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This Sunday in the Benefice – 29th November

- 9 AM – Blue Christmas at St Peter's Grandborough
- 11 AM - Communion Service at St Peter's Bourton-on-Dunsmore
- 4PM - Christingle and Advent Carols at St Nicholas Willoughby

More details about our services



Diary 26th November-

Thursday 26th November

10-12.00 - Coffee Stop Stretton

Friday 27th November

2PM - Bible Book Club

Saturday 28th November

9.30am - Morning Prayer Stretton

Sunday 29th November

SUNDAY SERVICES (SEE ABOVE)

Tuesday 1st December:

9am - Zoom Morning Prayer

12-1pm Stretton Soup Stop

Wednesday 2nd December

9.30am - Morning Prayer Birdingbury
10.30am Advent Course Birdingbury (SEE BELOW)

7pm - ome Group Willoughby

N.B. This weekly diary is compiled by Rev Phil, who does his best to include everything happening across the benefice. However, with so much going on, it is not always possible to guarantee every event will be included unless details are sent in directly. If you would like an activity or event included, please email details by 9pm on the Wednesday evening before that week's e-news is sent out.



Exciting news!

We are delighted to announce that Gail Richmond will be joining us as our new Assistant Curate in summer 2027.

Gail will be serving as a self-supporting minister, combining her curacy with us with her ongoing work as a history teacher at a local secondary school.

Rev Phil said: "Having already had the pleasure of meeting Gail a few times, it’s clear that she will be a brilliant fit for our churches. She will bring lots of gifts and talents with her as she ministers amongst us, and I know that the Benefice will welcome her with open arms, offering her the encouragement and support she needs as she begins this new chapter, grows into her ministry and discovers all that God has in store for her."

Gail said: "I'm very grateful for this opportunity to continue my walk with God in the Draycote and Leam Valley Benefice, and to step into a new ministry as Assistant Curate. I'm excited to be a part of the varied life of the benefice and am really looking forward to meeting people and becoming part of the community. Your prayers for myself and those closest to me as I head towards ordination in June would be deeply appreciated."

Please do keep Gail and her family in your prayers over the coming months as she prepares for her ordination next summer.

We can't wait to welcome her to the benefice!



2026 Advent Course

As Christmas approaches, our thoughts naturally turn toward gift-giving, busy preparations, and the rush of the season. This Advent, take a step back from the commercial noise to explore the true heart of the Christmas story: God's gift of grace, freely given to each of us.

Over this four-week series, we will reflect on what grace really means and how God meets us in our everyday lives through the stories of the Nativity. The above video introduces the format.

Course Outline

- **Week 1: Mary** – A grace that calls us in unexpected moments
- **Week 2: Elizabeth** – A grace that brings hope when we least expect it
- **Week 3: Joseph** – A grace that reassures us in times of uncertainty
- **Week 4: The Shepherds** – A grace that is freely given to everyone

How to Join Us

- **Online:** New video sessions will be released on our YouTube channel every **Tuesday at 6:00 pm** throughout Advent. (for you to watch at your leisure)
- **In Person:** Join Cathy and Karen to hear the reflections in person and take part in optional creative crafting every **Wednesday morning from 10:30 am** in the Birdingbury Club in Birdingbury.

  "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." — Ephesians 2:8

Everyone is warmly welcome to join for one session or the whole journey. We look forward to sharing this season with you!



Celebrate the Season: Advent & Christmas Services 2026

You are warmly invited to join us across our churches as we prepare for and celebrate the birth of Christ. Whether you are looking for quiet reflection, traditional festive carols by candlelight, or fun family services, there is a warm welcome waiting for you at every service listed below.

Sunday 29th November – Advent Sunday

- **9:00am** – **Blue Christmas** | *St Peter's, Grandborough*
  (A gentle, reflective service for those finding the season difficult)
- **4:00pm** – **Advent & Christingle Service** | *St Nicholas, Willoughby*

Sunday 6th December

- **3:00pm** – **St Nicholas Day Evensong** | *St Nicholas, Frankton*

Sunday 13th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

- **11:00am** – **Advent Songs of Praise** | *St Peter's, Grandborough*
- **4:00pm** – **Family Carols by Candlelight** | *St Nicholas, Willoughby*
- **6:00pm** – **Carols by Candlelight** | *St Mark's, Flecknoe*

