NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DEANERY NEWS

Issue Number 12 : November 2026

WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS EDITION OF THE DEANERY NEWS

At Christmas time we often think about Joseph and Mary travelling to Bethlehem for the census. For most of us 2026 feels a bit different, with government notices tell us that we should be prepared, with food and water laid up for a few days. In times of national uncertainty the peace of God truly passes understanding. It is so wonderful to receive this heavenly gift, and to share it with others. So as we look forward to celebrating the Prince of Peace coming into the world let us not keep the good news to ourselves but invite friends and family to Carols and Crib services, to nativities and other Christmas events.

Yours in Christ

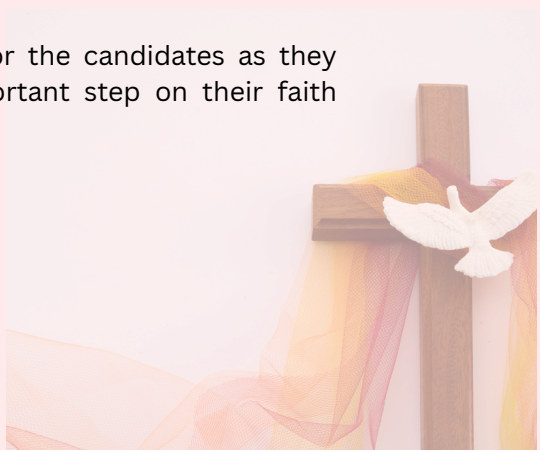
Tim
The Revd Tim Phillips



CONFIRMATIONS IN THE DEANERY

A Service of Confirmation will take place on Sunday, 22nd November at Holy Rood Church Packington

Please pray for the candidates as they take this important step on their faith journey.



DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod at St Andrew's Thringstone Thursday 3rd December - CANCELLED

Synod dates for 2027 will be circulated soon.

Thank you to all the churches who have hosted synod meetings for us this year. Venues are still to be arranged for 2027 so please do let us know if your church can host.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in content for the newsletter. The next edition, Spring 2027, will be coming out in March.

LAITY MEETINGS

As the year draws to a close, we extend our sincere thanks to all the churches that have welcomed us and provided venues for our laity meetings. Your hospitality and support throughout the year are greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we would welcome offers of venues to help these gatherings continue. If your church would be willing to host a meeting, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support; we look forward to meeting together again in the new year.

Noreen & Avril

Loving Lord, In this sacred season of Advent, turn our hearts toward the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and toward Mary, who faithfully prepared to welcome Him.

As we remember the Holy Family's journey of trust and hope, guide us on our own journey through life. Help us to follow Your will with loving and obedient hearts, and to show gentleness, care, and kindness to everyone we meet.

Fill us with gratitude for Your many blessings. Give us hearts rich in compassion and understanding, so that we may share Your love generously with those who need it most.

Amen.

Noreen Mewies, Deanery Lay Chair

HOLY ROOD CHURCH PACKINGTON *The Revd Lesley Birtwistle*

Do you enjoy a Brass Band?
If so, come and join us on Tuesday, 15th December at 7.00pm at the Bull & Lion pub in Packington, when members of a local Salvation Army Band will be playing carols and mince pies and mulled wine will be served.
We all admire the Salvation Army and the fantastic work it does for the most vulnerable in our society and there will be the opportunity to make a gift to them. So, all the ingredients are there for a good sing, a good cause and a foretaste of Christmas joy. Bring a torch, some money in your pocket and a good pair of lungs!
We hope for fine weather but if it is wet then the event will be held in Holy Rood Church.



Candlelit Carol Service – Holy Rood, Packington, 6pm on Sunday 20th December
Something of a misnomer because we do keep some lights on so we can see what we are doing! but we have lots of candles too – the church always looks beautiful and our very traditional service of readings and carols once again will bring the Christmas story alive for us in word and song and lift our hearts in praise and worship. We are delighted that Revd. Laura Jackson, whom many of you will know, has accepted our invitation to be our speaker this year and we are very much looking forward to her visit.



POSADA (Spanish for "Inn")
In Packington, during Advent, Mary & Joseph and their donkey (knitted versions!) go on their Christmas travels around the village and its environs. Their journey begins on Advent Sunday when they are sent out with their first hosts from our Christingle Service. From then on they move every day to a different home and join in the life of each family. Finally, they are brought to church on Christmas Eve for our Crib Service where they are taken up to the front during the Service and placed in the stable, all ready for the imminent birth of the baby Jesus. Their hosts are encouraged to write a brief diary of what their guests get up to whilst they are staying with them and to take some photos, which are subsequently posted on our website.

