



Gaulby and Coplow Newsletter

Edition Date: Thursday 27th March 2025

Sunday 30th March, Lent 4, Mothering Sunday

- 10am **Gaulby** Morning Prayer Mothering Sunday (Hilary Painter)
- 11am **Billesdon** Mothering Sunday (Revd Christine Blodwell)
- 11am **Hungarton** Mothering Sunday (Revd John Taylor)
- 11am **Church Langton** Mothering Sunday **Launde Deanery/ Minister Community Service**
- 11am Launde Deanery **Mothering Sunday Zoom Service**

APRIL

Sunday 6th April, Lent 5, Passiontide begins

- 9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
- 10.30am **Ilston** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
- 11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**
- 4pm **Billesdon** Stainer's Crucifixion sung by Billesdon Church Choir

Sunday 13th April, Holy Week, Palm Sunday

- 9am **Skeffington** BCP Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)
- 10am **Gaulby** Morning Prayer (Hilary Painter)
- 11am **Billesdon** Holy Communion Palm Sunday (Revd John Taylor)
- 11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service**

Monday 14th April, Holy Week

- 7pm **Keyham** Compline (Revd Philip Norwood)

Tuesday 15th April, Holy Week

- 7pm **Hungarton** (Revd Philip Norwood)

Thursday 17th April, Holy Week

- 7pm **Billesdon** Maundy Thursday

Friday 18th April, Holy Week, Good Friday

- 2pm **Skeffington** Words & Music
- 7pm **Gaulby** Good Friday Service (Hilary Painter) ***This service will be live streamed on Zoom***

Sunday 20th April, Easter Day

- 9am **Hungarton** Holy Communion (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
- 9am **Skeffington** Easter Sunday (Revd John Taylor)
- 10am **Gaulby** Easter Sunday (Hilary Painter)
- 10.30am **Keyham** Easter Sunday (Revd Jeff Hopewell)
- 11am **Billesdon** Easter Sunday Holy Communion (Revd John Taylor)
- 11am Launde Deanery **Zoom Service** Easter Sunday

Sunday 27th April, Easter 2

- 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=HD1LgaqamMFBN2y1m7p226w0h2KVkj.1>

Meeting ID: 898 2029 7969

Passcode: 470000

Sunday 30th March 11.00am Zoom

Launde Parishes Zoom Service

Mothering Sunday Zoom Service

Leader & Responder: Madeleine Wang

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 #

Holy Week – Services at Launde Abbey

All from Launde Deanery are welcome to join

Holy Week Days	Service
Monday	12pm Midday Eucharist
Tuesday	12pm Midday Eucharist
Wednesday	12pm Midday Eucharist
Thursday	12pm Midday Prayer with Anointing // 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist
Friday	12pm The Midday Passion
Saturday	
Sunday	7.30am Easter Eucharist

Collect for Sunday 30th March Mothering Sunday

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living

that in joy and in sorrow

we may know the power of your presence to bind

together and to heal;

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

Contact Us:

Hilary Painter: 0116 259 9752

hilarypainter@rocketmail.com

Keith Evans, Church Warden 01162596438/

07754395006 keithevans6@btinternet.com

Reflection: Sunday 30th March 2025

Mothering Sunday

Readings: Exodus: 2 v1-10 /Luke 2 v 33-35

'It's not Mother's Day- it's Mothering Sunday!' Ouch! I had been corrected. But were they not the same thing? I was to learn that Mother's Day is an American creation, (are we surprised?) The idea was born in the aftermath of the American Civil War, when a mother in Philadelphia suggested creating an annual memorial for mothers, and it was first established in 1908. In 1914 Woodrow Wilson decreed a National Mother's Day which would be observed with cards, flowers and gifts. It was soon taken over by the commercial sector and sadly, just as for Christmas, the rest is ... business.

What about Mothering Sunday? That has a longer history. On the 4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, people were allowed a day off from Lent fasting and would go to church; either to their local church where they had been baptised, or the cathedral. This attendance at their 'mother' church was called mothering. Today, of course, in our changed times the tradition is barely observed.

Nonetheless it is surely appropriate that we should celebrate and give thanks for our mothers. Maybe it could be more appropriately expressed, not just on one day in the year, as prompted by business, but continually throughout the year? In that way, we recognise and celebrate all that we have received through our mothers; qualities that are reflected in today's Bible readings.

We see the costly love of Moses' mother, who let go of her son so that he might live; similarly the care offered by his sister and the compassion shown by Pharaoh's daughter, in defiance of her father's decree.

Above all, we recognise the sacrificial love of Jesus' mother Mary, involving the anguish of watching her child suffer.

We should all give thanks for the care, compassion, courage and costly love shown to us by our mothers, but as we do, let us remember too those mothers who struggle to care for their children in the same way, among the daily horrors of life in Ukraine, Gaza and the other troubled areas of the world.

