

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DEANERY NEWS



Issue 08 November 2025



WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS EDITION OF THE DEANERY NEWS,

ADVENT A TIME OF HOPE

The season of advent is one in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ at Christmas. There are of course many signs that Christmas is fast approaching, houses are beginning to be decorated, and up and down the country in our towns and villages Christmas lights are being turned on. Then we have the television, it would seem that every advert on our TV's is trying their very best to get us to spend our hard-earned cash on their products. It would seem that the secular world wants us to spend, spend, spend.

Well, Advent is not about the latest John Lewis advert and spending money that we may well not have. It is, however, a time of preparing and waiting, as we prepare for the birth of the Holy Child, we should look out for his signs. Where is God at work and how can we join in. Perhaps then as we begin Advent, we must also let go of the past, as we prepare for the future. Advent must be more than opening windows on a calendar, it is a season of change, letting go, and looking to a future that is not yet clear or known.

Perhaps, we also need vindicating from the past year, letting go of all the baggage that we might have picked up since last Christmas. Making amends for the wrongs that we have done, saying sorry for the things we know we have done wrong and asking forgiveness from the people we may have hurt over the last year. Saying sorry so that we can be ready to meet him who has forgiven us our own sins.

Advent must be a time in which we search out the Holy One, Emmanuelle, looking for his signs.

To see where he has been at work in the last year, to see where God has been busy and then preparing to join in with him. A task that would take a lot of faith and courage sometimes. So, friends I urge you to use this Advent season to sit and wait, to look out for his signs and to be ready to join in with the work that God has already started.

Blessings,
Revd Darren Walker, Area Dean



NOTICES

DEANERY SYNOD

Synod last met on Tuesday, 16th September at Holy Rood Packington. The Revd Lesley Birtwistle led worship with readings, hymns and prayer. Special thanks to Holy Rood for the refreshments after the meeting. Revd Gill was also presented with a voucher and card as a retirement gift.

The next Deanery Synod will be on Wednesday, 3rd December at St David's, Broom Leys. Please speak to your reps if you would like anything raised at that meeting.

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have not already done so, please could you send a copy of your offer for 2026 to Noreen Mewies.

IMPORTANT



Ashby
YOUTH
FOR CHRIST



During Advent we will be sending out a short daily prayer to pray for Ashby Youth for Christ, and young people across the area. We would love you to join us in this.

If you do not already receive our prayer emails please sign up here:
<http://eepurl.com/dvVqrj>



LAITY MEETINGS

We are taking a break from holding these meetings, but if your church would like to host in the future then please do get in touch with Noreen or Avril.

Thank you.

ST DENYS IBSTOCK

On the 11th of November - Armistice Day - students (some of whom are cadets or scouts) and staff from Ibstock School, having held a service at 11.00am at the War Memorial near the school, walked down to St. Denys Church, Ibstock for a special Armistice Service. They were joined by parents and visitors. Organised by Mr. Brook Foulsham, Teacher of Humanities there were readings by the students and hymns. A wreath was laid on the British Legion Altar and Remembrance Crosses put on 7 Commonwealth War Graves in the Churchyard. It is hoped this will be an annual event.



SONGS AT CHRISTMAS



Packington Community Choir rehearses in Holy Rood Church Packington but, whilst several church folk are members, it is what it says on the label, and all adults from the village and the local area are welcome to attend – you just

need to enjoy singing! Aimee Harrison, the director, makes each session fun but at the same time she skillfully produces the best from us, with the result that performances are of high quality. I have explained in a previous issue that our church is facing bills of sizeable proportions for various essential works, and the Community Choir is being very supportive in helping to boost our funds. On **Thursday the 18th December at 7pm in St John's Church, Donisthorpe** they are delivering a programme of Christmas Songs and, whilst there is no entry fee, donations will be taken on the door. The monies raised will be divided between MacMillan Nurses and Holy Rood Church Restoration Fund. Come and immerse yourself in some joyful music – you will be most welcome!

Lesley Birtwistle



REVD LAURA JACKSON

Laura and Andrew Jackson arrived in July 2022 for a three year contract to serve the Parish of Hugglescote, with Ellistown, Donington-le-Heath and Snibston. The Parish had been in interregnum for three years, throughout the Covid period. Laura immediately showed her energy and enthusiasm and above all her encouragement for others to fulfil their own vocations and ministry.

Throughout her time with us, Laura has preached her message of God's love for each and every one of us. She has used her skills working with children, young people and families to benefit the existing work with schools. Under Laura's leadership, the Parish has maintained and grown its faithful witness to God's love with a strong programme of worship, fellowship and discipleship.

Despite all the uncertainties surrounding the future, the Parish has thrived during Laura's time. It is fitting that our last few services with Laura will include Baptisms and a Confirmation service. We pray that we will be able to sustain our mission and growth going forward.

