

Cover page

# Welcome

## Rutland Water Benefice

Sharing the love of Christ with all

Comprising the parishes of Edith Weston, Empingham, Lyndon, Manton,  
North Luffenham, Pilton, Preston, Ridlington, Whitwell and Wing

Rector: **Rev'd Peter Collins**

The Starlings, 2 King Edward's Way, Edith Weston LE15 8EZ  
revdpeter@msn.com. 07740 039048

Please refer to the service rota on page 39 of this magazine and do  
make yourselves known to the churchwardens when you arrive. You  
will be very welcome.

For all enquiries about funerals, baptisms or weddings, please contact  
Rev'd Peter Collins - details above.

Home communions may be arranged by appointment.

This magazine is distributed free of charge to every home in the  
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and our team of volunteer distributors.

More information about the benefice  
can be found on the website  
[www.rutlandwaterbenefice.info](http://www.rutlandwaterbenefice.info)  
or [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)



Copy for next month's magazine by 15th February 2026  
please, to Alice Hill [rutlandbeneficeparishmag@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandbeneficeparishmag@gmail.com)

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Photographer: Richard Brown, Rutland  
[www.rinrphotos.co.uk](http://www.rinrphotos.co.uk). 07999 865473

# Candlemas

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Candlemas marks the purification of Mary, and Joseph and Mary's presentation of Jesus in the Jerusalem Temple to consecrate their new-born to the Lord and offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2.22-40).

In the Temple Simeon waited, blessed with prophetic insight and guided by the Spirit he recognised Jesus, took him in his arms and sang out his song 'Nunc Dimittis' revealing that the child was the Messiah and would be the light of revelation to the Gentile world, and to the glory of Israel.

From the early fourth century the February blessing and giving of lighted candles to the worshipping congregation began, celebrating the Christ-light that had come into the darkness of the world. Candlemass also became the day when church candles were blessed, including candles people brought from home, at the time before gas and electricity illuminated our buildings.

The tension between light and darkness flows through Holy Scripture, and that tension is also within us, coming to a point at the centre of the Cross where the light of Christ overcame the powers of darkness. John's prologue reveals how the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1.5).

Candlemas reminds us of Jesus command that we are to be lights in the world by following his teachings and guidance, letting our faith be visible, reflecting God's love by our actions, and inspiring all to illuminate their lives with grace and truth.

The poem by Clara Thurston speaks of the gentle and gradual process by which we become 'lights', patiently building on our faith through prayer, scripture and loving service until we shine and 'share out' our light and joy.

A candle's but a simple thing,  
It starts with just a bit of string.  
Yet dipped and dipped  
With patient hand,  
It gathers wax upon the strand  
Until, complete and snowy white,  
It gives at last a lovely light.

Life is so like that bit of string,  
Each day we do a simple thing,  
Yet day by day if on life's strand  
We work with patient heart and hand  
It gathers joy,  
Makes dark days bright,  
And gives at last a lovely light.

With every blessing this Candlemas

*Peter*

Lent begins on 18th February, Ash Wednesday, when a service of Holy Communion and Ashing will be held at 4.30pm in St Peter and St Paul, Wing. All are welcome.

## Rutland Foodbank Wish-List Spring 2026

Not Needed at the Moment



Long-life milk (blue & green)  
Tinned meats (mince & onion, spag bol)  
Tinned pies  
Pasta sauces  
Sugar  
Jams & spreads  
Washing-up liquid  
Hand soap  
Men's deodorants



Please note we cannot accept over the counter medication, alcohol, fresh, homemade, open or out of date foods



Registered Charity in England & Wales Number 1158460

07582 783363 or email us [info@rutland.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@rutland.foodbank.org.uk)

36 Melton Road, Oakham, LE15 6AY (next to Domino's Pizza)

We are open to receive donations Mon-Fri 10.00 – 12.00

### Barbara's Store, Empingham

Monday - Friday 7am - 5pm, Saturday 8am - 12 noon,  
Sunday 9am - 12 noon

Stocking a full range of groceries, local produce, lottery, hot drinks, filled rolls and off-licence.

Village home delivery for newspapers and groceries.

Contact 01780 460348 [barbaras.store@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barbaras.store@hotmail.co.uk)



For Rutland raises funds for Citizens Advice Rutland (Reg Charity No 1107907) to pay for Specialist Advisers who provide non-medical advice to people of all ages living with long-term health conditions in Rutland and the surrounding community.