Revd John Taylor

Additional Collect for Sunday 30th March Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Bible Readings:

Sunday 30th March 2025

Exodus 2.1-10

1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.

2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months.

3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.

4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.

6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said.

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'

8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother.

9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it.

10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Alternative Reading to Exodus 2.1-10:

1 Samuel 1.20-end

20 In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

21 The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow.

22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.'

23 Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only-may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him.

24 When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young.

25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord.

27 For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him.

28 Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord. 'She left him there for the Lord .

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, 4 who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

6 If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering.

7 Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Alternative Reading to 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Colossians 3.12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2.33-35

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.'

Alternative Reading to Luke 2.33-35

John 19.25b-27

25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.'

27 Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.



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>

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>

A request for Ukraine – Can you help?

Some of our Ukrainian guests have joined Rotary and formed an Impact Club (one with a special mission). They are collecting unused and unwanted medical equipment which is sent to Ukraine for distribution. If anyone has anything spare, let Hilary Painter know: hilarypainter@icloud.com and she will arrange collection.



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=logmtzbfNZUkfqZKGyBDYW9uFWVw.1>

Meeting ID: 829 3635 5714

Passcode: 810997



For more information, contact Hilary Painter:

hilarypainter@icloud.com or Linda Jones:

l.jones2k@btinternet.com

Fridays in Lent at Gaulby Church 12.30-2pm



Agape Service Maundy Thursday at 6.30pm St Thomas Becket Church, Tugby

To reserve your place contact Madeleine Wang: madeleine.v.wang@gmail.com



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/>



NEW: Books Available for Donations to the Bishops' Lent Appeal

An eclectic mix of books on Christian spirituality and mission are available, for a donation.

A donation of £1 per book is suggested to go to the Bishops' Lent Appeal.

The books are at St Martins House. If anyone would like to arrange to look at them, please

contact Lynn.Gerightly@LeicesterCofE.org

NEW: Celebrating World Day of Prayer



Church, community and school children came together in the Launde Minster to celebrate World Day of Prayer earlier this month

The church of St Michael and All Angels in Hallaton was packed to the rafters for a 'joyful' service on Friday 7 March which, this year, was prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands in the Pacific. It reflected their culture, experiences, joy, and deep faith.

Based on Psalm 139, the theme was 'I made you wonderful' – God created us, God knows us, God is with us.

This 'wonderful message' was shared in church with around 70 adults and 65 children from the Hallaton Church of England Primary School, who took part in reading the experiences of a young woman in the Cook Islands and singing the theme song 'Wonderfully Made'.

Talking about the relationship between church, school and community, Headteacher of Hallaton Primary, Claire Stevens, said: "We are very lucky to have our school located right next to a church, which we value as an important part of our community.

"Joining with members of our parish and surrounding villagers for services is a really important aspect of our children's experience at Hallaton."

She added: "We jumped at the chance to join in with the World Day of Prayer celebration because it helped our children understand and reach a global community, outside our small village. The service was a vibrant and lively celebration of 'How Wonderful' we all are!"

Deepening connections through conversation and extending hospitality to all who attended, refreshments were served after the service.

Revd Jayne Lewis, Co-Area Dean, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed being in the congregation for a change. It was an inspiring and memorable service powerfully led by the volunteers from the Hallaton and Coplow Benefices' parishes and Hallaton Primary School."

On the following Sunday, the Launde Parishes Zoom Service extended the celebrations further and used the liturgy and music from the World Day of Prayer service to include and make accessible this worship to those who were unable to attend the service in church.

Already a popular, regular, online service for members of the Minster Community and its own online worshipping community, 30 people joined in on this occasion.

Read on our website:

<https://leicester.anglican.org/news/celebrating-world-day-of-prayer.php>

NEW: Bishop Martyn Speaks Out On Child Poverty and Welfare Reform



With the debate continuing on government welfare reform, senior faith leaders from across the country have joined forces in an urgent call for the government to go further and be 'bold and ambitious' in its forthcoming Child Poverty Strategy

Bishop Martyn, who serves as the lead bishop in the Church of England for welfare, has joined the call and put his name to an open letter to the co-chairs of the Ministerial Child Poverty Taskforce, Bridget Philipson, Secretary of State for Education, and Liz Kendall, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The letter is signed by 35 faith leaders from all six of the major faith traditions represented in the UK.

You can read the full story here:

<https://leicester.anglican.org/faith-leaders-unite-in-call-against-child-poverty.php>

Following the government's recent welfare reform announcements, the Bishop of Leicester, along with the Archbishop of York, and Canon Alice Kemp, have each expressed their views on the impact of the proposals

Bishop Martyn shared his understanding of the deep concern felt by those whose vital income could be at risk. While he acknowledged the difficult choices the government faces, he expressed concern that the burden of these decisions should not fall on those already struggling, highlighting the disproportionate effect on disabled people, who are already battling poverty. **You can read the full story here:**

<https://leicester.anglican.org/response-to-welfare-reform-announcement.php>

You can also read Bishop Martyn's column, published in The Times on Saturday (22 March). Loving your neighbour has never been so vital: <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/about->

[us/bishop-of-leicester-and-loughborough/bishop-martyns-blog/loving-your-neighbour-has-never-been-so-vital.php](https://www.leicester.anglican.org/bishop-martyns-blog/loving-your-neighbour-has-never-been-so-vital.php)

Read more from Bishop Martyn:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/bishop-martyns-blog>

NEW: Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come 2025 will run from 29 May – 8 June.