We were saddened for Laura that family commitments meant she moved to part-time ministry for her last year with us and that she has now decided to retire to spend more time with the family. We pray that she will be able to give the family the care and support they need and are grateful to Andrew and all Laura's family for their support for her ministry during her time with us. We hope that this will allow Laura to continue to thrive and that the next part of God's call to her will become clear – we are sure that whatever it is that God is calling her to will be wonderful.

The Parish thanks Laura for all that she has given us during her brief time with us, we all wish that it could have been longer. We will pray that we can live up to her expectations and hopes for us going forward.

Rachel Elliott

O Wisdom come and save your
creation from evil.

O Adonai come and save your world
from warfare and terror.

O root of Jesse come and save your
children from captivity.

O key of David come and save your
image from darkness.

O morning star come and save your
church from error.

O King of the nations come and save
your loved ones from weakness.

O Emmanuel come and save your
redeemed ones from death.

Rachel Elliott

REGULAR MEETINGS

- **Saturday Foodbank** - every Saturday 10-12 noon at St Stephens Woodville
- **St Helens Church & Heritage Centre Ashby** - Fridays 2pm - 4pm - Warm Hearted Space - tea and cakes, soup, games and play area for young children
- **St Andrews Thringstone** - Thursdays 10am - 12 noon - Open Church - coffee, cake and chat.
- **St Matthews Worthington** - Thursdays 10am - 11.15am - Cafe Church
- **St Davids Broom Leys** Sunday 23rd November, 25th January, 22nd February & 22nd March -The 6pm Gathering - Worship with contemporary songs, prayer and teaching
- **Christ Church Coalville** - Tuesdays in the Church Hall 10am - 12 noon Camerados Coffee Morning
- **Christ Church Coalville Tuesdays** in the Church Hall 2pm - 4pm Caring Cafe - a quiet, peaceful environment. Bring your friends and make new ones
- **Christ Church Coalville** - Mondays in the Church Hall 12noon - 2.15pm - tea, cake and chat at Monday Mums Club
- **Holy Rood Packington** Coffee Morning - 4th Wednesday of every month 10am to 12noon
- **Hastings Hall, The Heritage Centre at St Helen's Ashby** We're In Stitches Drop In & Chat - The first Wednesday of every month 2pm - 4pm



QUICK GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DEANERY THIS CHRISTMAS (SEE FLYERS PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS)

- Saturday 22nd November** 11am - 2pm Christmas Fayre at St Denys Ibstock
- Tuesday 25th November** 7.30pm Heritage Talks at St Helens Ashby
- Saturday 29th November** 11am Christmas Craft Fair at Hugglescote Community Centre
- Saturday 29th November** 10am - 3pm Christmas Tree Festival at St John the Baptist Church Whitwick
- Saturday 29th November** 7pm Christmas Concert at St Denys Ibstock
- Friday 5th December** 7pm Carols by Candlelight at Staunton Harold Church
- Friday 5th December** 6.30pm Carols Around the Tree at St Andrews Thringstone
- Friday 5th December** 7pm Ibstock Community Choir Concert at St Denys Ibstock
- Saturday 6th December** 10am - 1pm Christmas Fair at St Davids Broom Leys
- Saturday 6th December** 10am - 2pm AYFC Crackerteria at Ashby Baptist Church
- Sunday 7th December** 4pm Christingle at Holy Rood Packington
- Thursday 11th December to Monday 5th January** Christmas Tree Festival at St Matthew's Church Worthington
- Saturday 13th December** 6pm Carols on the Green at Breedon
- Sunday 14th December** 10am Toy Service at Holy Rood Packington
- Sunday 14th December** 3pm - 4pm Christingle Service at St Matthew's Worthington
- Tuesday 16th December** 10am - 10.45am Worthington School Christmas Service at St Matthews
- Thursday 18th December** 6.15pm Carol Singing around the village of Breedon
- Thursday 18th December** 7pm Packington Community Choir at St Johns Donisthorpe
- Friday 19th December** 7pm Brass Band Concert at St Davids Broom Leys
- Saturday 20th December** 4pm Lantern Trail & Carol Service at Breedon
- Sunday 21st December** 10.30am - 11.30am Service of Communion and Carols at St Matthews
- Sunday 21st December** 6pm Carol Service at St Davids Broom Leys
- Monday 22nd December** 7pm Carols at the Hollybush Breedon



- Christmas Eve** 2.30pm - 4pm Carols Among the Christmas Trees at St Matthews
- Christmas Eve** 4pm Christingle at St Davids Broom Leys
- Christmas Day** 10am Christmas Day Morning Worship at Breedon Priory Church
- New Years Day** 11.30am - 2pm Readings & poems followed by lunch at Holy Rood Packington

A Reflection for the Festive Season

Heavenly Father,
As we gather together during this joyful Christmas season, we pause to give thanks for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, whose message of hope, love, and peace continues to inspire the world.