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** Every 4th Sunday The 6pm Gathering - Worship with contemporary songs, prayer and teaching
- **Holy Rood Packington Breakfast Church** - 1st Sunday of every month at 10am
- **Donisthorpe Church Monday Morning Cuppa** - Each Monday 10:30am - 12:30pm
- **Measham Church Hall - Breakfast Church** 10am usually every 3rd Sunday
- **Ibstock & Heather** Welcome Time at Heather Village Hall for a cuppa and friendly chat - 1st Monday of the month 2pm - 4pm and at The Palace Ibstock on 3rd Wednesday 2pm - 4pm
- **Ladies Friendly Group at St Denys Ibstock** - alternate Mondays 1pm - 3pm in church for chat and crafts
- **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 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month 2pm - 4pm
- **Normanton le Heath Church Coffee n Chat** 10am 1st Thursday each month
- **Appleby Church Hall - Coffee and Chat** 10:30am - 12 noon 4th Wednesday each month
- **Donisthorpe Church - Coffee and Chat** (& toast) 9:30am - 11am 1st Tuesday each month

If you have a regular meeting that you would like featured here please let us know.





CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

WIN ONE OF THESE HAMPERS

Fundraising for the restoration project at
Holy Trinity, Normanton le Heath



Basket not included and content may vary slightly
Includes - 1 bottle mulled wine, 1 bottle white wine, Christmas tea towels, serviettes, Christmas mug, pot pourri, chocolate bomb, chutney, tin of Celebration chocolates, cranberry sauce, teabags, coffee, Christmas cake and pudding, box of mince pies, pack of Christmas cards, Panettone and Stollen .... what a bumper selection!



Children's Hamper
Basket not included and content may vary slightly
Includes - selection of festive sweets & biscuits, small digger truck, snap cards, Christmas socks, book & mug, small game & sketch book



Cheese & Wine Hamper
Basket not included and content may vary slightly
Includes - 1 bottle of red and white wine, 1 bottle of Baileys, 1 bottle of Egg Nog, cheese (will be added closer to the hamper draw on 6th Dec), cheese crackers, chutneys and After Eight chocolates



Pamper Hamper
Basket included
A selection of Molton Brown, Neale Yard and M&S toiletries and a scented candle to enjoy over the festive period



Santa's Trousers
Trousers included with a bottle of Prosecco and white wine



Festive Large Soft Toy
Who wouldn't love this friendly cow to snuggle up to on a winters day?

£5 raffle strip gives you the opportunity to win one of these fabulous prizes
3 easy steps to enter -
Text Jo on 07870594749 for number of strips
BAC transfer to Normanton le Heath PCC 60-01-20 AC 88319733 **ref HAMPER**
Payment confirmed and entered into draw
Draw to take place on Sunday 6th December during the Christmas Tree Service at Holy Trinity

Advent invites us to pause, wait, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In the stillness of winter, we remember that hope can grow quietly, even when the days feel dark. As Christmas draws near, may we make room for Jesus through prayer, small acts of kindness, and care for those who feel forgotten. Let us welcome His light, not only into our celebrations, but into our everyday lives.

Loving God,
As winter settles around us and the nights grow long, draw us close to Your warmth and peace. Help us find beauty in quiet moments, rest in Your care, and hope in the light that darkness cannot overcome.

At Christmas, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, born among us in humility and love. May His light fill our homes, soften our hearts, and guide us to welcome others with kindness.

Be near to those who are lonely, grieving, cold, or without shelter. Bring comfort to those who miss someone at their table, and strength to those for whom this season is difficult. Teach us to share what we have and to make room for those in need.

Bless our families, friends, and neighbours. Where there is tension, bring understanding; where there is weariness, renew our strength; where there is sorrow, gently kindle hope.

Through this winter and into the coming year, help us carry the love of Christ beyond a single day. May we walk in faith, give with joy, and remember that You are with us in every season.

