

East Loveden Churches And Parish News

FEBRUARY 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 MARCH 2026 Church News by
FEBRUARY 15th at the latest to: rectoreastloveden19@gmail.com**

FROM THE RECTORY

February Reflection

February is a month of contrasts. The year is still young, winter lingers, and yet our attention is already drawn toward two significant moments in the Christian calendar and in everyday life. We begin the journey of Lent, a season of reflection and repentance, while also encountering Valentine's Day, a celebration of love, affection, and relationship. Held together, these moments invite us to pause and consider not just what we believe, but how we live and love.

Lent begins quietly, but honestly. It calls us to slow down and to look inward. As ashes mark our foreheads and familiar words remind us of our human frailty, we are invited to lay aside pretense and self-sufficiency. Lent is not about proving our devotion or measuring our goodness. Rather, it is a season that gently draws us back to humility—to an honest awareness of our need for God.

This humility is at the heart of Jesus' teaching, especially in his parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. One approaches God confident in his own righteousness, rehearsing his achievements. The other comes with nothing to offer except honesty and a plea for mercy. Jesus makes it clear that it is the humble heart, not the impressive record, that God receives.

Lent invites us into that same posture. It encourages us to ask difficult but necessary questions: What am I relying on? Where have pride or comparison crept into my faith? What needs to be surrendered so that God can renew me? Through prayer, fasting, and acts of generosity, Lent creates space for God to work within us.

Jesus captures the heart of this season in a single sentence:

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)

Lent helps us notice where our treasure truly lies—not just in words, but in habits, priorities, and attitudes. It calls us to realign our hearts with God's purposes and to rediscover what truly matters.

Alongside this reflective season sits Valentine's Day, with its focus on love. In our culture, this love is often portrayed as romantic, effortless, and fleeting. While it can be a joyful celebration, it can also feel exclusive or superficial. The Christian understanding of love, however, is deeper and more demanding. It is rooted in humility, faithfulness, and self-giving.

Seen through the lens of Lent, Valentine's Day becomes an opportunity to reflect on the kind of love we are called to live out—not just in romance, but in friendship, family, church, and community. True love grows where there is humility, patience, forgiveness, and grace. It is shaped not by self-interest, but by a willingness to place others before ourselves.

As February unfolds, Lent and Valentine's Day together remind us that the Christian life is a journey of the heart. A heart that learns to pray honestly. A heart that is willing to repent and be renewed. A heart that loves not only in words, but in truth and action. May this month be a time of gentle returning—to God, to humility, and to a love that reflects Christ's own. And may we walk the Lenten path with open hearts, trusting that God meets us not in our perfection, but in our willingness to be transformed.

Prayer for FEBRUARY

Heavenly Father

February brings us the Festival of Candlemas when we can give You thanks for the baby Jesus being recognised by faithful Simeon as 'the Light of the world', bringing salvation to all.

Later this month we start the Holy days of Lent and we pray for grace to understand more deeply the love of Your Son, our Saviour, for us all as we meditate on His journey to the cross. May we reflect His love and compassion in our troubled world today to Your glory.

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

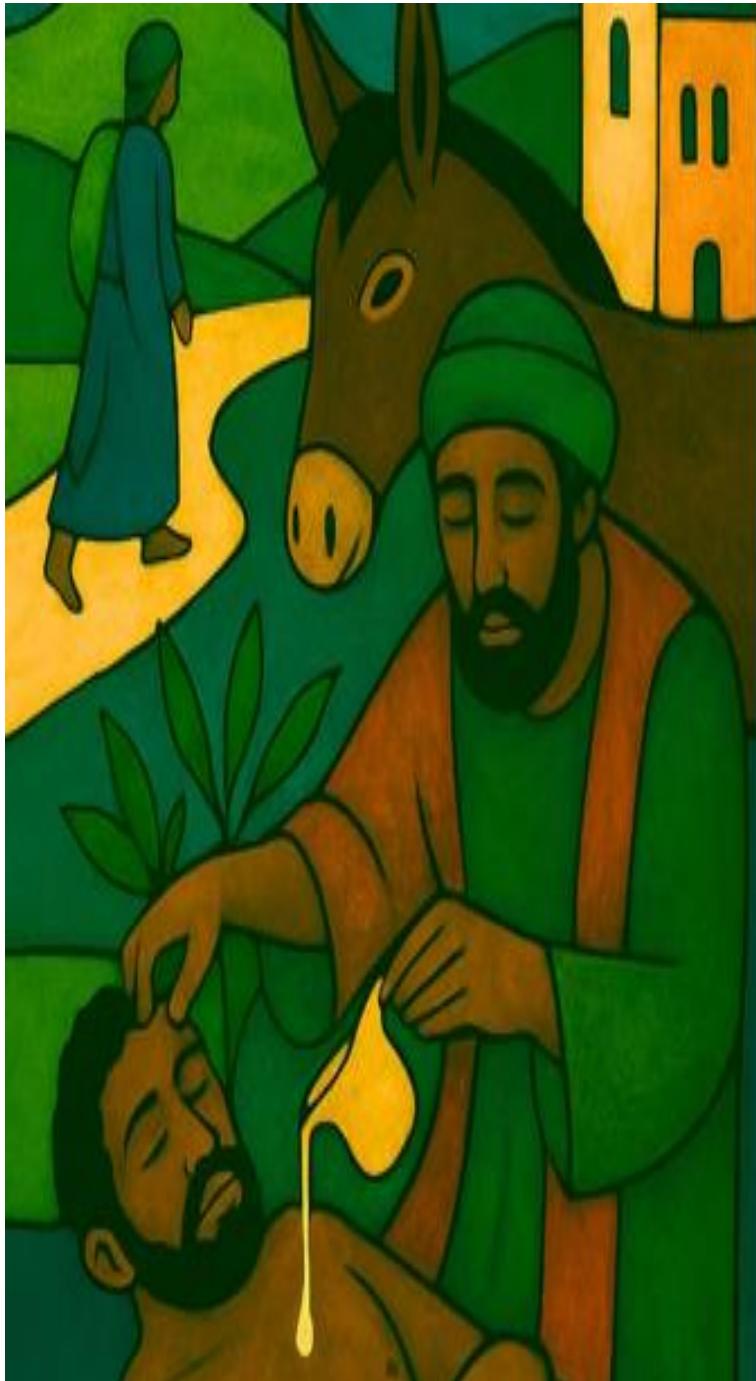
The church is open most days.

