

Welcome to the December edition of our Newsletter

Advent Course

Anthony is running an advent course at the Rectory. It will be on Tuesdays 7pm-8pm at the Rectory from Tuesday 29th November for four weeks. Please do let him know if you plan on coming – RevAnthonyOram@gmail.com.

A letter from Bishop Donald

Looking Forwards

This is my final “parish magazine” letter as your bishop. I’ve been writing such pieces since I became a vicar almost forty years ago, and I’ll miss that joyful task. I’ll miss the people I write to even more. Over forty-six and a half years of ordained ministry, almost thirteen of them here in Peterborough, I have worked with many people in many contexts, and made many friends. I am grateful to this diocese for making me welcome and letting me have a part in the great ministry here. I will take a lot of good memories with me.

But (and I expect you could feel a “but” coming) my leaving should not be about looking back, but we should all be looking forwards to what is next in God’s plan for us. Whenever I write a December letter, I get some flak for giving more space to Advent than to Christmas, so (not wishing to disappoint the critics) I am doing the same again now. Advent, at the start of the Church’s year, and setting the tone for the whole year, points us forwards rather than backwards. That is the Christian direction of travel.

As I write, we are getting ready for our three-yearly ministers’ conference (the last one was five years ago, but covid caused two postponements). It will be over before you read this. I will certainly miss those wonderful gatherings of around three hundred clergy and lay ministers sharing together for the best part of a week. The previous three which I have led for this diocese have had as their themes, Joy in Ministry, Building the Church, and Sent by Jesus. This time, avoiding any backwards look, I have chosen Rejoice in Hope as the title, with studies and talks on the great Bible theme of Hope.

Hope is about putting our trust in Jesus for the future: looking joyfully to him, his wonderful promises, and his perfect plan. It is about his coming, his kingdom, the fullness of his salvation. It is about living for him, rising with him, being glorified in him.

Dear friends: my prayer is that we all rejoice in hope, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, this Advent, into Christmas, the New Year, and beyond.

God bless you

+Donald Bishop of Peterborough

What's on - in Thistleton

December 6 (Tuesday) at 6 pm There will be the **Patronal service at Thistleton.**

December 17 (Saturday) at 6 pm – **Carol Service at Thistleton**

December 25 (Sunday) at 9:15 am – **Christmas communion at Thistleton**

What's on – in Greetham

- **December 4 (Sunday) at 9.30 am** - Our World Service - John Ellis will be our speaker. He was senior RAF chaplain and will be talking about chaplaincy in the Armed Forces.
- **December 11 (Sunday) at 9:30 am** - (Breakfast at 9.00 am)
- **December 18 (Sunday) at 6.30 pm** - Greetham's carol service.
- **December 22 (Thursday) at 2 pm**- Christingle on Thursday December 22.
- **December 22 (Thursday) at 6 pm** - The Blue Christmas service for those for whom Christmas may be a time of sadness.
- **Christmas Eve December 24 (Saturday) at 11.30 PM** – Holy Communion

- **New Year's Day January 1 (Sunday) at 10.30 am** – Benefice Communion.

What's on in Exton

- **December 11 (Sunday)** – Morning service at 11:15 am
- **December 18 (Sunday) at 3 pm** – Carol Service
- **December 22 (Thursday) at 4pm** - Pony Club Carol Service to which all are welcome.
- **Christmas Day December 25 (Sunday)** – service at 10:30 am

What's on - in Cottesmore

- **December 4 (Sunday) at 9:30 am** - All-age Service
- **December 11 (Sunday) at 9.30am** - Morning Service
- **December 18 (Sunday) at 9.30am** - Holy Communion
- **December 19 (Monday) at 7.30pm** - Carol Service
- **December 22 (Thursday) at 4.00pm** - Family/Children's Service
- **December 24 (Saturday) at 9.00pm** - Christmas Eve Holy Communion
- **December 25 (Sunday) at 10.30am** - Christmas Day Service

What's on – in Clipsham

- **December 11 (Sunday) at 11:15 am** – Holy Communion
- **December 18 (Sunday) at 3.00 pm** – Carol Service
- **December 25 (Sunday) at 10.30 am** – Christmas Communion

What's on – in Burley

- **December 24 (Saturday) at 5 pm** – Carol Service

What's on in Stretton

There will be a Christmas Concert at St Nicholas, Stretton, organised by the Stretton Community Hub at 6:30 pm on Saturday, December 10. For more details <https://strettonrutland.co.uk/news/>

- **Sunday December 4 at 11.15 am** – Morning service
- **Sunday December 18 at 4 pm** – Carol Service
- **Sunday Christmas day December 25 at 10.30 am** – Christmas Communion

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who supported this wonderful initiative by either filling a box with gifts or giving a donation. The boxes are now on the next stage of their journey and hopefully they will bring joy and happiness to children who may never have received a gift before.

