the
Voice
of
South Lafford

February/March 2026
Issue No. 190

for and from the communities of

Aswarby	Haceby	Scott Willoughby
Aunsby	Laughton	Spanby
Crofton	Newton	Swarby
Dembleby	Osbournby	Threekingham
Folkingham	Pickworth	Walcot

People often ask me about being Priest-in-Charge of 17 churches, with a mixture of disbelief and confusion they ask how it is possible and whether it is true. I always reply that I am Priest-in-Charge of 17 church buildings, 21 villages and 6 Parochial Church Councils *(PCCs)*, but **one** Church.

The Church Context: National and Local

Whilst the number of Christians globally continues to grow and currently stands at 2.3 billion *(approximately 1/3 of the world's population)*, the number of committed members of Church of England worshipping communities is reducing, with the exception of city centre congregations.

The church buildings in our villages are mostly Grade I listed and nearly every village, irrespective of population size, has a church building in it. The regular worshipping population of most of our villages is between 2-5; thankfully villagers care for, and support, their village church. Church buildings are managed by their District Church Council, with their own accounts, fundraising and maintenance plans, within the framework of listed buildings and church heritage planning processes.

In Lincolnshire, Vicars are paid by a system of pledging. Churches each offer an amount to the diocese, who divides this total amount to see how many ministers can be afforded. A small salary, a house, and ongoing training costs make the cost of a vicar a significant sum, and therefore the number that can be afforded has been reduced, with many ministers taking on oversight of a larger number of villages and church buildings.

A Group of Villages

The group of villages that form the Parish of South Lafford, listed above, have joined with the villages that form the Benefice of Billingborough *(Billingborough, Horbling, Pointon, Sempringham, Dowsby, Aslackby, Graby)*. Each village is unique and special, with a distinct community feel. It is quite usual to travel from a smaller village to a larger one to get what we need; in Billingborough you can get a haircut, go to the Post Office, buy a very good sausage roll or get health care. In Folkingham the village shop is well-stocked and people from other villages come to the toddler group and pop-in. We travel to pubs in the villages, children travel to schools and for children's activities and clubs. We are a well-connected group; the furthest villages apart are probably Dowsby and Aunsby, but it is 17 minutes' drive between them. It is possible, then, for Christians across the area to gather in one place for worship on a Sunday. It is also important, however, for there to be some Christian worship in every village and for pastoral care and life events *(weddings, funerals and baptisms)* to be available in each place.

*Continued on **page 3**.*

Forthcoming Services

Sunday 1st February
10:00 Cafe Church | Pointon
10:30 Holy Communion | Billingborough
17:00 Healing Service | Threekingham

Thursday 5th February
9:00 Holy Communion | Folkingham

Sunday 8th February
2nd Sunday before Lent
10:30 Holy Communion | Folkingham

Sunday 15th February
1st Sunday before Lent
10:30 Sung Eucharist | Billingborough

Wednesday 18th February
Ash Wednesday
10:30 Reflective Service for Ash Wednesday | Folkingham
19:00 Ash Wednesday Service *(Eucharist with Ashing)* | Billingborough

Thursday 19th February
9:00 Holy Communion | Folkingham

Sunday 22nd February - *Lent I*
10:30 'Blessing of the Farming Year' | Folkingham

Thursday 26th February
10:00 Holy Communion | Billingborough | Methodist Presbyter presiding

Sunday 1st March - *Lent II*
10:00 Cafe Church | Pointon
10:30 Holy Communion | Billingborough
17:00 Healing Service | Threekingham

Thursday 5th March
9:00 Holy Communion | Folkingham

*Forthcoming services continued on **page 3**.*

Creative courses coming up this Spring!

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Tuesday & Thursday – Full or Half Day

Session incl. the use of upholstery toolbox & tasty refreshments.
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with Eve Marshall

Felted Hedgehogs & Toadstools
Thursday 19th February
6.30-8.30pm £30



Wet Felted Midnight Owl Picture
Saturday 7th March
10.30am-4.00pm £75



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How does that work for services?