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







QUICK GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AROUND THE DEANERY THIS CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

(SEE FLYERS PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS)

Saturday 21st November 11am - 2pm Pre-Christmas Sale at St Denys Ibstock
Tuesday 24th November Heritage Talk 7:30pm St Helen's Ashby Heritage Centre
Saturday 28th November 10am - 4pm Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrews
Saturday 28th November 7pm Ibstock Brick Brass Band Christmas Concert at St Denys Ibstock Tickets £7.00
Sunday 29th November 11:30am - 4:30pm Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrews
Sunday 29th November 4pm Christingle Service at Holy Rood Packington

Wednesday 2nd December 7:30pm Bardon Hill Quarry Annual Carol Service with Croft Silver Band at St Peter's Bardon
Friday 4th December 7pm Carols by Candlelight at Staunton Harold Church
Friday 4th December 7pm Christmas Craft Evening at Christ Church Coalville
Saturday 5th December 10am - 12 noon Messy Church Christmas Special at St Denys
Saturday 5th December 10am - 2pm Christmas Cafe at Holy Trinity Ashby
Saturday 5th December 10am - 2pm AYFC Crackerteria at Ashby Baptist Church
Saturday 5th December 10am - 1pm Christmas Fair at St David's Broom Leys
Saturday 5th December 10am - 3pm Christmas Craft Fair at Christ Church Coalville
Sunday 6th December 10am Toy Service at Holy Rood Packington
Sunday 6th December 3pm Ibstock Community Choir Christmas Concert at St Denys
Tuesday 15th December 7pm Carols & Mince Pies at the Bull & Lion Pub Packington
Friday 18th December 7pm Christmas Concert with Leicester Co-Op Brass Band at St David's Church Broom Leys
Sunday 20th December 6pm Candlelit Carol Service at Holy Rood Packington

2027

Friday 1st January 11:30am Poems, Prayers & Soup Holy Rood Church Packington
Tuesday 26th January Heritage Talk 7:30pm St Helen's Ashby Heritage Centre

Tuesday 23rd February Heritage Talk 7:30pm St Helen's Ashby Heritage Centre

St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Heritage Talks 2026 - 2027

September 29th	R 'Bis' Bisgrove	*Leicestershire during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II*
October 27th	Danny Wells	*The Victorian Way of Death*
November 24th	Rachel Askew	*Mercian Sculpture & Breedon Priory church.*
January 26th	Julie Starkey	*Extending the Church: a Victorian Vision*
February 23rd	Peter Liddle	*Topic tbc*
March 30th	Andrew Marriott	*The Railway that went to war*

Tuesdays at 7.30 pm / £4 including light refreshments
Tickets available on the door

Facebook.com/sthelenschurch Website: www.sthelensashby.net
Email: heritage@sthelensashby.net

St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Heritage Talks 2026 - 2027

September 29th	R 'Bis' Bisgrove	***Leicestershire during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II***

So much happened in Leicestershire during the reign of our late Queen – Motorways opened, railways closed, sports teams won trophies, singers were in the charts, new councils were formed, trees were planted and polytechnics became universities. This enjoyable trip down memory lane will stimulate lots of your own recollections.

October 27th	Danny Wells	***The Victorian Way of Death***

Death was ever present in nineteenth century life. Not as morbid as it may sound, we take a fascinating glimpse into Victorian attitudes to death.

November 24th	Rachel Askew	***Mercian Sculpture & Breedon Priory church.***

Breedon Priory Church has one of the largest collections of Anglo-Saxon sculpture in the country. Their survival is largely thanks to the priory and church that were built on the site after the Norman Conquest. Why was a priory built in such an unlikely location? How was the sculpture used in the new building? What happened to the carvings after the Reformation? Dr Rachel Askew, will try to answer these questions and more besides.

January 26th	Julie Starkey	***Extending the Church: a Victorian Vision***

Parish Magazines published in the late 19th Century document the vision, fundraising & work involved in renovating and restoring St Helen's Church. This is the story of the people and ideas behind an enormous project which transformed a medieval church into a Victorian triumph.

February 23rd	Peter Liddle	***Topic tbc***
March 30th	Andrew Marriott	***The Railway that went to war***

Why the Royal Engineers requisitioned the Melbourne to Ashby Branch Line between1939 and 1945. This talk explores why they did it, how it was transformed into a military railway training centre, and the vital role it played in preparing personnel for wartime operations in Europe and beyond.