We pray for families and friends, both near and far, that your blessings may surround them with warmth and harmony. May our homes be filled with laughter, good cheer, and the spirit of giving.

Let us remember those who are lonely, those who mourn, and those who are struggling at this time. May they find comfort, companionship, and renewed hope in the love that Christmas brings.

Grant us hearts of generosity and kindness, that we may share our blessings with others and reach out to those in need. Stir within us a sense of gratitude for all we have and help us to spread joy wherever we go.

Guide us through the coming year with faith and courage, so that we may walk in your light and bring peace to our communities and to the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, whose coming we celebrate with gladness.

Amen.



CONTACT US

The Revd Darren Walker, Area Dean :
revdarrenwalker@gmail.com

Noreen Mewies, Lay Chair :
laychair@nwldeanery.org.uk

Avril Roberts, Deanery Secretary :
secretary@nwldeanery.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who has sent in content this time. The next edition, the Spring newsletter, will be coming out in March 2026.

Avril
Deanery Secretary





St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

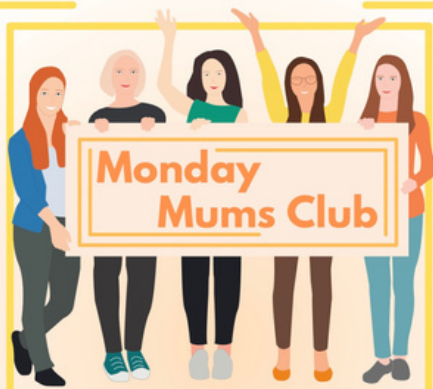
Heritage Talks 2025 - 2026

September 30th	Gay Evans	<i>A I Coffin: Doctor or Quack? Healing or Harming? You decide</i>
October 28th	Susan Kilby	<i>Place Names: The Landscape of Charnwood Forest through the eyes of those who named it</i>
November 25th	Moiria Ackers	<i>Henry Grey's Bradgate Monument (c1614): Why at all and why thus?</i>
January 27th	Julie Starkey	<i>Churchyard Stories - St Helen's Churchyard & its people</i>
February 24th	Peter Liddle	<i>The Archaeology of Bradgate Park</i>
March 31st	Wendy Freer	<i>Pudding Bag Production Showcase - the 17th Century</i>

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm / £4 including light refreshments

Facebook.com/sthelschurch
Instagram.com/sthelschurchandheritage

Website: www.sthelsashby.net



Monday Mums Club

Mondays, 12-2.15pm

Christ Church Hall, London Rd

A supportive group for women with children of any age.

Come along for tea, cake and chat.

(Some toys for children will be provided)

St. John Baptist Church, Hugglescote

Saturday 29th November

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Hugglescote Community Centre

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Admission £1

A great place to pick up some lovely gifts incl.

Jewellery - Greetings Cards

Seasonal wreaths

Crochet toys & Accessories

Wooden gifts -Resin decorations



Plus many prizes to be won

Lots of Christmas music

Tea/Coffee and Cakes

Ploughman's lunches with

cake - only £10

Crackerteria
6th December, 2025
10am - 2pm
Ashby Baptist Church, Brook Street, LE65 1HA.
Join us to raise funds for Moldova Youth for Christ.
Craft, cake, drinks and light lunches.

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS JOY
FREE CONCERT WITH THE
LEICESTER CO-OP BRASS BAND
ST DAVID'S CHURCH
BROOM LEYS
COALVILLE
LE67 4RL
FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025
7:00PM
REFRESHMENTS
FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
07935 263988

CHRISTMAS FAIR
ST DAVID'S CHURCH
Greenhill Road, Coalville, LE67 4RL
SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 2025
10.00am - 1.00pm
CAKES, TOMBOLAS, RAFFLE, STALLS, GIFTS, GAMES, REFRESHMENTS, VISIT SAINTAINHIS GROTTO
FreeEntry
EveryoneWelcome

Staunton Harold Church
Carols by Candlelight
In aid of Bright Hope
Friday 5th December, 7pm
St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch choir
Mince pies and drinks.
Wrap up warm!
Parking in Lion Court car park, courtesy of Caroline Large
Enquiries 07964 263 432

November Christmas Sale
ST. DENYS CHURCH, IBSTOCK
SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER
11.00 P.M. – 2.00 P.M.
CRAFTS CAKES RAFFLE
BRIC - A - BRAC & CLOTHES
TOMBOLA Jams & Pickles JEWELLERY
REFRESHMENTS
TEA/COFFEE & CAKES
SOUP & ROLL
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
And Santa Claus making a visit
CHRISTMAS CARDS CHILDREN'S STALLS
CAROL'S BY IBSTOCK BRICK BRASS BAND
ALL ARE WELCOME
All proceeds to Church Funds
Easy access for the disabled + toilet facilities.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY
IBSTOCK BRICK BRASS BAND
IN
ST. DENYS CHURCH, IBSTOCK

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER
7.00pm



ENTRY £6.50
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE
BUT CAN PAY ON THE DOOR



Christmas in Worthington

The Church will be open the following days. All welcome. Tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Do join in with Cafe time or a service or after a service when refreshments are being served.