The primary focus of the Church is to worship God and lead lives changed by his love. We gather for worship on a Sunday morning to learn about our faith, sing together and encourage one another. Our service pattern is 10:30am: 1st & 3rd Sundays at Billingborough, 2nd & 4th Sundays at Folkingham, 5th Sundays at Aslackby. Each of these churches has toilets and coffee making facilities. Billingborough and Folkingham are the recognised, larger gathering points and have committed to the responsibility of working to repair, maintain and improve the buildings for that purpose. Aslackby also has toilets and coffee making facilities and a super reputation as the first dementia-friendly church in the county, winning the All Churches Trust Church of the Year Award in 2025.

Village churches are thinking about what kinds of services will work for their village. They are packed for harvest and Christmas celebrations. Pickworth church was full and very jolly on Christmas Day. Evening prayer is popular in Swarby; people come to receive prayer and anointing for healing in Threekingham; Horbling church works closely with the scouts and with Brown's School. Pointon church holds midweek Bible study and cafe church that is easy to join in. Newton is finding joy by sharing prayer and coffee in people's homes as the building is currently unsafe and is closed, but Christian worship continues. I could commend each of the villages for their community-focused activities and services, as well as the interesting history of each of the buildings.

We are blessed with a team of ministers who can lead a range of different types of service; I get to as many as is practical, but it isn't always necessary for a priest to lead, so I attend and affirm the ministry of others and chat to the congregation. A priest is needed for weddings, funerals, baptisms and Holy Communion, and I take the majority of these services, supported by Father Rob Varty and Revd Christine Pocock, who are exceedingly experienced retired ministers in our group. I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to get to know families for these special life events, and it is a privilege to support them.

How does that work for other things?

I enjoy popping in to pop-in clubs, toddler groups, coffee mornings and community gatherings when I can. It is heartening to realise that most of the volunteers that run them are members of our churches, showing God's love this way.

In each community there are Christian people offering pastoral care - prayer, provision of food, offering of lifts, kind words - and alerting me when someone needs me to visit or help from the Church. I hold a drop-in session that anyone can come to at the Rectory in Folkingham on Mondays at 5pm; please ring or email ahead. I am also happy to chat at other times; please ring or email and we will arrange to meet.

I have taken the decision that I will prioritise gathered worship, my work in schools, services with and for children and families, and weddings, funerals and baptisms. A website is being made for the whole group to avoid overlapping or mixed information. A working name for the group is the Well Springs Group, with reference to the biblical theme of wells and springs and because most of our villages have a spring-fed well in them.

Please pray for us, please support your local village, and please be open to finding out more, perhaps at one of our Sunday morning services or courses. And I will pray for you as I spend time in each of the villages for which I care.

God bless you,

Rebecca

Forthcoming Services

Continued from page 1.

Sunday 8th March - *Lent III*
10:30 Holy Communion | Folkingham

Sunday 15th March
Mid Lent Sunday
10:30 Sung Eucharist - Laetare Sunday *(Joyful Sunday)* | Billingborough
17:00 Refreshment Sunday Service | Swarby

Thursday 19th March
9:00 Holy Communion | Folkingham

Sunday 22nd March - *Lent V*
10:30 Holy Communion | Folkingham
17:00 Come and Sing Choral Evensong | Osbournby *(TBC)*

Thursday 26th March
10:00 Holy Communion | Billingborough | Methodist Presbyter presiding

Sunday 29th March
Palm Sunday
10:30 Holy Communion | Aslackby

Visit **www.parishofsouthlafford.org** for amendments to services.

Lent Compline

Join us for **Compline** during **Lent**, via **Zoom** on **Wednesday evenings** at 7pm for 20 minutes, starting on Wednesday 25th February through to Wednesday 1st April. Please email Alison on **southlafford@gmail.com** for the Zoom link.