For Rutland is a fundraising group of Citizens Advice Rutland

## **The For Rutland Good and New Clothes Sale 2026**

Make sure you put this date into your 2026 diary - the For Rutland Good and New Clothes Sale on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> March. The annual sale of pre-loved clothing and accessories, one of the biggest of its kind in the country never mind Rutland, hosted once again at the prestigious Rutland Hall Hotel overlooking Rutland Water, just outside Oakham.

The volunteers at For Rutland are looking forward to shoppers coming along in their droves, the venue has plenty of free parking making it easy to pop along. Details of the sale are available on the For Rutland website: [www.forrutland.org.uk](http://www.forrutland.org.uk) including ticket prices and sale times and directions for the Rutland Hall Hotel can be found here: [www.rutlandhall.co.uk](http://www.rutlandhall.co.uk). The Friday night sale is ticket only, tickets are £30 each but the sale on Saturday morning costs just £5, is open to everyone and most items will be half price!

With sustainability, recycling and reusing high on most people's agendas, if you haven't already got into the habit of *not* buying new clothes, the For Rutland Good and New Clothes Sale is the best place to start! The sale has something for everyone: there are loads of pre-loved women's, men's and children's clothes and shoes, bags and accessories with items ranging from designer to high street. The organisers want everything to go, so items such as suits, coats, dresses, jeans and separates are priced at amazingly affordable prices, even for things that have never been worn.

All of the money raised goes to fund the vital advice service at Citizens Advice Rutland, supporting people in Rutland dealing with the effects of long-term health conditions like dementia, cancer and MS when and where it is needed, from the Citizens Advice Rutland office in Oakham's High Street.

## **EDITH WESTON**

### **EDITH WESTON ACADEMY- UPDATE**

We have had a wonderful start to Term 3 at Edith Weston! The children have immersed themselves into their learning during this half term.

We have a busy rest of term ahead with lots of exciting learning, activities and

trips planned. We are also looking forward to developing a new library, and we cannot wait until it is finished and the children are able to use and enjoy it. We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting prospective new families and welcoming them to our brilliant school community. If you are considering Edith Weston Academy, please do contact our school office to book in for a personalised tour with our Headteacher. We would be delighted to show you our wonderful school in action.

We have also had lots of enquiries about our school pool which is available for private hire for families, parties, swimming lessons and private sessions. If this is something that you are interested in, please contact the office:

[Office@edithweston.rutland.sch.uk](mailto:Office@edithweston.rutland.sch.uk)

Ellie Kapler

Headteacher Edith Weston Academy. Telephone: 01780 720025

## **EDITH WESTON SAFARI SUPPER 7.00pm 28th February 2026**



In aid of Edith Weston Village Charities.

Join us for a fun and friendly evening around the village!

Tickets are £25 per person, which includes a three-course dinner and wine.


The Safari Supper is a lovely way to catch up with old friends and get to know new faces — whether you've lived here for years or are new to the village, you'll be very welcome.

### **How it works**

- On the evening, you'll receive an envelope telling you where to go at 7.00pm for your starter.
- After that, another envelope will reveal where your main course awaits.
- Finally, everyone comes together at the Village Hall for dessert and the raffle   All host houses are within the village and easy walking distance.

You'll stay with your partner (if you have one) but enjoy meeting different people at each course. Coming on your own? Not a problem — you'll be warmly welcomed.

### **Hosting & desserts**

To make the evening work, we need some lovely people to host a starter or main course for 6, 8 or 10 guests. Hosts will be provided with the wine  If

you're able to host, please let Toni know.

Not hosting? Perhaps you'd be happy to bring a dessert to share — just tell us what you plan to make.

### **How to book**

Please book by 14 February by:

- Completing the slip on the back of the flyer (delivered this week — spares available in the Church and Village Shop), or
- Phoning Toni Wilkin on 07447 017100
- Emailing [toniwilkin@gmail.com](mailto:toniwilkin@gmail.com)

We really do hope you can join us on 28 February — it promises to be a great night!

### **BELL BULLETIN**



The Edith Weston Bell Ringers rang out the old year on half-muffled bells before joyously ringing in 2026. A good number of villagers braved the cold weather to raise a glass and welcome in the New Year, and we were delighted to be joined by our new Rector, Peter Collins, whose support was very much appreciated.

If you have a significant event such as a special birthday or anniversary and would like the bells to ring please let Tracey Lawson know on the number below.

Bell ringing is not only a significant tradition but also a wonderful way to meet new people and engage both mentally and physically. Practices are held in the church on Monday evenings 7pm – 8.30pm. If you're interested in trying your hand at ringing, please call Tracey Lawson on 07761 310720. *By Belle*

### **Edith Weston Village Hall 100 Club**

Congratulations to the winners in February:

£30 Mr & Mrs Ashworth

£20 Mrs H Fox

£10 Mrs G Young

£10 gift voucher for the village shop kindly donated by Helen & Andy – Mr J Griffin

The lucky winner of the £30 snowball prize is M Pierre-Longueville

### **Church garden**

If you would be interested in joining a rota to help out with maintaining the flowerbeds alongside the path to the church, please contact Miranda Palmer 07713 715250.

## **Christmas Card Scheme**

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this years (2025) Christmas Card Fundraising Scheme.

We raised £495.00 which we the PCC are very grateful for and appreciate immensely. This will help towards the ongoing upkeep of our beautiful village church. Thank you.

## **Save the date. Souper Social** Tuesday 10th March 12 - 2pm

Edith Weston Village Hall, donations please on the day.

Volunteers to help with serving soup etc, please contact Tracey Lawson 07761 310720 or Vanessa Jones 07717 294388.

## **Save the date. Edith Weston Village BBQ** Saturday 27th June 5pm.

Live music and BBQ. More details to follow.

## **EMPINGHAM**

### **News from St Peter's Church**

We were delighted to welcome our new Rector, Revd Peter Collins, to Empingham on January 18th to take his first service in our church. We all look forward to getting to know each other better over the coming months.

Caroline Simmonds and Patrick Woods continue to run All Age Worship on the first Sunday of the month in the church at 10.00. This is an informal café style service with activities for children and adults alike, plus plenty of coffee and biscuits. Why don't you give it a try? The drop in Coffee and Cakes mornings have restarted and take place every Wednesday from 10.30 to 12.00 in the church. Everyone welcome – and we have a well-stocked children's corner for any young visitors.

A big thank you to the Carol singers and musician who bravely turned out on an extremely wet and miserable night in December.

A shortened route around the village for the singers resulted in an early and welcome retreat to the church to dry out and consume traditional mulled wine and mince pies.



Thank you to the households that donated. A total of £85 was raised for St Peter's Church.

### **Activities at Empingham Methodist Church**

Minister: Rev Bekkie Wright 07355981564  
RevBekkiewright@gmail.com

#### Sundays

1st 10.45am Morning Worship Mr Iain Cameron  
8th 4pm Tea-Time Church – Phil Jones – A service for young families.  
15th 10.45am CAFÉ CHURCH with Phil Jones.  
22nd 3pm AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP – Informal Service of  
Favourite Hymns & readings followed by Tea Together.

#### Mondays.

First Monday in the month Lunch Club 1pm. Places need to be booked.  
Other Mondays 2-4pm Refreshments – Tea/Coffee and Cake. Second-hand books, on Sale Photocopying and Laminating available. BOARD GAMES or just chatting together.

#### Thursdays,

TODDLER & BABY GROUP – 10.30am till 12 noon. £2 per session.  
More details Eileen Ray 01780 460676.

### **Empingham Village (Audit) Hall**

Empingham Village (Audit) Hall Mini Ernie

We welcome several new subscribers to the Mini Ernie.

If you do not currently subscribe and would like to do so, please contact Alan Danbury or complete the form on our website -

<http://empingham.life/audithall/ernie.shtml>

The renewal fee for 2026 will be £15 per ticket.

If you wish to pay by cheque, please send a cheque or cash for £15 per ticket payable to "Empingham Village Audit Hall" to 15 Willoughby Drive, Empingham, LE15 8PY. or pay by direct credit to our Bank account using the details below:-

Bank: Barclays Bank

Branch: Stamford

Sort Code: 20-81-20

Account No: 13185206

Name: Empingham Village Audit Hall Mini Ernie

### **Next Village Breakfast**

A date for your diaries - the next breakfast will be held on Saturday 7 March. More details next month.

### **Empingham Cricket and Social Club**

The club is open as follows:

- From 5.15 pm on Wednesdays– please check calendar on website for any further changes
- From 4.30 pm on Friday evenings
- From 1.00 pm on Sunday lunchtimes.

Please see facebook for up-to-date details concerning opening times and other events.

### **Special Events**

There will be a charity race night on Saturday 7th February

The beer festival will run from 11th to 15th March, with all the super Saturday rugby shown on 14th

Quiz night on Monday 9th February

Pie night on Friday 27th February

### **Club Contacts**

The club website can be found at [empinghamcsc.org](http://empinghamcsc.org), where you will find useful details about the club and the calendar

The club Facebook page can be found as Empingham Cricket and Social Club, or directly from the website. Useful details about the club and events can be found here too.

To join as a member, or renew an exiting membership of Empingham Cricket and Social Club please visit Empingham Cricket and Social Club

**There's more from Empingham on page 27**

adverts October  
2025

Adverts October  
2025

Adverts

adverts

Adverts













Adverts April 2025

adverts

adverts October  
2025

adverts Nov 2025



adverts Nov 2025

adverts Dec 2025

## Adverts Dec 2025

### 1/2 page

#### **Emoingham Cricket and Social Club** - continued

All memberships now run to end March. The new membership year starts on 1st April. You can pay membership fees over the bar or online via PayPal, but please ensure you have completed the online membership form before you do so. The online membership form is at :

<https://membermojo.co.uk/empinghamcsc>

Membership enquiries can be sent to [bobsloan79@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bobsloan79@yahoo.co.uk)

Club secretary David Duffin, [david@theduffins.org.uk](mailto:david@theduffins.org.uk)

#### **Empingham Garden Club**

Empingham Garden Club's next meeting at the Cricket Club will be an interesting talk by Steven Lovell about Water Features in our gardens. Please come along. We meet on Monday 23 February at 7-30

#### **Allotment Association**

Now is the perfect time to start preparations for the 2026 growing season and we have several plots available right now. If you are interested and wish to know more, please contact [Empingham.allotments@gmail.com](mailto:Empingham.allotments@gmail.com)

## **Empingham Together**

Ladies Fashion Show - 17th April 2026

Empingham Together's 2026 events kick off on 17th April, with a fabulous fashion show in St Peter's Church, organised and presented by SOS Charity Fashion Shows. A professional compere will describe what's on offer, featuring your favourite high street brands as well as French & Italian designer wear, all at big discounts. Music, lights & mirrors will all add to the ambience, as you 'try before you buy' on the night, having seen them modelled by village residents in a show worthy of Paris or Milan! A range of accessories will also be on sale, to complement the clothes you buy.

Men are also welcome. There will be a raffle with super prizes, a wine bar and soft drinks to make the evening one to remember.

Tickets are £5 per head and will be available only from Barbara's Store from 1st February onwards.

Please bear in mind, the event will be open to all, so make sure to get your ticket early, as numbers are strictly limited.

## **Empingham Men's Shed**

The Men's Shed will meet at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th February for what I think will be a fascinating talk by Malcolm Ranft on his experiences in setting up and running Rutland Treasures - including some of the interesting visits he has made, and finds he has discovered, when undertaking house clearances.

The event is open to all. Non-members will be charged £5 on the door.

For any further information, please contact [bobwillars@sky.com](mailto:bobwillars@sky.com)

Our **Dancefit and Pilates** classes are running again after the Christmas holidays, there are a few spaces left so please come and join us! Our classes are so friendly and we welcome everyone of all ages and abilities, it would be lovely to see you!

Fridays Empingham Audit Hall Dancefit at 930am - 1030am and Pilates at 1045am - 1145am. Each class is £10, please contact Louise on 07827 665916 or visit [www.stamfordpilates.co.uk](http://www.stamfordpilates.co.uk)

## **LYNDON**

A BIG THANK YOU.

A great evening of Carols, wine and canapes was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December in St Martin's Church. Despite our resident, talented organist Jonathan only having one fully functional arm he organized this fun informal evening, played

enthusiastically as ever and put us all firmly in the Christmas spirit. Due to the feed back on this musically accompanied vocal evening we thought regular sessions might be fun. Watch this space for further dates or contact Jonathan to express an interest. [thurston@icloud.com](mailto:thurston@icloud.com)

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:-

**SOUP & SAVOURY SATURDAY** - 7<sup>th</sup> February 12noon to 1.30pm.

Do join us for homemade "Soup & Savouries" at Courtyard Cottage, Lyndon. A minimum donation of £5 would be appreciated for church funds.

Our "Preloved & Homemade Lyndon" stall will be there selling anything from marmalade to gloves!

Please contact [ginnyhball@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyhball@gmail.com) by 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**PATE & PUDDING SATURDAY** - 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Courtyard Cottage, Lyndon from 12noon to 2pm.

Three delicious homemade pates and three scrumptious puddings with French bread and a glass of wine.

Minimum donation of £10 please for The Cinnamon Trust.

Please contact [ginnyhball@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyhball@gmail.com) by 18<sup>th</sup> February.

#### LYNDON FETE

We are delighted that Craig Revel Horwood is again opening our Fete on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Further details TBA.

## MANTON

**MANTON VILLAGE HALL 150 CLUB** Winning numbers for January 2026. **£20:** 60 Ruth Blinch **£10:** 127 Cheryl Bullivant **£10:** 15 Sue Ward **£5:** 70 Terry Westerman **£5:** 21 Graham Campbell.

This month's snowball **£70** was not won. Next month's Snowball £80 may be won. If you would like to join the 150 Club and help support the Village Hall contact the Promoter, John Stones Tel: 01572 827944.

#### MANTON VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

A new village defibrillator is available for anyone to use in the event of someone having a cardiac arrest. The defibrillator is in a cabinet in the small courtyard to the right of the Horse and Jockey. On calling 999, if a cardiac arrest is suspected, the caller will be directed to the defibrillator. The unit is fully automatic, will tell you what to do, and will not deliver a shock unless it is

appropriate. On an alert, a small number of villagers have also volunteered to be called by the ambulance service for one to collect and take the defibrillator to a casualty. For information should you wish to look it up on the internet, the unit is a Mindray CIA. *Peter Gooding*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **RUTLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB**

**Friday 8-10pm**

**Manton Village Hall**

February 6th - Callers' Choice, February 13th - Love Makes The World Go Round

February 20th - Lady Callers, February 27th - Chinese new Year Of The Horse

For further information contact Hilary Wallace 01780 460389 or go to [rutlandfolkdanceclub.org.uk](http://rutlandfolkdanceclub.org.uk)

### **LEANNAN FOLK DUO**

**Wednesday 11 February - 8pm**

**Manton Village Hall**

Romantic, intimate, eclectic, heartfelt, gentle, acoustic. Leannán is an accomplished acoustic duo, weaving intimate tales of enduring love, loss and life. Tickets £10 each from Anne Cowan.

Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.

## **COFFEE MORNING**

**Thursday 12 February - 10.30-12.00**

At the home of Rosemary Gooding, Cumberland House, St Marys Road

Any problems/lifts needed please contact Anne (01572737503)

FREE – but any donations to church funds gratefully received.

## **LENT LUNCHES**

**Tuesdays 24 February to 31 March – 12.30 to 2.00 Manton Village Hall**

Home made soups, bread, fruit, tea/coffee - £6. All money raised for SAVE the CHILDREN

Do come along and enjoy the company of fellow villagers and an excellent lunch.

**Anyone offering to make soup or help on the day please contact Anne Cowan**

## **COFFEE MORNING**

**Thursday 12 March - 10.30 am-12.00pm**

At the home of Jill Booth, Oakland, Priory Road

Any problems/lifts needed, please contact Anne Cowan (01572737503)

FREE – but any donations to church funds gratefully received

## **NORTH LUFFENHAM**

### **CHURCH - St JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Our January services include.

- 15<sup>th</sup> February 09:30 Holy Communion
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 'Breakfast Club'

Everyone is welcome to our Holy Communion at 9:30am on Sunday the 15th February. Do wrap up warm as we are expecting some more wintry weather!

It will however be lovely and warm for our Breakfast church at 9:30am on Sunday 22nd February in the Community Centre. We will be looking at the temptation of Jesus in the desert. Everyone is welcome to come along, eat some lovely warm croissants and find out how a loaf of bread, some lego and a wrapped present will fit into this story.

Anyone from the village would be made most welcome at any of the services across the Benefice and for those who would like a lift to a service in another village, this is often possible with enough notice - please contact the Churchwarden, Patrick Woods, or the magazine correspondent.

### **St MARY and St JOHN CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

It was an action-packed end of the Autumn term here at SMSJ. Highlights were our annual Santa Run organised by our amazing PTA, our Reception Class' nativity in the church and our Key Stage 1 production of 'Hay Presto'. We also had a wonderful Christmas lunch that was attended by Patrick, Nic and Father Peter as some of our special guests!

We've started 2026 with great enthusiasm and look forward to sharing more about our learning, trips and visits in the coming months.

## GOOD COMPANIONS

Following a busy festive period, the Good Companions Club enjoyed watching the video from the village pantomime that was performed live on Sunday 21 December at The Fox. Battling the inclement weather, the cast were outstanding, as usual. It was a very entertaining watch and we were all pleased that we had an opportunity to see it, in a warm and comfortable space!

Our February meeting will be an outing to the popular Stamford College Gallery Kitchen on Wednesday 4th February at 12 Noon. Pre-booking is essential. We are very much looking forward to seeing what delicious treats are provided this time around.

For more information about the club, please contact Jason Allen (07773 396153) or Alison Gibson (07769 322551). We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding December & January) in the community centre. Join us in making our village a place where no one feels alone, and everyone has a companion.



North Luffenham Fun Club presents

**RACE NIGHT**  
On the big screen

Recorded races - Lots of competitive fun!

**SCHOOL HALL NORTH LUFFENHAM**  
**SATURDAY 7TH MARCH**

Over 18's welcome - Tickets £10 (includes 1st drink)  
Doors open from 6:30

Interval Games - Bar - Raffle  
Tickets available now!

Claire Bewick 07926 686 362 / Judy Cade 07505 623 406 /  
Sue Browning 07534 895 747 / In person from The Fox

Race sponsorship options are also available, please call Claire, Judy or Sue (contact info on the poster) for details.



# PRESTON

## CHARITY CONCERT

Preston's Ukrainian friends from the Ukrainian Rotary Impact Club of Rutland will be holding a Symphony of Love concert in aid of local communities at Oakham All Saints' Church on Valentine's Day **Friday 14 February**.

It brings together classical piano and Ukrainian folk music arranged for bandura, and original compositions by the performers creating an atmospheric, uplifting, and memorable evening of exceptional music played by Yaroslav Oliinyk – an award-winning pianist and composer with an international career and Mariia Petrovska, a multi-award winning bandura player and singer.

Tickets £20 available on <https://wegottickets.com/event/685535> and at Oakham Wines and The Falcon Hotel, Uppingham. Children under 16 attend free. Doors open: 6.30 pm | Concert starts: 7.00 pm

## FORWARD NOTICE PRESTON LENT LUNCH

This year's Lent Lunch will be held on **Saturday 14th** March in the Village Hall. Delicious homemade soups, cheeses, fresh bread, pickles and fruit, teas and coffees. Please keep the date free and plan to be there!

## FOOD BANK

Please don't forget that we have a collection box in the church porch which is emptied regularly by June and John Spence. Our thanks to them.

**Christmas** ....seems so long ago now but what a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth it was here in Preston with a full church for our Lessons and Carols, when the children shared their Christingles with us and on Christmas Day when it was a joy to welcome our new rector, Peter, here for the first time to take the service. Another twenty of us plus dog! had a lot of fun singing carols around our Village tree on Christmas Eve, ably led by Audrey. We hope you heard us! Then the Lights Competition was won (again) by the residents of Bay House who keep the cup for another year.

There are so many people to thank for making everything happen but an especial mention for those willing souls who gave their time and came up to decorate the church which looked magnificent!

Last of all thanks to everyone who made donations at the Christmas Village Coffee Morning and the two Christmas services. We were able to send £243.55 to the Children's Society.

## **CHURCH FLOWERS AND CLEANING**

We are very grateful to all the village residents who kindly ensure that the church looks lovely by providing and arranging flowers and keeping it so clean for us. Thank you so much!

## **PRESTON CHRISTMAS QUIZ RESULTS**

Thank you to everyone who submitted their sheets for marking. Congratulations to everyone who entered, even if you were not among the prizewinners. Just over £200 was raised to go towards church funds through the sales of the quiz sheets. Thank you to everyone who bought a copy. Trish Dickenson deserves a special mention for selling a great number of copies through her many contacts. Thank you to you all.

1st: James Jackson, Norfolk

2nd: Alastair Jackson, Nottingham

=3rd: David Atkinson and

Mark and Angela Edmondson-Jones, Preston

David Shipton, Uppingham.

There were two particularly good 4th clues submitted amongst the entrants not in the first three, so they each got a prize:

Susanna Singlehurst, Raja Bose.

## **RIDLINGTON**

**CONDOLENCES** to the families of Andrew Lount, Jane Moubray and Diana Bryers long-term village residents who have died recently.

**CHURCH SERVICES** - Sundays at 9:30am. Everyone welcome and each service is followed by light refreshments:

1st February - Morning Prayer

8th February - Holy Communion led by the Rector

22nd February - Morning Prayer.

**THANKS** - we raised £160 by way of donations under the village Christmas card scheme which has been shared between the church, playing field and village hall.

- to Annie Harvey who has stood down after several years as our village correspondent to this magazine. A volunteer needed to fill the role, please.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION** - with referrals up nearly 10% on last year

your continued support has never been so valued. The next collection from the church porch will be on 4th February.

**SOUPER SATURDAY** - a Valentine's Day lunch with a difference - join us at the village hall between 12 noon and 1:30pm on Saturday, 14th February for a choice of three soups (red, amber and green), bread and cheese scones. We ask for a minimum donation of £5 towards the insurance premium for the church.

**ECO CHURCH - LOVE YOUR YEW WEEK** - as part of the planned maintenance of the churchyard please help to remove the ivy from the two yew trees in the churchyard: 10:30am on Sunday, 15th February.

**MONTHLY WALK** - to coincide with National Walk your Dog Day (isn't that every day?), join us for a short walk on Sunday, 22nd February. Meet in the church porch at 2pm. Light refreshments available afterwards - please let Debra know if you intend to come.

**BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!** - a refreshed village library awaits you in the church. Please feel free to borrow and return books or make a donation to buy any.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - in the spring we will be looking for volunteers to take on the roles of church warden, treasurer and secretary to the Parochial Church Council -for details, please contact Debra.

**VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL EVENTS 2026** - the ever popular coffee mornings on Friday, 1st May, 17th July and 25th September from 10:30am to noon.

The return of the Curry evening - Saturday, 3rd October 7:00pm to 11:00pm  
Christmas social evening with bar - Friday, 18th December 7:00pm to 10:30pm.

### **In Loving Memory of Diana Bryers**

Diana has been a resident of Ridlington all her life. Her father Stan was born in Preston, and her mother, Mary was born in Clay Cross, near Chesterfield. They made their home in Ridlington over 75 years ago. She adored Ridlington and loved the wide-open spaces that we walked often with our dogs over the years.

Diana lived life with colour, warmth, and a smile that could light up any room. She loved deeply, laughed easily, and gave generously — always finding joy in

making others happy.

She shared nearly 54 years with her beloved husband **Martin**, including 44 years of marriage, and was a devoted and fiercely protective mother to her son, **Daniel**, and a loving mother-in-law to **Claire**. Family was at the heart of everything she did.

Diana had a gift for creating beauty — in her home, her garden, and in the lives of those around her. Our home was her castle: bright, welcoming, and uniquely hers, filled with colour, creativity, and happy memories. She loved nature, windy days, long walks, and sunshine-filled holidays — especially by the ocean in Tenerife and around the Amalfi Coast, in Italy.

She brought friendship wherever she went, through her kindness, her warmth, and her infectious love of life. Above all, Diana reminded us that happiness is something you build — with love, generosity, and a joyful heart.

Sadly missed but never forgotten.

***“Diana, my love — I was blessed the day I met you, and I discovered just how special you were by spending a lifetime with you. You are, and always will be, the most important person in my life.”***

## **WHITWELL**

A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of **Christopher Charles Watkins** of Empingham and formerly Whitwell was held on 23rd of December 2025 at St Michael and All Angels, Whitwell. The Rev'd Peter Collins officiated as family, friends and villagers gathered to pray and remember Christopher.

## **WING**

Flowers: Jeffy Wood      Brass: Philippa Gallimore

**Wing WI's** speaker for 12 February is Joe Davis who discovered the Rutland ichthyosaurs fossil in 2021. All members of the public are welcome. The meeting starts at 7.00pm at Wing Village Hall. If you have any questions about the WI please contact Judith [01572 737761](tel:01572737761) [quilt9@gmail.com](mailto:quilt9@gmail.com) or Jane [01572 737324](tel:01572737324), [janegilmore7@gmail.com](mailto:janegilmore7@gmail.com)

The first draw of the year for the 100 Club which was drawn at the Thursday Coffee Morning on the 1st January produced the following winners -

1st 118 Mrs Sue Hodson

2nd 112 Mrs Mary Rodgers

3rd 102 Mr Ken Walsh

The Craft Group continues to meet in the Village Hall on Wednesday mornings at 10am. All are welcome.



Wing Village Hall Presents

# *Valentine's Night Dinner Dance*

Saturday 14th February 2026

*Delicious 3-course dinner by **Sara Mcallister***

*Live music from **Covered Up***

Please contact **Tracy Moores** to book a ticket or a table by 14th January  
*WhatsApp 07850 138156*

***Whether you're celebrating love, friendship or  
just fancy a great night out, this is for everyone!***

All proceeds go to the upkeep of Wing Village Hall



**Saturday April 25, 2026 @ 7.30pm**

**Wing Village Hall**

The renowned Folk Group 'Tarren' present an evening of catchy, foot-tapping songs.

Tickets are £15 each and available from John Hackett 01572 737394

# Stamford Concert Singers

Present an all-new programme of lively well-known  
songs from stage and screen compiled by musical  
director Rod Dawkins entitled: -

## 'With a Song in My Heart'



WING VILLAGE HALL

Friday 20 March 2026 7.30 p.m.

Bar and nibbles

Tickets £12.50 from Carolyn Comben (01572 737373,  
email ccomben2@gmail.com) or Helen Bateman (01572  
737499)

Proceeds shared between Wing Church and the Singers



**Dance and Fantasy:  
Music by Schubert,  
Brahms, Gershwin, Ravel,  
Barber and others**

Friday 13th March  
7.30pm

All Saints' Church, Oakham

David Hill and Anne Bolt will  
present keyboard repertoire for one  
piano, four hands

Tickets £15 in advance available from  
07809 229292, Oakham Wines

[www.artsfortheheartofengland.co.uk](http://www.artsfortheheartofengland.co.uk)  
or £20 on the door

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> February Candlemas</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> February 2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February Sunday 'next' Lent</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February Lent I</b>
St Mary <b>Edith Weston</b>				<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>
St Peter <b>Empingham</b>	10.00am All Age Service		<b>11.00am Holy Communion</b>	
St Martin of Tours <b>Lyndon</b>	<b>11.00am Holy Communion</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer		
St Mary <b>Manton</b>		9.30am All Age Service		<b>11.00am Holy Communion</b>
St John the Baptist <b>North Luffenham</b>			<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	9.30am Breakfast Church
St Nicholas <b>Pilton</b>		<b>4.30pm Holy Communion</b>		
St Peter and St Paul, <b>Preston</b>	11.00am Meeting Place	<b>11.00am Holy Communion</b>		4.00pm Evening Prayer
St Mary Magdalene and St Andrew <b>Ridlington</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>		9.30am Morning Prayer
St Michael <b>Whitwell</b>				<b>3.00pm Holy Communion</b>
St Peter and St Paul, <b>Wing</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 18th February 4.30pm Service of Holy Communion and Ashing	9.30am Morning Prayer

## The Rutland Water Benefice

### Churchwardens

Edith Weston.....	(Judith Needham)	01780 720609
Empingham.....	position vacant	
Lyndon.....	Lady Conant	01572 737275
Manton.....	Anne Cowan	01572 737503
North Luffenham..	Patrick Woods	01780 721872
Pilton.....	Jayne Williams	07711 623362
Preston .....	Jane Micklethwait	01572 737219
Ridlington.....	Debra Thatcher	01572 823910
Whitwell.....	Mary Bell	01780 460205
	Tony Godwin	07906 134316
Wing.....	David Wood	01572 737465
	Alice Hill	01572 737516

### Magazine Correspondents

Edith Weston	Miranda Palmer	07713715250
Empingham	Stephen St Clair-Thompson	07963 973991
Manton	Roger Hornby	01572 737367
Lyndon:	Susan Day	01572 737403
North Luffenham	Nic Merrett	07801 983530
Pilton	post vacant - volunteer needed	
Preston	Angela Edmundson Jones	angela.ej@btinternet.com
Ridlington	<b>Post vacant</b>	
Whitwell	Marlen Godwin	<a href="mailto:marlen@fcdcom.co.uk">marlen@fcdcom.co.uk</a>
Wing	Jeffy Wood	jeffywood1@gmail.com