

East Loveden Churches And Parish News DECEMBER/JANUARY 2026

www.eastlovedenchurches.co.uk



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

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**Please send any copy for FEBRUARY 2026 Church News by
JANUARY 15th at the latest to: rectoreastloveden19@gmail.com**

FROM THE RECTORY

The Light Shines in the Darkness

I start December with a heart full of gratitude. Many of you know that I have recently returned from a three-month sabbatical—time that offered precious space for rest, reflection, prayer, and renewal. I want to express my sincere thanks for the support, encouragement, and understanding you offered during my time away. Sabbaticals are a gift not only to clergy but to the whole church, allowing ministry to be sustained with renewed energy and perspective. I return deeply appreciative of your faithfulness, your welcome.

It is truly good to be back among you.

December is one of the most recognisable and yet most easily overlooked seasons of the Christian year. Advent arrives quietly, inviting us into a rhythm of slowing down just as the world around us begins to speed up. Shops grow busier, diaries fill, and expectations rise. And yet, Scripture calls us into a different posture—one of waiting, watching, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Advent reminds us that God does not enter our story with noise or fanfare but with humility: Mary's "YES!," a carpenter's courage, a manger's simplicity. Christ comes to us not through grand gestures but in quiet, persistent love. God meets us where we truly are, not where we think we ought to be.

For some, December brings joyful anticipation and family gatherings; for others, it awakens memories, loneliness, or anxieties. And yet, the message of Advent and Christmas is unwavering:

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

As a church family, we are invited to be bearers of that light—through kindness, prayer, presence, and compassion. When we welcome the stranger, check in on a neighbour, or offer a listening ear, we participate in the very heart of the Christmas story.

This December, I encourage you to find small ways to create space for God.

Light a candle each evening and watch its glow. Offer a brief prayer before the day begins. Read a few verses of Scripture. Sit quietly and breathe. These small acts of attention allow hope to take root in us again.

My sabbatical reminded me how easily we can become exhausted without noticing it, and how deeply God longs to restore us. My prayer for you this Advent is that you too will discover moments of rest and renewal amid the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

As Christmas draws near, may you experience the wonder of the shepherds, the trust of Mary, and the courage of Joseph.

And may the presence of Christ—Emmanuel, God with us—fill your homes and hearts with light, joy, and hope.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas.

Rev Georgie

Prayer for DECEMBER

Heavenly Father

December, the darkest month of the year; the colourful leaves long gone from the trees, revealing intricate and lacy branches with a bare beauty of their own.

Many will be adorned with bright sparkling lights giving us joy in the Christmas season and reminding us of, "The true Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." Each year, may we wonder anew at the birth of the Christ-child and welcome Him into our hearts; Immanuel, God with us. Amen

Prayer for JANUARY

Lord Jesus

January, the start of a New Year. We give thanks that we can start every day as a 'New Day' with You, our gracious Saviour. "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer." The hymn ends with the words, "In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there."

Our part, as a Carmelite nun once said, is to open our hearts to receive the gift of prayer. We do not know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future. We pray Your loving, merciful arms around us each day of this New Year. Amen

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.

Robert & Kerry Bushby warmly invite you to a

Prayer Breakfast on:

Saturday 13th DECEMBER at 9.00am.

and

Saturday 17th JANUARY at 9.00am.

Come and share croissants and cereal, tea and coffee followed by a time of prayer for the villages.

To be held at:-

19 Brookside, Ancaster NG32 3QT

If you would like to come, please leave a message on 01400 269940 or text Robert on 07491 711112



LOVEDEN FESTIVAL SINGERS

PRESENT



A Concert at Christmas

Ancaster Village Hall

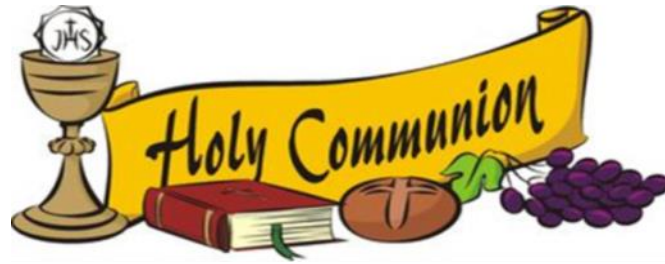
Friday 19th December 7pm

Tickets £6 (includes a drink and mince pie)

Tickets available from Jackie 07773493032

and Jayne 07784232116

EAST LOVEDEN GROUP



7TH DECEMBER

10:00 ANCASTER MORNING PRAYER

11:00 BELTON BCP SERVICE

14TH DECEMBER

09:00 SYSTON BCP SERVICE

11:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

17:00 WILSFORD VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY PRAISE

21ST DECEMBER

10:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

24TH DECEMBER

20:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

25TH DECEMBER

10:00 ANCASTER CHRISTMAS HOLY COMUNION

28TH DECEMBER

10:00 WILSFORD HOLY COMMUNION

CAROL SERVICES- Please see separate list

ALL WELCOME

A night of Carols



19:00 DECEMBER 12th SYSTON CAROL SERVICE

18:30 DECEMBER 12th PLOUGH INN CAROLS

15:00 DECEMBER 14th ANCASTER CAROL SERVICE

19:00 DECEMBER 18th KELBY CAROL SERVICE

18:00 DECEMBER 19th BUSTARD INN CAROLS

18:30 DECEMBER 20th RAILWAY INN CAROLS

17:00 DECEMBER 21st WELBY CAROL SERVICE

15:00 DECEMBER 21st HEYDOUR CAROL SERVICE

11:00 DECEMBER 21st BARKSTON CAROL SERVICE

15:00 DECEMBER 24th WILSFORD CRIB SERVICE

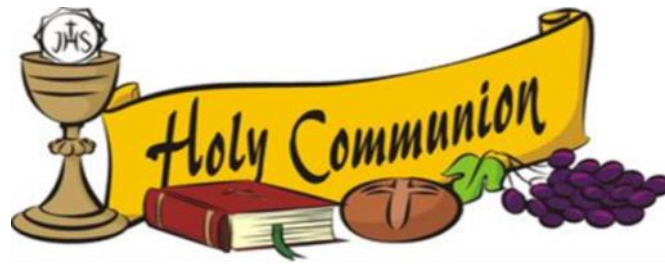
15:00 DECEMBER 24th BELTON CAROL SERVICE

18:00 DECEMBER 24th HONINGTON CAROL SERVICE

20:00 DECEMBER 24th ANCASTER CHRISTMAS EVE
MASS

10:00 DECEMBER 25th ANCASTER CHRISTMAS DAY
HOLY COMMUNION

EAST LOVEDEN GROUP



4th JANUARY

10:00 ANCASTER MORNING PRAYER

11:00 BELTON HOLY COMMUNION

11th JANUARY

9:00 SYSTON HOLY COMMUNION

11:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

18th JANUARY

10:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

25th JANUARY

10:00 WILSFORD HOLY COMMUNION

ALL WELCOME