The New Inn, Folkingham

On 28th November, we hosted an amazing Country and Western night,
with everyone going all out in their outfits. We were joined by a fantastic singer who truly set the atmosphere for the evening.
December then brought the joy of our Christmas parties, with our largest celebration welcoming 52 guests.
Christmas Day itself was absolutely lovely, and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying the festive cheer together.
New Year's Eve went off with a bang, featuring a brilliant DJ, an incredible buffet,
and plenty of laughter, dancing, and celebrations as we welcomed 2026.
Looking ahead, our upcoming events include Valentine's Day on 14th February, with the menu to be released soon,
Burns Night on Saturday 21st February —
more information will be shared on our social media.
Our popular monthly quiz continues on the last Tuesday of every month, and our Senior Lunch remains a Tuesday lunchtime favourite.
Our new menu will launch in the first week of February.
Please visit our website and social media pages to see our updated opening hours and stay up to date with all our latest news.

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The **mobile libraries** bring essential services to rural communities. Much like a traditional branch, the mobile units carry a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction, including large print books, audiobooks, and DVDs.

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For further support, contact the **Customer Service Centre** on **01522 782010**.

Folkingham

6th February & 6th March
11:45 - 12:15
Churchfields Road

Osbournby

6th February & 6th March
12:30 - 13:00
The Church

Pickworth

27th February & 27th March
14:30 - 15:00
Village Street, outside Hus House



Dust off your boots for

Country Nights 2026

Be part of the fun at **Osbournby Village Hall** *(NG34 0DG)* for fantastic live country music.

Join us every **second Saturday of the month**. Doors open at **7pm**, music starts at **8pm**. **£6** entry.

Tea, coffee, rolls & hot sausage rolls available. Please bring your own drinks!

14th Feb, with Margariteville

14th Mar, with Martin Boyd

11th Apr, with Steve Hanks

9th May, with Maddison County

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In 2025, the **National Garden Scheme** raised over **£3.8 million** to support healthcare, nursing, and community gardening charities. The organization is a dedicated advocate for the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor spaces and works to ensure everyone has access to gardens for their wellbeing. This work is driven by a team of volunteers, and the charity offers a variety of roles for those interested in helping, from professional tasks like photography and publicity to assisting with open days and booklet distribution.

If you are interested in getting involved, you can contact **Lesley** at **07771675146** or via email at **lesley.wykes@ngs.org.uk**. Additionally, to discover gardens opening across Lincolnshire in 2026, you can visit the National Garden Scheme website and filter your search by county: **findagarden.ngs.org.uk**

Open Gardens

Woodlands
Peppin Lane, Louth, LN11 0UW
Sun 15th Feb | 10:30 - 15:30
Adult: £5 | Child: Free

The Old Vicarage
Low Road, Holbech Hurn, LN11 0UW
Sun 29th Mar | 12:00 - 15:30
Adult: £5 | Child: Free

Easton Walled Gardens
Easton, NG33 5AP
Fri 3rd Apr | 11:00 - 16:00
Adult: £12.50 | Child: £5

Donations made at the end of 2025 garden season

Carers Trust £450,000
Hospice UK £450,000
Macmillan Cancer Support £450,000
Marie Curie £450,000
Parkinson's UK £450,000
QICN £475,000



Gardens and Health

Maggie's	£125,000
Horatio's Garden	£110,000
Army Benevolent Fund	£ 80,000
Country Trust	£ 35,000
Crossfire Trust	£43,000
King's College Hospital	£37,828
Grow, Sheffield	£27,411
Grangeway Community Garden	£20,500
Green Hub, Surrey	£20,000
Douglas House (Turning Point)	£18,921
Healthy Minds	£14,060
Mount Vernon Cancer Centre	£10,000

Support for gardeners

English Heritage	£125,000
Perennial	£100,000
National Botanic Garden of Wales	£ 26,000
Bankside Open Spaces Trust	£ 25,000
The Garden Museum	£ 24,000
Professional Gardeners' Trust	£ 20,000

Community Garden Grants

114 projects	£288,876
TOTAL	**£3,875,596**



Lincolnshire Strollers

Come walk with us! We head out on **Fridays** for a 4-mile stroll *(about 2 hours)*. We gather at **10:20** and start walking at 10:30.

