East Loveden Churches And Parish News DECEMBER 2026/ JANUARY 2027



All enquiries, including Services, Bible Course, Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings, please contact:

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Please send any copy for FEBRUARY 2027 Church News by JANUARY 15th at the latest to: rectoreastloveden19@gmail.com

Light for the Turning of the Year
A Pastoral Reflection from the Vicarage

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
John 1:5

Dear Friends,
As the days shorten and the chill of winter settles across our villages, December arrives with a familiar blend of busyness and quiet anticipation. Our calendars quickly fill with preparations, carol services, school nativities, and the practical tasks of getting ready for Christmas. Yet beneath the bustle of the season lies the gentle, steady rhythm of Advent—an invitation to pause, take a breath, and watch for the light of Christ entering our world once again.

The Gift of Christmas Stillness

At the heart of our Christmas celebration is a remarkably humble scene: a child born in a quiet corner of Bethlehem, welcomed by shepherds and encircled by the faithful love of Mary and Joseph. There is no earthly grandeur here—only straw, candlelight, and the astonishing truth that God chose to draw near in vulnerability and grace. In the familiar words of our carols and the stillness of Midnight Mass, we are reminded that peace is not found in having everything perfectly arranged, but in making room in our hearts for the Christ-child.

St John reminds us that in this child, the true light has come into the world. That promise matters deeply, especially when the festive season feels bittersweet. For those carrying grief, facing illness, or finding the winter months lonely, Christmas is not a demand to force cheerfulness; it is the quiet assurance that God steps directly into our real lives, bringing warmth, companionship, and hope where we need them most.

Stepping into January with Hope

When the decorations are packed away and the quietness of January begins, it can sometimes feel as though the brightness of Christmas has faded too soon. Yet in the Church's calendar, January opens with Epiphany—the season in which the light of Christ is revealed to the wider world. Just as the Wise Men followed a star across unfamiliar territory, we step into a new year not knowing every turn the road will take, yet confident that we do not walk it alone.

Whatever this turning of the year holds for you and your household, may our churches remain places of welcome, friendship, and prayer throughout these winter months. Whether you join us for a candlelit carol service, a quiet morning communion, or simply stop by for warmth and conversation, you are always warmly welcome.

A Winter Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the World, shine upon our homes and parishes this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Comfort those who are weary, strengthen those who serve, and guide our steps in your peace. Amen.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Rev Georgie

PRAYER FOR DECEMBER

Heavenly Father

Despite all the noise, consumerism and razzmatazz in December, help us to focus on the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Christ, Your Son, born in a stable. Christ the Light of the world. Love, mercy, peace and joy flow from our Saviour to light our way and to warm our cold hearts.

As millions of Christmas lights transform the darkness, by Your grace, help us to reflect Your love in our lives and to rejoice in Christ at Christmas.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR JANUARY

"In sightless faith we turn our souls to You and take the Hand of an invisible God". Richard Littledale.

Heavenly Father

At the beginning of this New Year, we bring all our hopes and fears to You. In the light of eternity, our times are in Your hands. We put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer.

We ask that You fill our hearts anew with the gift of the Holy Spirit. In your mercy and by Your grace, enable us to walk with Christ our Lord throughout 2027.

BENEFICE PRAYER

Heavenly Father

As we put our trust in you, send Your Holy Spirit to bring vision to our planning, and guidance and direction for the future of our churches.

May we be the salt and light to this place as we embrace our diversity and work together in unity to make disciples of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

AROUND THE PARISHES

ANCASTER

The church is open most days.

The foodbank box is available in the church for donations, also available is an Ink Jet recycle box.

Ancaster Coffee Morning:

1st Friday every month. 10:00 am till 12:00 noon.

In Ancaster Village Hall.

EAST LOVEDEN

A SEASON OF CAROLS

6th Dec	3:30pm	Heydour carols
10th Dec	7:00pm	Syston carols
13th Dec	3:00pm	Ancaster carols
16th Dec	7:00pm	Kelby carols
17th Dec	6:00pm	Plough Inn carols
18th Dec	6:00pm	Bustard Inn carols
19th Dec	6:00pm	Railway Inn carols
20th Dec	11:00am	Barkston carols
	4:00pm	Welby carols
24th Dec	3:00pm	Belton Crib service
	3:00pm	Wilsford Crib service
	6:00pm	Honington Carols
	8:00pm	Ancaster Christmas Eve Holy Communion
25th Dec	10:00am	Ancaster Christmas Day Holy Communion

Christmas by Candlelight

3.30pm

Sunday 6th December

St
Michael & All Angels
Church, Heydour

Carol Service

followed by

Mulled Wine and Nibbles



RSVP
by 1st December,
(so we know how much wine to mull!!)





Please join us

at

St Martins Church

On

Saturday 12th December

3pm

For

A Concert at Christmas

With

The Loveden Festival Singers

Refreshments available

Free entry





EAST LOVEDEN GROUP



6TH DECEMBER
10:00 ANCASTER MORNING PRAYER
11:00 BELTON BCP

13TH DECEMBER
09:00 SYSTON BCP

20TH DECEMBER
10:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

24TH DECEMBER
20:00 ANCASTER CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION

25TH DECEMBER
10:00 ANCASTER CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE SHEET FOR CAROL SERVICES

ALL WELCOME

EAST LOVEDEN GROUP



3RD JANUARY
10:00 ANCASTER MORNING PRAYER
11:00 BELTON BCP

10TH JANUARY
10:00 AT THE CHURCH OF ASCENSION, GRANTHAM (NG31 9QZ)
CONFIRMATION SERVICE WITH BISHOP NICHOLAS

17TH JANUARY
10:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

24TH JANUARY
10:00 WILSFORD HOLY COMMUNION

31ST JANUARY
10:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

ALL WELCOME