Sunday 20th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

- **11:00am** – **Advent Songs of Praise** | *St Leonard's, Birdingbury*
- **4:00pm** – **Family Carol Service** | *Broadwell Methodist Church*
  (A joint service with the Methodist Church)
- **6:00pm** – **Carols by Candlelight** | *All Saints, Stretton-on-Dunsmore*

Tuesday 22nd December

- **6:00pm** – **Carols by Candlelight** | *St Peter's, Bourton-on-Dunsmore*

Christmas Eve – Thursday 24th December

- **4:00pm** – **Christingle Service** | *All Saints, Stretton-on-Dunsmore*
- **6:00pm** – **Carols by Candlelight** | *St Peter's, Grandborough*
- **9:30pm** – **Bethlehem Communion** | *All Saints, Leamington Hastings*

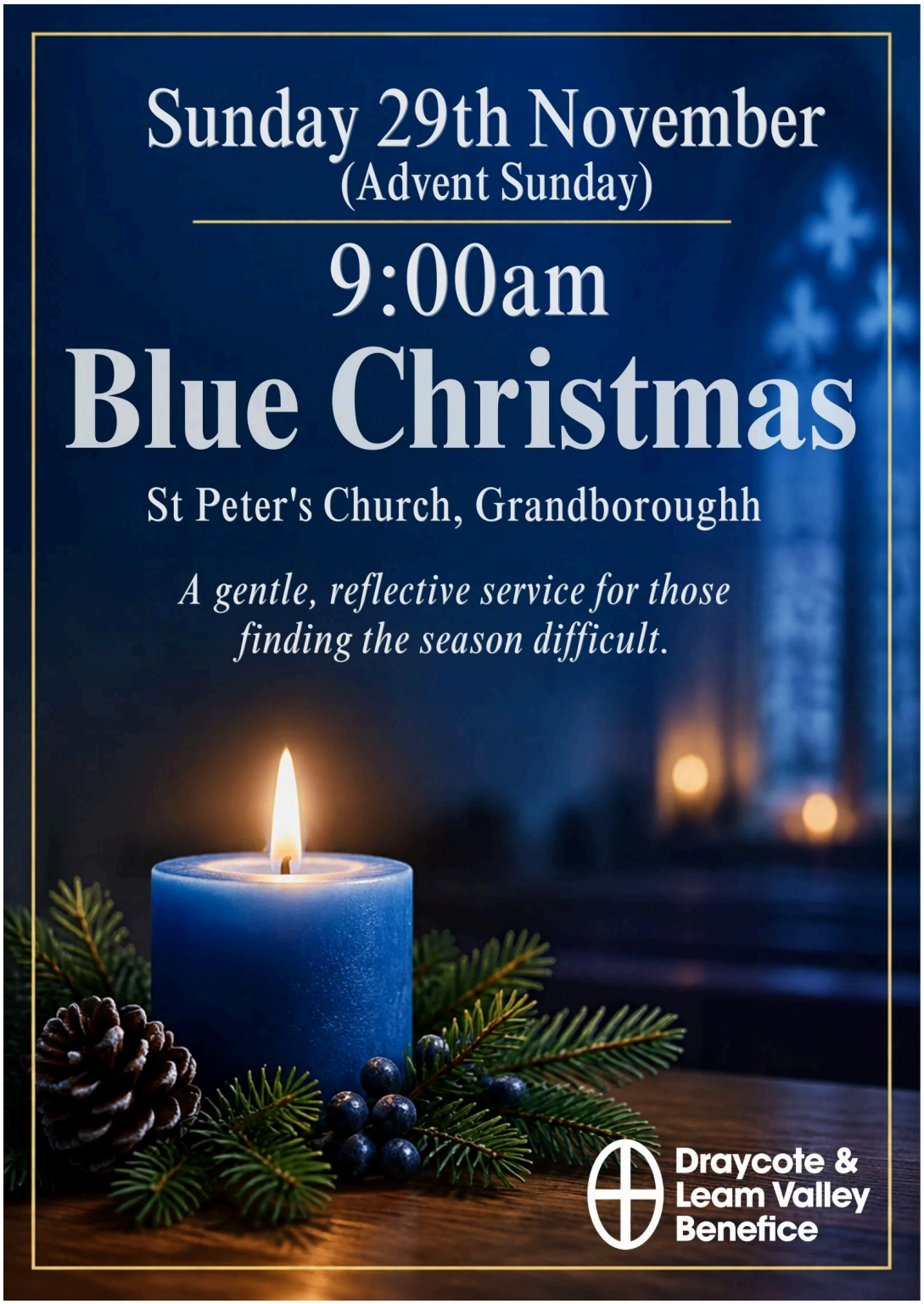
Christmas Day – Friday 25th December

- **9:00am** – **BCP Holy Communion** | *St Nicholas, Frankton*
- **10:00am** – **Allsorts Christmas** | *St Leonard's, Birdingbury*