Facebook.com/sthelenschurch Website: www.sthelensashby.net
Email: heritage@sthelensashby.net

St David's Church Christmas Fair

* Cakes
* Raffle
* Games

Sat 5th Dec
10am - 1pm

* Tombolas
* Gifts
* Toys
* Refreshments

Fun for all the family



Visit Santa in his grotto

Meadow Lane Coalville LE67 4DL

Parking & Free Entry

St Helen's Community Heritage Centre

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, LE65 1AA

Heritage Talks 2026 - 2027

Mercian Sculpture & Breedon Priory Church

Dr Rachel Askew
Tuesday 24th November
At 7.30 pm

Breedon Priory Church has one of the largest collections of Anglo-Saxon sculpture in the country. Why was a priory built in such an unlikely location? How was sculpture used in the building? What happened to the carvings after the Reformation? Find out the answers to these questions and more.

Tickets on the door - £4 including light refreshments

Facebook.com/sthelenschurch Email: heritage@sthelensashby.net
Website: www.sthelensashby.net

NEW YEARS DAY

Soup, a pudding and a glass of wine



Friday 1st January
2027
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

All is Calm

A LITTLE CALM IN THE CHRISTMAS RUSH....

POP IN,
PAUSE FOR A WHILE,
ENJOY A HOT DRINK
AND CAKE.

EVERYONE WELCOME

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
10AM - 2PM
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ASHBY

FREE TO ENJOY
DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

HOLY TRINITY ASHBY, KILWARDBY ST, LE65 2FR
CHARITY NUMBER 113 117 8

Bardon Hill Quarry

Annual Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 2nd December, 7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Bardon Hill

Bardon Hill Quarry would like to invite you, your family and friends to join us at St Peter's Church for a Christmas celebration with carols and songs and Croft Silver Band.

We hope you will be able to come and join us.

HOLCIM

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS JOY

FREE CONCERT
WITH THE

LEICESTER CO-OP BRASS BAND

ST DAVID'S CHURCH
BROOM LEYS
COALVILLE
LE67 4RL

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2026
7:00PM

REFRESHMENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
07935 263988

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 28th November - 10-4
Sunday 29th November - 11:30-4:30

St Andrews Church, Thringstone

FREE ENTRY

Come and join us for cake, refreshments, a raffle, lots of beautiful trees and more.

We will also be having a service on Sunday at 10:30 which all are welcome to attend.

Christ Church Coalville

Christmas Services

Sunday 6th Dec
Advent Communion Service, 10am
Nativity Scene Service, 4pm

Sunday 13th Dec
All Age Carol Service, 10am
Evening Prayer, 6pm

Sunday 20th Dec
Advent morning praise, 10am

Thursday 24th Dec
Nativity & Christingle, 10am
Carols by Candlelight, 6pm
Midnight Holy Communion, 11.30pm

Friday 25th Dec
Family Christmas Service, 10am

Sunday 27th Dec
Family Praise service, 10am

Christmas Events

Friday 4th Dec
Christmas Craft Evening 7pm*

Saturday 5th Dec
Christmas Craft Fair

Sunday 6th Dec
Nativity Scene Service, 4pm

Thursday 10th Dec
NWLD Chair's Carol Service

*Scan me

St Peter's Bardon

Sunday Services

Sunday 29th Nov
Advent Songs of Praise, 11am

Sunday 6th Dec
Advent Family Breaking Bread, 11am

Sunday 13th Dec
Advent Family Church, 11am
Nine Lessons and Carols, 6pm

Sunday 20th Dec
Advent Holy Communion, 11am

Thursday 24th Dec
Carols & Christingle, 4pm

Friday 25th Dec
Christmas Family Breaking Bread, 10am

Brass Band Carols

Wednesday 2nd Dec
All are welcome to join us for Bardon Quarry's annual Carol Service with Croft Silver Band
7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Bardon

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 5th Dec
Come and find our stall at Christ Church Craft Fair - 10am - 3pm at Christ Church, London Rd

Toy Service

Holy Rood Church
Packington

Sunday 6th December
starting at 10am

A Nativity with a difference!

