

December
2025

Bullseye

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the Internet
edition to them

Emmanuel – God with us

News from the Parish of Hornchurch
St Andrew's, St George's, St Matthew's and Messy Church

As the evenings get darker and the weather gets colder it's probably not just children who are looking forward to the light, warmth and joy of Christmas. That's as it should be,

because Christmas is something for us all to celebrate. It announces the amazing fact that the God who made everything there is loves us so much that he chose to share our human experience. God became one of us so that the broken relationship between God and humanity could be restored, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, born as a baby in Bethlehem.

In doing so, God chose to accept not just the limitations that come with being human, but the constraints of human life at its most vulnerable and dependent. When Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of God's son, Gabriel waited to see how Mary would respond – because God's initiative couldn't go forward without her co-operation. Then, growing and developing in Mary's womb, and as a newborn, Jesus was like every other baby who's ever existed - completely dependent on others for food, warmth, shelter and protection. If Joseph hadn't taken his young family to Egypt when Herod wanted to kill Jesus, the New Testament story could have ended before it had really begun.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the darkness of the world around, whether expressed in the fear, pain or suffering of individuals, the conflict between

peoples, or the state of our environment. Things aren't as God intended them to be. The Christmas story reminds us that God doesn't abandon us to suffer the consequences of all this by ourselves. But it also reminds us that God doesn't act in the world as a force from outside that moves things around from a distance, staying remote and uninvolved. Instead, God becomes part of the messy business of life, and God acts through the words and actions of ordinary people, who co-operate with the Holy Spirit to bring about God's purposes in the world.

So perhaps part of our Christmas celebration this year might be to search amidst the darkness for small signs of hope, opportunities for healing, reconciliation, or new life, which give us signs of God's presence and activity in the world. Like Jesus growing in the womb, or as a newborn baby in Mary's arms, they may be fragile and vulnerable. But God invites us, like Mary and Joseph, to be people who help bring about the fulfilment of God's purposes in the world. When we do, we bring the fullness of the promise of Christmas one step closer, and we discover again that Jesus is Emmanuel—God with us

Revd Dr Marianne Hayward



What's on

Events for this column: please send them to the editor
article.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk
 or "M" pigeon hole

Weekly meetings

Mon.	10.00am to 11.30 am 2.30 and 7.00 pm 8.30 pm	Tadpoles St Andrew's large hall, for children and their adults Time Out 2nd Monday of month meeting is 7pm North Street hall and 4th Monday meeting 2.30pm St Andrew's. Escape (1st & 3rd) St Andrew's small hall
Tues.	~ ~	~ ~
Wed.	9.30-11.00 am	0-2 Playgroup St Andrew's hall. Toys, songs and craft, refreshments. All enquiries to Parish Office
Thur.	1.30 pm	Little Fishes St Andrew's large hall. Toys, stories and craft, refreshments, all welcome
Fri.	15.15—17.17 7-9pm	Table Top Fun St Matthew's St Andrew's Choir practice. St Andrew's church

Uniformed organisations meet on various nights of the week. Please contact their representatives for times (see back page for telephone numbers)

For All Parish Giving Scheme Donors

The Parish Giving Scheme is at 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD. Telephone will be 0333 002 1260 and the email address info@parishgiving.org.uk
 Can you please note these details should you need to contact them.



Parish Mission Statement

**What is our purpose?
We strive to:**

Love God

Jesus said - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength"
 Mark 12.30 NIV

"Worship in spirit and in truth"
 John 4.24 NIV

Grow in Faith and Understanding

St Paul said - "Grow up in Christ until you reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"
 Ephesians 4.13 & 15 NIV

Bring others to knowledge of and faith in Jesus Christ

Jesus said - "Make all nations My disciples" Matthew 28.19 NIV

Serve the community

Jesus said - "Love your neighbour as yourself" Mark 12.31 NIV

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Readers on-line who wish to complete the sudoku puzzle on Page 7 or the crossword puzzle on Page 9 will need to print those pages; the PDF format is not interactive.

Bullseye programme Contents to the Editor 2026

January Bullseye Sunday 30th November
 February Bullseye Sunday 4th January

Uploading

January Bullseye TBA during December
 February Bullseye Wed. 28th January

The Bullseye for January will be in the churches and online by Sunday 4th January 2026

Useful Telephone Numbers

We now have access to all our buildings but there are still other ways to access church. Search elsewhere on the website (www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk) for links to our services as well as regular updates on our various Facebook pages – the parish and Messy Church. Additionally visit www.churchofengland.org and www.chelmsford.anglican.org for further inspiration and resources to aid your worship and faith. Or simply call 0800 804 8044 a free national Church of England number to bring services and prayers to those not online. Please pass this number on to those you know may be in this position.