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

We invite you to take part along with churches from over 85 different denominations and traditions in over 172 countries around the world.

How could your church be involved?

See full details and resources:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

NEW: Intercultural City - What Next?

Thursday 10 April, 6-8pm – Mirch Masala, Leicester

Following the launch of Leicester as an Intercultural City, this is a chance to reflect on how to develop Leicester as a city where people of all faiths and cultures don't simply observe each other from afar, but interact, support each other and celebrate together.

Come along and enjoy great food, make new friends and plan some positive action. **Book now on Eventbrite:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/intercultural-city-what-next-tickets-1292790584439>

NEW: Chaplaincy Lecture with Dr Israel Olofinjana

Thursday 8 May, 6pm-7.30pm – Attenborough Film Theatre, University of Leicester

For the next event in our Chaplaincy Lecture Series, 'Decolonising the Church: An Intercultural Approach' we welcome Rev. Dr Israel Olofinjana, Honorary Research Fellow at Queens Foundation for Theological Ecumenical Education. He is a Baptist pastor, the author of several books, and sits on the Christian Aid Working Group of Black Majority Church leaders exploring the intersection of climate justice and racial justice.

The event is free, open to the public and will be followed by a drinks reception.

Book on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dr-israel-olofinjana-decolonising-the-church-an-intercultural-approach-tickets-1248174305949?aff=oddtcreator>

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Friday 18 April, 9am-1pm – Leicester City Centre

We are delighted to say that we are partnering again with the New Testament Church of God and other churches in Leicestershire in a Good Friday Walk of Witness starting with singing in Victoria Park and stopping at various points to pray.

Watch the promo video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jbKywvBHEE>

See poster for full details:

https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f3ffd8a9f6aa/content/pages/documents/wow2025_poster.pdf

Volunteers are needed, especially in stewarding, first aid, and speaking to the public about Jesus. Contact Lorraine Burke to register: missions@ntcgthelighthouse.org

Sacred Stories: Retelling the History of Horninghold



St Peter's Church in Horninghold was recently awarded a grant of £174,926 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), to address repairs, make the building more accessible, and celebrate its history

The project began in response to urgent repairs beyond the means of the small village community, but it became clear there were greater possibilities for St Peter's, as PCC member Mary Twidell explains:

"Through making the application for the NLHF grant we became aware of, and excited by, the opportunities this could give to tell the story of the history of our church and village," she says

"It is very humbling and inspiring when you walk along the path to the church and pray within it to realise that for over eight centuries people have come here and offered prayers of joy and sorrow. We want this to continue over the next centuries.

"From the very start we have offered prayers for the task before us and we saw the answer to our prayers with the success of the NLHF grant and other grants that, together with the years of fundraising within our community, are making the project possible. It is our hope that by encouraging others to engage with the heritage and come into the church they will experience a sense of a welcoming Christian community."

Read the full story:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/sacred-stories-retelling-the-history-of-horninghold.php>

Embrace the Difference: Unconscious Bias Training

Friday 11 April, 6pm-9pm -Thurnby Lodge, Christ Church, Leicester LE5 2HQ

A training workshop to help us examine our biases, understand how they become embedded, and explore God's design in diversity. Come and be equipped with knowledge and skills to help you better engage with people from all cultures.

This training is free and a meal will be provided.

Sign up by emailing the IWC project

administrator: Dinta.Chauhan@LeicesterCofE.org

Stations of the Cross at Leicester Cathedral

Exhibition: Stations of the Cross until 21st April

The Stations of the Cross are an ever-evolving form of devotion and contemplation in the Christian tradition. They form a narration of the final hours of the life of Jesus Christ on earth. Originating in Jerusalem, as Pilgrims arrived wanting to follow Jesus' journey, the practice was brought home to those unable to visit the Holy Land.

Different Christian traditions have included different stations; scriptural, imaginative or educational, all designed to bring us closer to the person of Jesus, the path he trod, the effect this wrought on those closest to him and on those he encountered for the first/only time.

Artist Mark Cazalet has painted images on Bread boards (Jesus being the Bread of Life), in dialogue with devotional poems and prompts from Richard Leaf, for pilgrims treading the path themselves. We invite you to follow the journey here at Leicester Cathedral and explore The Stations of the Cross for yourself. ***The stations of the cross can be seen with free admission during the Cathedral's opening hours.***



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>

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/>