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.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Lincoln Cathedral and
Global Majority Heritage leaders
in the Diocese of Lincoln
invite you to:

An Evening Service
marking
RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY
Sunday 8th February 2026
starting at 15:45

warming refreshments afterwards
[learn.lincoln.anglican.org/learning-
resources/racial-justice-sunday-2026](http://learn.lincoln.anglican.org/learning-resources/racial-justice-sunday-2026)

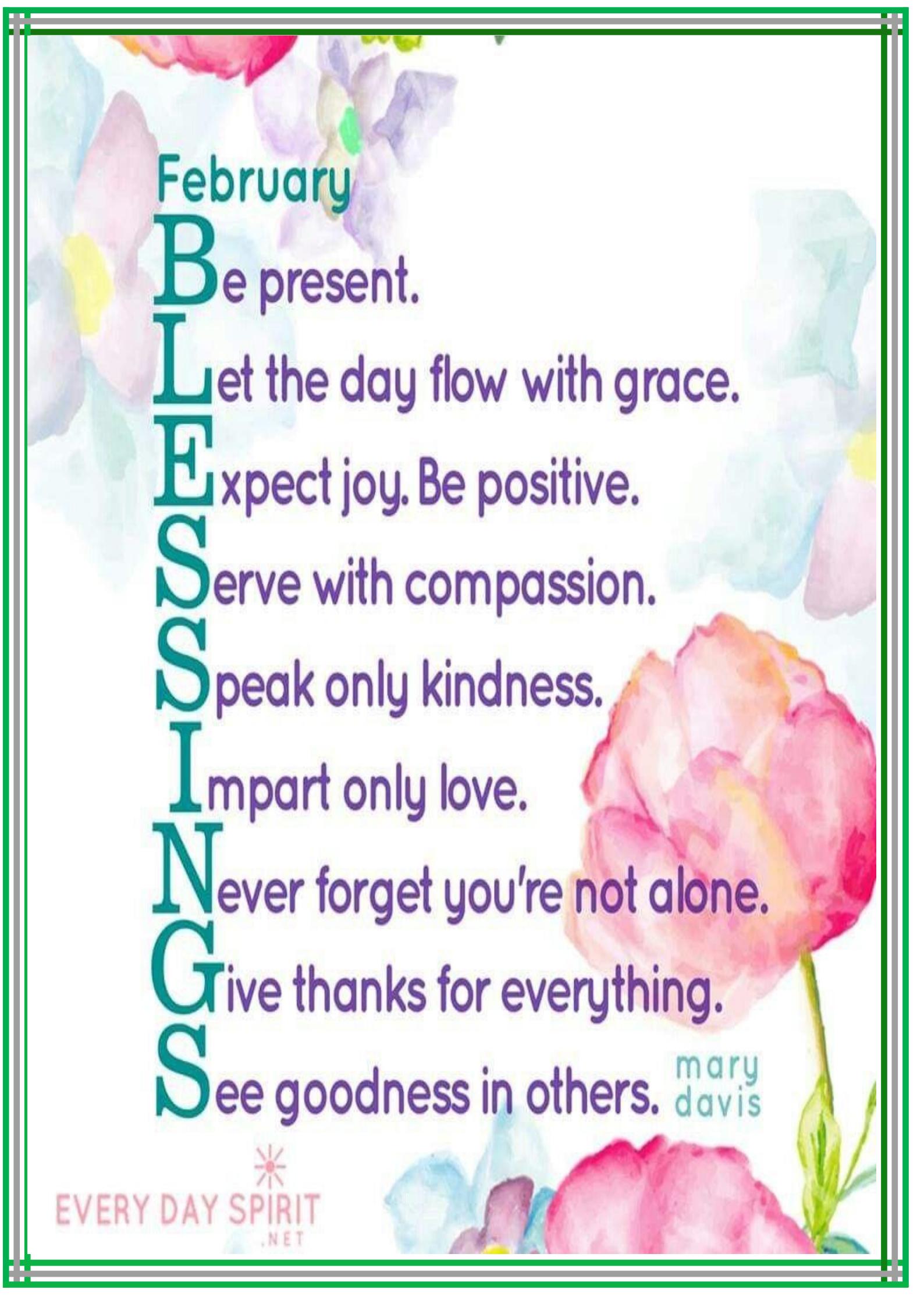
Recognising and championing our shared humanity

Each year, our diocese marks Racial Justice Sunday.