Pastoral care / Prayer requests

There is a dedicated phone number for prayer and pastoral care requests: **0789 55 12480**
 Please use this number if you would like the Pastoral Care team to contact you. It can also be used to request prayer by our Healing Prayer team who would be delighted to pray for you. Leave a voicemail or text message and someone will contact you within a couple of days.

Services for Advent, December and Christmas

The pattern of Sunday morning services is set out on page 16 and below. Holy Communion continues at St Andrew's at **10am every Thursday**, and livestream Morning Prayer on Facebook at 9am Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays.

Holy Communion is available in both forms, bread and wine, and it is a personal decision whether to take both. Gluten-free wafers and alcohol-free wine continue to be permissible and are available.

Sunday November 30th, 1st Sunday of Advent

8.30am - BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15am - Holy Communion at St Andrew's (also livestreamed)
 10.15am - Morning Worship at St George's
 6.30pm - Advent Carols at St Andrew's

Saturday 6th 3.30—5pm Messy Church Advent celebration**Sunday 7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent**

8.30am - BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's (also livestreamed)
 6.30pm - Evening Prayer.

Tuesday 9th 1pm Lunch time Carols followed by refreshments at St Andrew's**Sunday 14th,**

8.30am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15am - Nativity Toy and Parade at St Andrew's
 10.15am - Carol Service at St George's
 6.30pm - Blue Christmas and Memorial Service at St Andrew's.

Saturday 20th 2.30pm Christingle at the North Street Hall**Sunday 21st,**

8.30am - BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's (also livestreamed)
 10.15am - Morning Worship at St George's
 11.00am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Matthew's
 2.45 pm - The Well at Christmas at St Matthew's
 6.30pm - Nine Lessons and Carols at St Andrew's

Wednesday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Family Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight at St Matthew's followed by refreshments

Thursday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30 BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15 Holy Communion St Andrew's

Sunday 28th 1st Sunday of Christmas

8.30am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15am - Holy Communion St Andrew's (also livestreamed)
 10.15am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St George's
 6.30pm - BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's.

The Editor and the team at
 Bullseye wish our readers and
 contributors a
 Merry Christmas and a
 Happy New Year



Revd Barbara wishes all her friends at
 St Andrew's, St George's,
 St Matthew's,
 and Messy Church,
 a Blessed Christmas
 and a Happy and Healthy
 New Year

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**NEXT DATES:
 21ST DECEMBER 2025 AND
 18TH JANUARY 2026**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
**REVD SONIA GROOMBRIDGE OR
 MANDY GREEN**
 VIA THE PARISH OFFICE:
 01708 441571

Guide, Brownie and Rainbow News

2nd Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Rainbows

Below furthest
right:

Ella and Phoebe
worked hard to
gain their
Rainbow Bronze
Awards

Right: Rainbows
attended the
service at the
War Memorial on
Sunday 9th
November.

5th Hornchurch (St George's) Guides

Below centre
right: Kheran was
delighted to gain
her Guide Bronze
Award



Laura (below) raised £71.50 for
Cancer Research UK. She held a
charity night at Brownies for her Gold
award and raised £41.50. The
remaining £30 she raised from doing
jobs over the summer holidays. We
are super proud of her!

Amy 14th Hornchurch



Guide, Rainbow and Brownie Leaders needed

Hornchurch East District are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help at Rainbow and Brownie meetings at St Andrew's. Rainbows are girls aged between four and seven years old, and meet at 4.30pm for an hour. Brownies are girls aged between seven and ten years old and meet at 6.30pm until 8.00pm.

Both groups run a varied programme, enabling the girls to learn, develop new skills and have fun. And, of course, gain badges! No experience is necessary as full training and support will be given. A DBS disclosure will be required (paid for by Girlguiding UK). If you are interested, and/or would like more information, please contact District Administrator Sandra Cox on email:

charlesandsandra@outlook.com

Bell Ringers' Dinner 2025

On Saturday 8th November, the bell ringers were joined by Revd Ken Wylie for our annual dinner at Marygreen Manor in Brentwood. There were 40 bell ringers and friends in total and we were fortunate enough to have a room to ourselves for pre-dinner drinks and then the restaurant to ourselves for the main event. Clive started by welcoming everyone, especially Ken and then we thought about ringers who couldn't be with us due to ill-health; Ray Rogers and George Hull are currently being cared for in nursing homes. Ken remembered them in our prayers as well as the family of Roger Butt who recently passed away. Roger and his wife Anita regularly supported our outings and dinners over a period of at least 30 years. Our dinner followed with excellent service and people commented on how much they had enjoyed their meals and the company of friends. We will return next year! The photograph shows the dinner in full swing



Church opening for private prayer and reflection

From September, St Andrew's church will be open for private prayer and reflection three days a week. The short trial which started in February has gone well and can be extended.