Christmas Tree Festival
at St. Matthew's Church, Worthington
11 December 2025 to 5 January 2025

Thursday 11th December - Cafe Church 10:00 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. Newbold School Christmas Carol Service in Church 2:30 pm till 3:15 p.m.



Christingle Service
3:00 p.m.
on
14th December 2025
at St. Matthew's Church

Sunday 14 December - Christingle Service 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Refreshments till 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday 16th December - Worthington School Christmas Service in Church 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Thursday 18th December - Cafe Church 10:00 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.

Sunday 21 December - Service of Communion and Carols 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Refreshments till 12:00 noon

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Carols among the Trees 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Refreshments till 4:30 p.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE ALL AGE CAROL SERVICE
AMONG THE CHRISTMAS TREES
2:30 p.m. Wednesday 24th December
at St. Matthew's Church

May you have the gift of Faith,
the blessing of Hope and
the peace of His Love at Christmas and always.



Coffee Morning

Join us in Church on the 4th
Wednesday of every month

10am – 12 Noon

A choice of Homemade

Cakes with
Tea/Coffee &
Hot Chocolate

Also, Books and
Jigsaws to borrow
or swap.



Holy Rood Church
Packington

New Years Day

Soup, a Pudding and a glass of Wine

Thursday 1st January

11.30am – 2pm

A short service of readings and poems
from 11.30am with lunch
served from 12 noon



Join us in Church for
the service, soup, or both!

You are welcome to either turn up on the day or to

book a place please phone.

Anne 01530 414621 or Lesley 01530 413309

Holy Rood Church
Packington

Donations welcome towards the upkeep of the Church.

Toy Service

Holy rood church

Sunday 14 december
Starting at 10am

A Nativity with a difference!

Come along and help us to act
the story of

The Grumpy Owl



Phoenix children's
Foundation
will be joining us with their

DONKEYS

New Toys and wrapping paper accepted for The
Marlene Reid Centre

BREEDON PRIORY CHURCH

CAROLS ON THE GREEN - SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Join us from 6pm as we celebrate the start of the Christmas season with Carols on the Green. Bring family, friends and festive spirit for an hour of community, music, and Christmas cheer.

CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE - THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER

Join us for an evening of festive cheer as we go carol-singing around the village. We'll be spreading Christmas spirit with traditional carols, good company, and plenty of laughter. Everyone is warmly invited to come along—whether you'd like to sing or simply listen and enjoy the music. Meet at 6.15pm - 9/11 Main Street, Breedon

LANTERN TRAIL & CAROL SERVICE - SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Join us at approx 4pm, as we walk together up to the church, lanterns in hand, for our annual carol service—a beautiful way to begin the Christmas celebrations. We will have a selection of small lanterns available for collection from the Green or feel free to bring battery-operated candle lanterns or torches from home. We really hope you'll come along and share in this lovely community tradition.

CAROLS AT THE HOLLYBUSH - MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER

Join us in The Hollybush at 7pm for a wonderful hour of carols! Come along to meet friends old and new, share in the festive spirit, and enjoy an evening filled with music, laughter, and community cheer. Everyone is welcome—bring your singing voice and help us celebrate the season together.

CHRISTMAS DAY MORNING WORSHIP - THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER

Join us on Christmas morning at 10am for a joyful all-age service as we celebrate the birth of Christ together. Everyone is warmly invited—bring family and friends to share in the joy, hope and peace of this special day.

<https://breedonpriorychurch.org/whaton/>



The Children's
Society

Let's come together
to celebrate
Christingle

A Christingle service of hope, joy and
love
A magical start to the Christmas
countdown

Come and join us!

Holy Rood Church
Packington

Sunday 7th December
at 4PM

Donations collected
for The Children's Society

Refreshments served after the service

Scan the
QR code
to find out
more.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



SATURDAY 29TH OF NOVEMBER
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
10AM TO 3PM

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE TREE
TEAS AND CAKES
TOMBOLA
GUESS THE NAME OF TEDDY BEAR
CRAFTS
CURRY LUNCH
A VISIT FROM SANTA

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE



Come and join with us for our
community carol singing
5TH DECEMBER

Starting at 6.30pm outside St. Andrews Church
And finishing at 7pm at The Charles Booth Centre