- **10:30am – Christmas Day Communion** | *All Saints, Stretton-on-Dunsmore*

All are welcome—bring along family, friends, and neighbours as we share the light and joy of Christmas together!

We've got a Poster with all of these details which can be downloaded and printed to be put up which can be downloaded here



A Space for Quiet Reflection: Blue Christmas Service

Now that the Christmas adverts are filling our screens, the festive season is well and truly underway. While Christmas is a time of joy and celebration for many, we know that for others it can be a painful, lonely, or overwhelming time of year.

If you are finding the season difficult, or if you simply need a quiet moment to catch your breath amidst the bustle, you are warmly invited to our **Blue Christmas Service**.

Designed to offer a gentler, more mellow tone, this service provides space for quiet reflection, candle lighting, and stilling ourselves in God's peace.

- **Date:** Sunday 29th November (Advent Sunday)
- **Time:** 9:00 am
- **Location:** St Peter's, Grandborough

Everyone is welcome, wherever you find yourself this season.



Christmas Lantern Craft Session

St Peter's Church, Grandborough, invites children to a special **Christmas Lantern Craft Session** ahead of the Christmas Carol Service.

- **When:** Saturday 5th December at 10:00 am
- **Where:** St Peter's Church, Grandborough

All craft materials will be provided. Please let Helen know if your child would like to come so there are plenty of supplies for everyone—call or message Helen on **07470 136700**.

Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult who will remain with them throughout the session.



St Nicholas Day Choral Evensong at Frankton

3pm on 6th December 2026 at St Nicholas, Frankton

As part of our wide range of festive services and events across the benefice this Christmas, **St. Nicholas Church, Frankton** is hosting a choral evensong this to celebrate their Patron Saint - St. Nicholas.

Everyone across the benefice is warmly invited to join the Frankton community for an uplifting service featuring a visiting choir, followed by refreshments.

Booking & Details

To help the team manage catering numbers, **free tickets for the refreshments must be booked in advance** via Eventbrite:

- **Book online:** Eventbrite - Patronal Festival Choral Evensong and Carol Service



Sunday Teaching On Demand

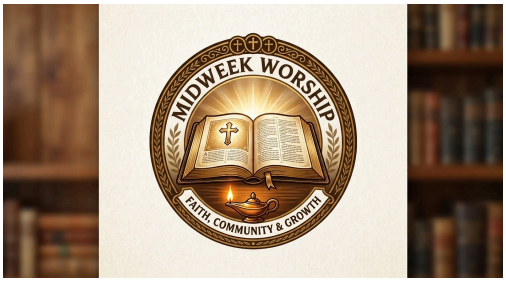
You can watch last Sunday's Sermon by clicking on the image above, a new reflection will be posted on Sunday —

We also have nearly four years of sermons, Bible teaching, reflections, and creative resources available online, helping you stay rooted in God's Word whenever and wherever suits you.

🎥 Watch on YouTube
🎧 Listen on Spotify

If you'd prefer, you can also browse our full sermon and video library on our website.





Small Groups

We have many opportunities to meet together to explore faith — in person, on Zoom, during the day, and in the evening. Click the button below for details of our different groups and how to get involved.

Small Groups

Midweek Worship

We gather regularly for worship during the week, both in person and on Zoom, through Morning Prayer, Communion, and other simple rhythms of worship. Click the button below to explore our midweek services.

Midweek Worship



Community Activities

There are many community activities taking place across our villages — from our weekly Coffee Stop in Stretton to our occasional Sing-along-and-Slice in Willoughby. Click the button below to see what's happening.

Community Activities



Children and families

We offer a variety of activities for children and families, from monthly Building Church with Lego, crafts, and Bible fun to our monthly youth group for school years 7, 8 and 9. Click the button below to explore what's on offer.

Children and families

Draycote and Leam Valley Benefice

Clydan, Thurlaston
United Kingdom

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