This is an important day to recognise our common humanity and the love and compassion that we share between us as diverse children of God.

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. (Galatians 5:14)



February

B
e present.

L
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E
xpect joy. Be positive.

S
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S
peak only kindness.

I
mpart only love.

N
ever forget you're not alone.

G
ive thanks for everything.

S
ee goodness in others.

mary
davis

Count Your Blessings

(But you may not recognise them as such)

1. If you own a Bible, you are abundantly blessed - about 1/3 of the world does not have access to one.
2. If you wake up each morning with more health than illness, you are blessed to rise and shine, to live and to serve in a new day.
3. If you have anyone on the planet, just one person that loves you and listens to you; count this as a blessing.
4. If you can freely attend a church meeting without fear, then you are more blessed than over 1/3 of the world.
5. If you have a yearning in your heart to parent a child, you are blessed because you still desire what you cannot see.
6. If you pray today or any day, you are blessed because you believe in God's willingness to hear your prayer.
7. If you pray for someone else, you are blessed because you want to help others also.
8. If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep; all at the same time; you are rich in this world
9. If you have a brother or sister in Christ that will pray with you and for you, you benefit from a spiritual unity, bond, and agreement, which the gates of hell cannot stand against.
10. If you have any earthly family that even halfway loves you and supports you, you are blessed beyond measure.
11. If you attend a church with a church family that offers you one word of encouragement, you are blessed with some form of fellowship.
12. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, or some spare change in a dish someplace you are among the world's wealthy.
13. If you can go to bed each night, knowing that God loves you, you are blessed beyond measure.
14. If you try each day to imitate our Lord Jesus Christ for even a minute, you are blessed because you show a willingness to grow up in Him.
15. If you can read this message, you are more blessed than about 1/3 of the world who cannot read at all.
16. If you have never had to endure the hardship and agony of battle, imprisonment, or torture, you are blessed in indescribable measure.
17. If you have a voice to sing His praises, a voice to witness God's love, and a voice to share the gospel, you are blessed. About 1/3 of the world do not even know who the one true God is.
18. If you can hold someone's hand, hug another person, touch someone on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.
19. If you can share a word of encouragement with someone else, and do it with His love in your heart, you are blessed because you have learned how to give.
20. If you have the conviction to stand fast upon His Word and His promises, no matter what, you are blessed because you are learning patience, endurance, and tenacity.
21. If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because most people can, but many will not.

May God Bless You And Keep You Safe.

-- Author Unknown

DAC Key Dates

The DAC agenda dates and meeting dates for the next few meetings can be found below.

Please get in touch with Steven or Peter for further information.

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Agenda Close</u>
Thursday 29th January	Thursday 15th January
Wednesday 11th March	Wednesday 25th February
Tuesday 5th May	Tuesday 21st April

Contact Details

Please contact the team if we can help with any church building related query.

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Peter Duff, Assistant DAC and Pastoral Secretary, dac.assistant@lincoln.anglican.org

01522 504045

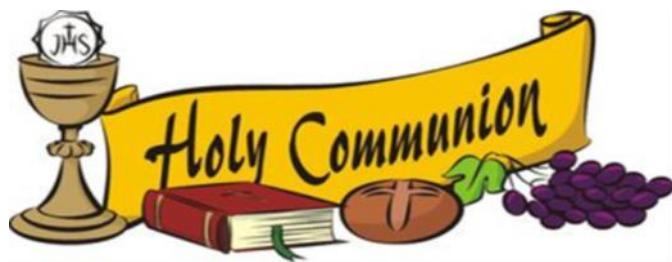
Matthew Godfrey, Historic Churches Support Officer, matthew.godfrey@lincoln.anglican.org

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Sophie Clark, Church Development Officer, sophie.clark@lincoln.anglican.org

01522 504018

EAST LOVEDEN GROUP



1st FEBRUARY

10:00 ANCASTER MORNING PRAYER

11:00 BELTON CANDLEMAS GROUP SERVICE

8th FEBRUARY

9:00 SYSTON HOLY COMMUNION

11:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

15th FEBRUARY

10:00 ANCASTER HOLY COMMUNION

17:00 WILSFORD VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY PRAISE

WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY

**09:30 ANCASTER ASH WEDNESDAY HOLY
COMMUNION**

22nd FEBRUARY

10:00 WILSFORD HOLY COMMUNION

ALL WELCOME