Crackers, Tinned soup, Cup of soup, Sugar (500g), Tinned vegetarian meals, such as veggie chilli, Meals that do not need cooking e.g. John West Fish and rice meals, Snacks and cereal bars, Fruit squash/ juice, Microwave puddings, Pasta sauce, 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), Mayonnaise, Angel Delight, Small sachets of herbs, Shampoo, Toothbrushes, Sunscreen (for homeless people in the summer), soap, Feminine products – sanitary towels, tampons

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)



Diomail Monday 16th March

For more information and other events use this link for Diomail 9th March:

https://thehub.leicester.anglican.org/newsletters/diomail-16-march-2026/?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/>

Bishop Martyn Speaks on Lifting Shame and Tackling Poverty

The Bill to remove the two-child limit in Universal Credit was debated in the House of Lords on 12 March.

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Lord Bishop of Leicester, addressed the House with a speech highlighting how the limit deepens both material poverty and the sense of shame experienced by families, reinforcing harmful assumptions about their responsibility and worth. He called for cross-party collaboration on how to end the policy and address the wider structural and emotional impacts of poverty on people's lives. **Read the full address here:**

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/lifting-shame-tackling-poverty.php>

Archbishop of Canterbury Pilgrimage

The new Archbishop of Canterbury will tomorrow (17 March) embark on a six-day walking pilgrimage from London to Canterbury, as part of her spiritual preparation for her Installation service at Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday 25 March.

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, along with her husband Eamonn, will be walking the 140km route along the Becket Camino from St Paul's Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral, reflecting her journey from Bishop of London to Archbishop of Canterbury.

Read the full story here:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/archbishop-canterbury-walk-140km-pilgrimage-canterbury>