Everyone is welcome to join! If you're interested, give **Julie** or **Peter** a call at 01529 305626.

Rauceby
6th Feb | Led by Julie & Peter

Park at the Church.

Dyke
20th Feb | Led by Judy & Phil

Park at the Wishing Well Inn.

Ryhall
6th Mar | Led by Wendy & Steve

Park at The Green Dragon.

Ancaster
20th Mar | Led by Mike & Julie

Park at Ancaster Church.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MORNINGS 9.30-11AM

TUESDAYS
RIPPINGALE VILLAGE HALL PE10 0TA

WEDNESDAY
HELPRINGHAM MEMORIAL HALL NG34 0RJ

THURSDAYS
ROPSLEY HALL NG33 4BN

EVENINGS 7-8.30PM

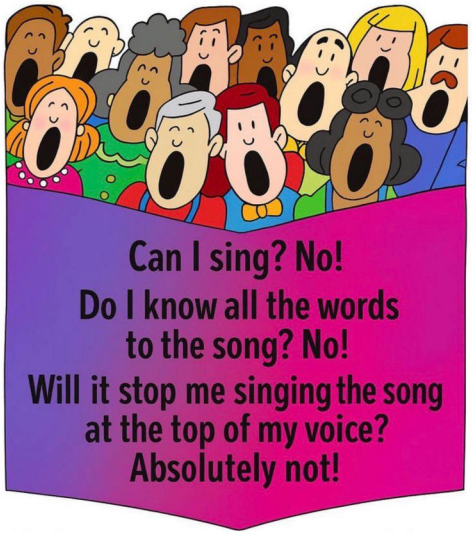
TUESDAYS
BILLINGBOROUGH HALL NG34 0QH

THURSDAYS
AISBY HALL NG32 3NE

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Swarby Community Update: Winter News & Spring Dates

by Linda

It has been a wonderful few months in our village, filled with festive cheer and community spirit. Here is a quick look back at what we've been up to and a look ahead to the spring.

A Heartwarming Carol Service

A huge thank you to everyone who attended or contributed to our recent **Carol Service**. It was truly heartwarming to see the church pews filled with residents, friends, and family. Thanks to your generosity and a very successful raffle, we raised a total of **£200.** These funds are vital in helping us keep the church open and at the heart of the Swarby community.

Ringing in Christmas Day

The festive spirit continued on **Christmas Day** morning. A group of residents *(accompanied by five very enthusiastic dogs!)* gathered at the church to ring the bell.



Looking Ahead: Coffee Mornings, a Service and a Meeting

As the days begin to get longer, we are looking forward to the return of our social gatherings. Our popular **Coffee Mornings** will start up again on **Saturday, 7th March**. We can't wait to see you all there for a catch-up and a warm drink.

We are hosting a **Refreshment Sunday service at 5pm on Sunday 15th March.** Our **Annual District Church meeting** will take place on **Saturday, 21st March at 2pm** in the church - everyone welcome.

Please remember that the **church door remains open daily**. Whether you are looking for a moment of **quiet reflection** or want to add a few pieces to the **collective jigsaw puzzle**, you are always welcome to step inside.

Pop In's BIG Thank You

by Yvonne & Rosemary

For most of our members, the highlight of the Pop In year is our **annual Christmas lunch**. One of our very best was enjoyed by almost seventy members and friends last December. It consisted of our usual Christmas fare: roast turkey served with gravy, bread sauce, pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast potatoes, veg and cranberry sauce. Desserts included the traditional *'figgy'* pudding, trifle, apple pie, and fruit salad. Wines were offered along with soft drinks for the drivers.

In order for this wonderful meal to be served, we owe many sincere thanks to a number of people. The expenses are met by a few very generous friends of Pop In. Every year they support this event financially, and without their help we would be unable to continue.

With regard to the preparation of the Christmas dinner ingredients we rely totally on people who are willing to cook them. Our thanks go to Neve and her team at the New Inn for the preparation and cooking of the delicious turkey and gravy. Other elements of this wonderful meal were prepared by some *'Pop In-ers'*: over 200 pieces of potato were roasted for our benefit; seventy pigs in blankets were prepared and cooked; stuffing and bread sauce were made from scratch, and cranberry sauce was served. Our puddings and desserts were cooked and prepared by members.

Then, of course, we come to the clearing up afterwards. A small army of willing friends and members cleared tables, washed up, dried up and then prepared the hall for its next use.

Thank you everybody who enabled this to happen in any way. Year in and year out you offer your assistance and put yourselves out. **Bless you**.

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Millenium Green

The **Millennium Green** is a charitable community space located on **Spring Lane, Folkingham**. Designed by Bunny Guinness and funded through a mix of national grants and local support, this safe oasis has served the village since the year 2000.

Whether you are looking to exercise the dogs, meet friends, or enjoy the orchard, the Green is open to all. Our maintenance team prioritises the local ecosystem by integrating bird boxes, a dead hedge, and wildflowers to create a haven for both people and wildlife.



St. Botolph's, Newton

by Annie & Judith

Our church has been closed for more than a year due to structural problems. The tower is sinking and, consequently, pulling part of the nave with it. We have conducted soil sampling and investigations and are now waiting for a final report before discussions with the Diocese and applying for grants.

In the meantime, we have had *'Brews at Home'*, as the pews and the church are off limits. Several people in the village have offered a Sunday morning of fellowship, sausage or bacon baps, cake, and freshly brewed coffee or tea. Many thanks to those who have hosted these events. We hope to continue these throughout the year.

We had an outdoor Palm Sunday service opposite the church, with great views of the tower of St Botolph's and lots of singing.

Our Christmas Carol service was held in St Margaret's & St Barbara's, Haceby. The church was candle-lit and atmospheric, as it has been virtually unchanged for hundreds of years. Mulled wine and sweet and savoury treats were enjoyed by nearly seventy people.

We hope 2026 brings positive news for the repair and restoration of the church, and continued fellowship for the village.

St. Peter & St. Paul, Osbournby

by Jenny

December was a busy yet joyful time at Osbournby Church. On Tuesday mornings we gathered in the village hall for the Benefice Advent Course, *Journey to Christmas*, enjoying lively discussion, readings, artwork and seasonal refreshments. Aware that Christmas can be a difficult time for some, we were also glad to host *'When Christmas Hurts…'*, a gentle, reflective service with readings, carols and the opportunity to light candles.

In the week before Christmas, it was wonderful to see the church full as Osbournby School held their Christmas concert, with enthusiastic singing accompanied by the Sleaford Training Band. Carols rang out again a few days later, with a mix of traditional and contemporary live music. Altogether, these celebrations shared the joyful message of the good news of Jesus' birth across our villages.



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Date: Saturday 28th February 2026
Time: 12:00 noon
Address: Belton Park Golf Club,
Londonthorpe Lane, Grantham, NG31 9SH
Tickets: £35 *(Includes a welcome drink and lunch)*

All proceeds will support **St Denys' Church, Aswarby**. Gather your friends for a wonderful afternoon of food and storytelling!

Tickets may be purchased before **11th February** from **Penny Herdman**.

07714 690199 | penherdman@aol.com

Saturday 28th February 2026

Our Mad Life!

Join us at **Belton Park Golf Club** for an entertaining presentation by **Bishop Hall Speers**, sharing unique stories and insights from his time serving as a Bishop in Madagascar.

An Update from St. Andrew's, Pickworth

by Jenny

We held two services over the Christmas period: a Christingle and Carol service at the beginning of December, and a Family service on Christmas Day. Both were well attended by adults and children alike.

Our Carol service was held by candlelight, with an extra burst of light at the end when the Christingles were lit. We were very grateful to Liz Hill for accompanying us on our reluctant piano. Mulled wine and mince pies were served after the service to warm us all up!

On Christmas Day, it was lovely to welcome friends from other parish-wide churches and so many relatives of Pickworth residents, some of whom had travelled from afar. The Pickworth Ukulele Group and Singers were the highlight of our service, as we all joined in a medley of Christmas songs - including Slade's *'Merry Christmas'* - which sent us all home in a very Christmassy mood!

Diary Date

Our **annual May Fayre** will be held on **Saturday, 16th May, from 12–3pm** at the church. There will be the usual mixture of stalls and refreshments, and we're delighted to welcome back the Sleaford Training Band, who entertained us so well last year. We look forward to seeing you there!



A lively ***'God Speed the Plough'*** service at St James the Great, Aslackby on Sunday 11th January, was led by Father Rob Varty, accompanied by Greenwood Quire and The Wormwood Band.

News from Osbournby Parish Council

by Libby, Parish Clerk, Osbournby Parish Council

On 1st November, Osbournby Village Hall and Osbournby Church *(St Peter & St Paul)* came together to organise an **Oompah Night**, held in the village hall. A two-course meal was provided, with a homemade sausage casserole as the main course, followed by apple cake for dessert. All of the food was prepared by volunteers from within the village.

The evening was a huge success, with all tickets sold and plenty of dancing and oompahing continuing until midnight. Music for the night was provided by the Keller Kappella Bavarian Oompah Band, who created a wonderful atmosphere and kept everyone entertained.

On 8th November, Osbournby Parish Council organised their biannual village tidy day. A number of residents took part, and numerous sacks of weeds, leaves, and other debris were collected. These events are held each spring and autumn and help to keep the village looking neat and welcoming.

Following the tidy-up, bacon rolls, along with tea and coffee, were served in the village hall. Many thanks to all who gave their time to help make the day such a success.

Home Sweet Home for Me

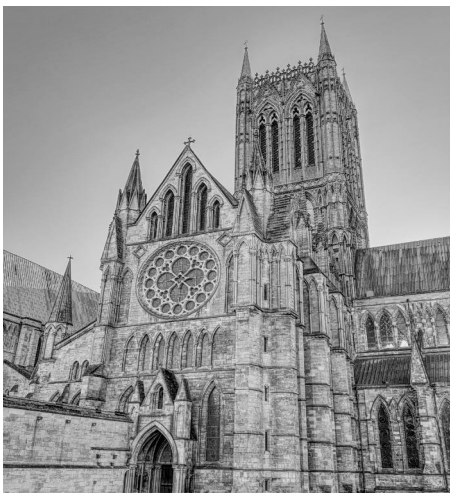
by David E Anderson

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Its unique Lincs. Red cattle,
And dykes and drains so deep.
The cathedral's magic splendour,
Stands proud against the sky,
A haven of peace for citizens,
And tourists passing by.

The shallow coast with its golden sands,
That fresh and bracing air,
The windmills' deep-toned rhythmic beat,
Pervades the atmosphere.
The Memorial Flight's nostalgic sound,
From planes of World War Two
Red Arrows climb, roll, twist and dive,
Trail smoke red, white and blue.

Our fertile fenland's rich black soil,
Now drained from salty sea,
Helps fill the Nation's larder,
To nourish you and me.
So, Yellow Bellies, Poachers too,
In song let's celebrate,
England's sunset county,
Our Country's garden state.

From the Northern Wolds to the Southern Fens,
From the A1 to the sea,
The vast expanse of Lincolnshire,
Is home sweet home for me.



Photograph by Emily Dawes

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Note from The Editor

A heartfelt thank you to **Tony** for his outstanding work as Editor **since 2013**; we're delighted he will continue with us to handle advertising. We deeply appreciate our **advertisers**, whose support makes this publication possible, and our dedicated **distribution team**, who ensure the magazine reaches every household in the Parish. Moving forward, we eagerly anticipate hearing news from your churches and villages to enrich our pages. The next copy deadline is **10th March**.

News from Threekingham

by Jacqui

The outlook for St Peter ad Vincula in Threekingham in 2026 is one of optimism for the future, following twelve months in which the stolen roof was replaced, services attracted increasing numbers of residents, and, in addition to the Festival Church celebrations of Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival, regular monthly services will start in February. Everyone is invited - the first of these, a healing service, is at **5pm on Sunday 1 February.**

More than fifty members of the local community - young and old - participated in the traditional Carol Service and enjoyed the mince pies and mulled wine that followed in the beautifully Christmas-themed decorated interior.

Generous donations on the evening will go towards the next stage of necessary fabric repairs. These include gutter repairs and a swan-neck replacement, which are causing visible damage within the 12th-century building. This work is part of the contract to bird-proof the church and clear away decades of guano from what is considered the finest broached spire in England, admired by the King, then Prince Charles, when he visited St Peter. This work is necessary before the major project of lowering the bells and undertaking structural repairs to the tower.



St Peter ad Vincula is open to welcome visitors every day of the year. For those wishing to delve more deeply into the church's history and fabric, arrangements can be made with members of the DCC to view the Church Recording Society's in-depth record and investigation of its monuments, stained glass and memorials.

The St Peter ad Vincula church community wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2026.

Regular Events

Event	Day of Week	Time	Venue
Pop In Club	Monday	10:00 - 13:00	Folkingham Village Hall
Gentle Fitness	Monday	14:00 - 15:00	Folkingham Village Hall
Folkingham Singers	Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00	Folkingham Village Hall
Line Dance Classes *(beg./imp.)*	Tuesday	14:30 - 16:30	Folkingham Village Hall
Fitness Pilates	Tuesday	19:00-20:00	Osbournby Village Hall
Tuesday Warblers	Tuesday	19:00 - 20:00	Folkingham Village Hall
Bell Ringing Practice	Tuesday	19:00 - 21:00 *Learners: 18:30 - 19:30*	St. Andrew's, Folkingham
Folkingham Art Group	Wednesday	09:30 - 12:00	Folkingham Village Hall
Folkingham Craft Group	Thursday	09:30 - 12:00	Folkingham Village Hall
Handbell Group	Thursday	15:00 - 16:00	St. Andrew's, Folkingham
Folkingham Ukulele Players	Thursday	19:00-20:00	Folkingham Village Hall
Fitness Pilates	Thursday	19:00-20:00	Osbournby Village Hall
Baby Music Class	Friday *(term time)*	09:00 - 09:35	Folkingham Village Hall
Toddler Music Class	Friday *(term time)*	09:40 - 10:15	Folkingham Village Hall
Baby & Toddler Play Group	Friday *(term time)*	10:30 - 12:00	Folkingham Village Hall



A Community Effort to Restore Osbournby Church

by Ian

It has been nine years since we began fundraising for the restoration of Osbournby Church, completed in 1320 on the site of a former Saxon church and recorded in the Domesday Book. We are now at the final stage, awaiting permission from the Diocese of Lincoln to carry out essential remedial work to ensure the church's future.

The work includes installing drainage removed in the 1960s, replacing disintegrating asbestos guttering and downpipes with cast iron, stabilising the tower, repointing and resurfacing the north wall, repairing and rehanging the bells, and reroofing the porch and other vulnerable areas. Due to the presence of bats, work can only take place between April and September. The estimated cost exceeds £300,000. With the support of the local community, around **£30,000** has been raised so far, and the next step is to secure further funding.

Additional improvements are being considered to support wider use of the church, including a servery, toilets, improved heating and lighting, a digital archive, and the creation of a wildflower and wildlife area in the churchyard with help from local schoolchildren.

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To be featured in our next issue, please submit your content to the editor by:

10th March 2026

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