Patricia Hagger

Church in the Woods

Church in the Woods is an event for families with primary school age children every month locally in the woods. There are games, bonfire and BBQ, bible story, craft activities and we also make sandwiches which are delivered to a homeless shelter in Corby. If you would like to come along as a family or volunteer to help, please contact Rev Anthony Oram revanthonyoram@gmail.com.

And there's **Campfire Christmas - December 23 at 4pm** ...at the woods - carols, Christmas story, hot chocolate, toasting marshmallows around the fire.

Spare time? – office/IT skills?

Julie Leefe has a really busy time approaching and will be looking to hand over her responsibilities in the New Year for:

- This newsletter
- Cottesmore benefice Facebook page
- Launching a new web site
- And Church database.

So, if you would be interested in finding out more about one or more of these opportunities for volunteering please speak to Julie, julieleefe@live.co.uk or Anthony, revanthonyoram@gmail.com.

Printing copies for friends and family

If you know of a neighbour or a family member that doesn't use email, why not print them a copy of this newsletter (the PDF version is best) so they don't miss out on news and church information?

Feedback

I apologise that it is currently not possible to include pictures of photographs in this version of the newsletter which is sent out on iKnow church.

We would very much appreciate your comments and feedback which can be sent to Julie Leefe at Cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com.

CONTACTS

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Web site www.northrutlandchurches.org.uk

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Cottesmorebenefice> - Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/North-Rutland-Churches-102279675438456> -
North Rutland Churches Facebook page

December 2022		Services in North Rutland Churches	
Sunday December 4	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:15 AM 15:00 PM	All age service Our World Service - John Ellis will be our speaker. He was senior RAF chaplain and will be talking about chaplaincy in the Armed Forces. Morning Service Church in the Woods	Cottesmore Greetham Stretton Woods
Tuesday December 6	18:00 pm	Patronal service	Thistleton
Sunday December 11	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:15 AM 11:15 AM	Morning service Breakfast service (Breakfast 9:00 am) Holy Communion Holy Communion (BCP)	Cottesmore Greetham Exton Clipsham
Saturday December 17	18:00 PM	Carol Service	Thistleton
Sunday December 18	9:30 AM 15:00 PM 15:00 PM 16:00 PM 18:30 PM	Holy Communion Carol Service Carol Service Carol Service Carol Service	Cottesmore Clipsham Exton Stretton Greetham
Monday December 19	19:30 PM	Carol Service	Cottesmore
Thursday December 22	14:00 PM 16:00 PM 18:00 PM	Christingle Christingle Blue Christmas	Greetham Cottesmore Greetham
Friday December 23	16:00 PM	Campfire Christmas	Stretton woods
Saturday December 24	17:00 PM 21:00 PM 23:30 PM	Carol service Christmas communion Christmas communion	Burley Cottesmore Greetham
Sunday December 25	09:15 AM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:30 AM	Christmas communion Christmas morning service Christmas communion Christmas communion Christmas communion	Thistleton Cottesmore Exton Clipsham Stretton
Sunday January 1 New Year's day	10:30 AM	Benefice service	Greetham

	What's on regularly in the North Rutland Churches
Monday 10.30 Weeks 2 & 4	Prayer Meeting (Cottesmore) currently meeting on Zoom For more information, please contact Anne Adamson on annecadamson@aol.com
Monday 14.30 Weekly term time	Monday Home Group meeting at The Willows, Barrow Contact Duncan & Jane Ball, 01572 812428, or email cduncanball@gmail.com
Monday 14.30 Weekly	House group meets every week on Zoom. Contact Jackie Gauntley 01572 868291 or jackiegauntley@hotmail.co.uk
Monday 19.00 Weekly	Hand Bell ringing Cottesmore Church 7pm Contact Pat Hoyles, 01572 813034
Tuesday 08.30 Weekly	Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church – not meeting at present
Tues 09.30 - 11.00 Term time only	Sparklers toddlers group – Cottesmore
Tuesday 19.30 Weekly	House group meeting now in person Contact Steve or Julie Bertuzzi email Steve.bertuzzi@medasun.com or julie.bertuzzi@medasun.com
Thursday 08.30 Weekly	Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church – not meeting at present
Thursday 09.15 Weekly	Morning Prayer (Exton) meeting on Zoom - contact Bernie.wallace@btinternet.com
Thursday 19.30 Weekly	Thursday evening home group 7.30 pm. Contact annecadamson@aol.com for details.
Thursday 2 – 4 pm Monthly - every third week	Cottesmore church - Everyone is welcome to enjoy delicious sandwiches, cakes, scones, and good company.
Saturday 10.30 – 13.00 Weekly	Saturday café at Thistleton Church