



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 30th January 2025

Services & Events – In Church & on Zoom:

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd February, Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
10am **Skeffington** Songs of Praise (Congregation Led)
10.30 **Illston** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**
4pm **Billesdon** Choral Evensong Candlemas (Revd John Taylor)

Sunday 9th February, 4 Before Lent

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**

Sunday 16th February, 3 Before Lent

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

Sunday 23rd February, 2 Before Lent

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)

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

Sunday 2nd February 11.00am Zoom Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Leader: Mary Twidell **Reflection:** Fran Grasham, Chaplain, Launde Abbey

To Join our Zoom Services, click on this link:

PLEASE USE THIS LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679676342?pwd=CDIQKl91dakSkeAh5kbOeu8idqGl8Q.1>

Meeting ID: 836 7967 6342

Passcode: 079282

DIAL IN FROM A LANDLINE OR MOBILE:

T. 0203 481 5240

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

Enter the **Passcode: 079282** followed by #

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Collect for Sunday 2nd February Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the
Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ 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 2nd February 2025 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Candlemas brings to a close the Christmas Season, with hopefully happy memories of our celebrations at the end of December. "In the bleak mid-winter" we sang as we chose and wrapped our presents. "What can I give Him, poor as I am?... " – not a lamb, perhaps, but with the Wise Men we could "do our part", and above all, we did say we should "give my heart". Having sung all that (many times!) are we actually doing what we said we would do? Did we take in what the words mean? Mary and Joseph knew what it was to make a very great offering to God, such was their commitment to their faith and their loyalty to God's law. Forty days after childbirth, a mother was required to make an offering of two doves or young pigeons for her 'purification' (Leviticus 12.8), but in addition, as Mary's first-born male, Jesus had to be offered to God (Exodus 13.2). What a commitment! It was beautifully recognised by old Simeon in the Temple when God's Spirit revealed to him that he was meeting the child who would offer light to the whole world – at great cost to himself and to his mother. And Anna too, whose husband had died after they had been married seven years, and who at 84 had served ever since in the Temple; she knew without any doubt it had been worth all those years of dedication to see this baby.

Our offering to God is something to be taken very seriously, and not just at Christmas time. We follow a man who in every way was as human as us, who made the supreme offering of his whole life to God. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews emphasises the humanity we share with Jesus, and also the incredible benefit we receive from his offering.

We make offerings in many ways, especially to the people we love, but also in taxes to our country and local community. Yet surely, our first loyalty should always be to the Kingdom of God, and that loyalty, according to Malachi, is what we are judged on. **Revd Philip Norwood**

Bible Readings: Sunday 2nd February 2025 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Malachi 3.1-5

3 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.

5 Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Hebrews 2.14-end

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),

24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31

which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed
35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,

37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Additional Collect for Sunday 2nd February

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. **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





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>



Snowdrop Sunday, 9th February St Thomas a Becket Church, Tugby



Come and walk through the Churchyard to see the snowdrops and other lovely spring flowers.

We will be serving tea, coffee and cakes in the Church between 2-4.30pm.

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 Cplow, 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>



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/>

Treasurers' Meeting

Wednesday 5 February at 7pm, Billesdon Old School



Launde Deanery Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training 30th January 2025 in Billesdon

Course: Basic Awareness Course Code

LF2FBA2300125

Time 10am – 12.30pm

The Old School Billesdon, next to St John The Baptist Church, at the Junction of Brook Lane and Church Street.

To book contact Wendy Lewis on

wendy.lewis@leicestercofe.org



The Belief That We Can Change The World

Thursday 27 February, 6pm-7.30pm – St Andrew's Jarrom Street

In the first Bishop's Chaplaincy lecture of 2025, Lord Woolley of Woodford is joining us to address how we can seek to increase the diversity and representation of minoritised groups.

The evening is free to attend and open to all. It will include a Q&A and refreshments will be served. **See full details and booking:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-belief-that-we-can-change-the-world-tickets-1220867350109?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Living with Loss - A Bereavement Retreat

Friday 7 February to Monday 10 February – Launde Abbey

Come and join with others who have also experienced life-

changing loss through bereavement.

This is a gentle retreat with a Christian perspective, sensitively led by Abi May and team, suitable for those who have lost a husband or wife, children or other close family members, or who have suffered multiple losses.

Find more information and booking details on the Launde Abbey website:

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/livingwithloss2025/>

'Six Inches of Soil' Film Showing

Saturday 8 February, 7pm (Doors 6pm) – St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray

The first six inches of soil feed 8 billion people. This film offers a look at biodiversity, carbon, food justice, and working with nature rather than against it.

Watch the trailer: <https://sixinchesofsoil.vhx.tv>

There will be a raffle and refreshments. Bring your own popcorn or sweets! Booking essential. **Get your free tickets here:** <https://kinema.com/events/six-inches-of-soil-rpl1uw>

Embrace the Diversity

Saturday 8 February, 10am-3pm – St Martins House, Leicester

A training day on tackling contemporary, systemic and interpersonal discrimination, with a view to developing a healthy intercultural church.

For more information and to book your space, email Dinta.Chauhan@LeicesterCofE.org

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>

Racial Justice Sunday – Save the Date

Next year's Racial Justice Sunday is on 9 February 2025 and marks the 30th anniversary of the initiative.

A pack of resources to help plan services has been compiled by the Racial Justice Sunday Writers' Group and produced by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The pack includes service plans, sermon outlines and articles. **Find more information and resources:** <https://ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-9-february-2025/>

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 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