Come along and help us to act the story of "The New Noisy Neighbour"



Phoenix Children's Foundation will be joining us with their DONKEYS

New toys and wrapping paper accepted for the Marlene Reid Centre

Advent & Christmas

Woodfield Team of Churches 2026

For other services please see websites

Sunday 29th Nov.
10am Advent Team Together Swepstone
4pm Christingle Service Packington
5pm Advent Star Switch-on Swepstone

Sunday 6th Dec.
10am Toy Service Donisthorpe
10am Tree Service Normanton L H
10am Nativity & Toy service Packington

Sunday 13th Dec.
10am Breakfast Nativity Measham
5pm Carol Service Snarestone

Sunday 20th Dec.
10am DIY Nativity Appleby
10am Carol Service Measham
10am DIY Carol Service Normanton L H
10am Holy Communion Swepstone
6pm Carol Service Donisthorpe
6pm Carol Service Packington

Monday 21st Dec.
6.30pm Celebrating Christmas Norton J T

Thursday 24th Christmas Eve
4pm Crib & Christingles Donisthorpe
4pm Christingle Service Measham
4pm Crib Service Packington
4pm Carol Service Swepstone
6pm Carol Service Appleby
11.30pm Holy Communion Donisthorpe
11.30pm Holy Communion Norton J T
11.30pm Holy Communion Packington

Friday 25th Christmas Day
10am Family Communion Appleby
10am Family Communion Normanton L H

Sunday 27th Dec.
10am Team Together HC Donisthorpe

Friday 1st Jan.
11.30am Poems, Prayers & Soup Packington

St Deny's Church Ibstock Services

Sunday 29th November 4pm
Christingle

Sunday 13th December 11am
Nativity Service

Sunday 20th December 3pm
Carol Service

Thursday 24th December
4pm Crib Service
6pm Benefice Holy Communion Service

Friday 25th December
10am Christmas Day Service

Christingle

Holy Rood Church

Sunday 29th November at 4pm

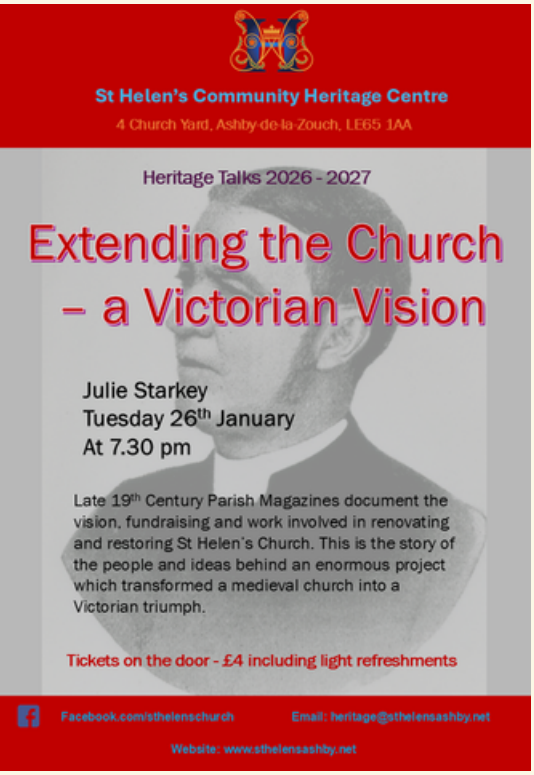
Share with us our annual service of Hope, Joy and Love

A magical start to Christmas

Our speaker is Vernon Bayliss from Ashby Youth for Christ and all donations will go towards the work of The Children's Society

Mulled wine served after the service

The Children's Society







Link to Hope – Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Ukraine

This sends practical help to families and elderly people living in poverty across Ukraine and Eastern Europe. You can give by providing a filled Christmas shoebox or fund a packed shoebox with a Christmas card for elderly people in need of a £20 donation. Give at: https://linktohope.co.uk

Christians Against Poverty (CAP UK) Christmas Appeal

This focuses on delivering emergency aid, food and support to families on the brink of collapse because of severe debt and poverty over the winter. You can help them at: https://capuk.org/news-and-blog/giving-back-at-christmas

Compassion UK – Christmas Appeal

This supports more than 2.4 million children living in poverty by partnering with local churches to provide gifts, food and community celebrations. You can give at: https://www.compassionuk.org/christmas/

The Salvation Army's
Christmas Present Appeal

This collects new, unwrapped toys and gifts through local church and centres across the UK and Ireland until mid-December. Each year it collects more than 68,000 new, unwrapped toys and gifts for needy children, as well as providing food parcels and shelter support. You can give at: https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmas-present-appeal

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

This raises funds for global communities caught up in conflict and climate crisis. You can give at: https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal