

This Month's Service Diary

Sunday 22nd December: 4th Sunday of Advent (p)

Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45 [46-55];

10:00 **Aslackby**: Holy Communion

11:00 **Folkingham**: Holy Communion

15:00 **Dowsby**: Carol Service

18:00 **Haceby**: Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve (p)

15:00 **Aswarby**: Carol Service

16:00 **Aslackby**: Carol Service

15:30 **Sempringham**: Crib and Carol Service

23:15 **Billingborough**: Midnight Communion

23:15 **Folkingham**: Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25th December: Christmas Day (G)

11:00 **Pickworth**: Family Service

Sunday 29th December: 1st Sunday of Christmas (w)

10:00 **Dowsby**: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

11:00 **Aunsby**: Patronal Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 5th January: Epiphany (G)

Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12;

10:00 **Pointon**: Café Church

11:30 **Aslackby**: Plough Sunday

Advent and Christmas Services December 2024

Billingborough Group of Parishes

Sunday 22 nd	10.00am	Aslackby	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Dowsby	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Aslackby	Stars, Carols and Crib on the Green
	5.30pm	Sempringham	Crib and Carol Service
	11.15pm	Billingborough	Midnight Communion
Sunday 29 th	10.00am	<u>Dowsby</u>	Holy Communion (BCP)



Sunday 22nd December 2024 4th Sunday of Advent

Our Prayers to take home

Lord God, whose word and wisdom create and renew all things, hear our prayer for the church and the world. Purify your people, that we may be prepared for your coming once again this Christmas.

Forgive us when we mis hear and misinterpret your will for humanity. May the words of the Magnificat remind us of the true good news. That you are for the humble, the poor, and the oppressed, as we should be.

May we put aside our preconceptions to know the true meaning of Jesus' birth for the world and share it with all those we meet.

As we await the fullness of the coming of your kingdom over our darkened world we pray for peace and healing to the divided family of humanity: May the earth be filled with righteousness, justice and freedom. We hold in our prayers all prisoners, refugees, the homeless and the marginalised. May they be treated with respect and kindness and may they find hope in their darkness.

We pray for any who live with a daily fear of violence, hunger and cold. Especially the peoples of Ukraine, the Holy Land and Mayotte. We give thanks for peace keepers and aid workers.

From our community we pray for *Margaret Martindale, Rachael Price, Anne Watson, Fran and Jan*, and all who care for them. We give thanks for the work of healthcare professionals; may they be compassionate and wise. We give thanks for those who volunteer for the benefit of others especially those whose work goes unremarked and hidden.

We pray for all who have died, remembering our loved ones, and those who have died recently.....May they all with joy behold the face of God, that he may be their light forever. We give thanks for the work of bereavement counsellors and funeral directors as they support the bereaved.

And we pray for ourselves, for our families and friends, and all those among whom we live and work: that we may have the joy of one another and be the ministers of your love.

And so, as we wait and wonder, we rejoice in the fellowship of Mary, Elizabeth and all the saints. We commend all for whom we pray to Christ our God: that we may set our hope fully upon the grace that is coming to us at his appearing. .

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers**

Sunday 22nd December 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Micah 5.2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Hebrews 10.5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1.39-45 [46-55];

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

[⁴⁶ And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.']

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Every Tuesday

10:00 Aslackby: CoffeeStop
14:00 Pointon: Cornerstone fellowship

Every Wednesday

10:00 Billingborough Village Hall: Pop-In Too
10:30 Horbling: Morning Coffee and Social
14:00 Horbling: Horbling Craft Group will meet again in the New Year

First Wednesday of the month

12:00 Billingborough Village Hall: Soup, Pudding and fellowship

First Saturday of the month

10:00 Billingborough: Church Cleaning

First Sunday of the month

10.00am Pointon: Café Church

Please note there will be no pew sheet on 29th December