The church will be open on Thursday mornings from 11 am (ie immediately after mid-week Holy Communion at 10am) until 1pm, and on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am until 12 noon, unless the church is needed for a funeral or other service.

Two volunteer stewards will be in attendance for each session.

Come, sit, light a candle, pray, reflect and find peace

Please pray in support of this venture to bring the church back into public use outside times of formal worship.



Clive Stephenson

Christian Blind Mission Charity of the Month ~ November and December 2025

For over 115 years, CBM has been transforming lives around the world. We work with local partners, making sure people with disabilities in some of the world's poorest communities have access to healthcare, education and a future where they can thrive.

CBM was founded in 1908 by German Pastor Ernst Christoffel and it has been transforming the lives of people ever since. It was travelling through Turkey and seeing children who could not see, walk or hear that made him want to do something about it and so CBM was formed. A home was set up in Malatya, Turkey to provide care and education for children with disabilities.

Over the years the work has expanded into Africa and Asia where CBM strives for justice for all people with disabilities. The charity is rooted in Christian values. No matter where they live in the world, all people with disabilities should have access to healthcare, education and the opportunity to earn a living. Like Chandrakala, 32, who wanted to be a beautician but because of her disability she could not get the training. Now with the help of local partners DECN futuremakers have given her the chance. Now Chandrakala has her own business and with their help she was able to fulfil her dreams.

For further details or to make a donation visit

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/bring-hope-change-lives> or leave a cheque payable to 'Hornchurch PCC' at the parish office and we will collate and donate the monies to the charity on your behalf after the two months have passed.

If you have any charities to suggest, please email or leave a note for me at the parish office



Arlene Trump

Time Out

There were 16 members at our meeting in North Street on Monday 10th November. We had a craft session making a Christmas serviette holder and a wine glass coaster. We were all pleased with the results of our efforts.

Meeting in December

Monday 8th December starting at 7.30pm - meet in the church for a Carol Service. All welcome. Please contact **Val Cooper** for more details about the group and future meetings on 07527325996
Many thanks,

Jeanette



The Holy Spirit and You

Within the veil, the Gifts of the Spirit are 9, and the Fruits of the Spirit are 9, and that's no coincidence! This goes all the way back to the Old Testament when The High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies and go Beyond the veil to plead Forgiveness for God's people; Because "All have Sinned" and fall short of God's glory! That's not a cliché but a reality of the human condition; Paul teaches the "Gifts of the Spirit" are:- 1 Cor. 12 v 7-11, Wisdom, Knowledge, Discerning of Spirits, Faith, Miracles, Healing, Prophecy, Tongues, and Interpretation of Tongues; Paul then lists the "Fruits of the Spirit" Galatians 5 v 22-23, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Humility, Faith, and Discipline, which would also suggest self-control; It may surprise many believers that God can use anyone, And even Unconsecrated Individuals to perform his tasks! We see this in the Old Testament with Rahab the prostitute; So we see even "Unrepentant People can be used of God!" In other words, "Never judge a Book by its Cover" no, no; This is why so many Ministries fail to see the potential of Every Member of the Congregation, including the children too;

I have seen it for myself while in America during 1999-2001 A young mother came forward with her two children; came Forward for Prayer. they received the Gift of Tongues Age 4. So, God still "Works in Mysterious Ways" to astound us all; In 1 Cor 13:- Paul puts it to us "The Greatest Gift is Love!" He's totally right, as God's love makes the world go round; Love's a special force that you can't buy in Tins or Bottles, But it's an amazing quality to Heal many difficult situations; Paul says, "It's the Greatest and Most Important Gift of all!" Because God's love is unconditional to every human being;

Mark Lendon

A Friend of the Towler family

Parishioners will remember Fred and Margaret Towler who worshipped here before their retirement to Billericay a few years ago. You may already know that Fred had a stroke. His friend Frank has been in touch with the parish office and asks

"I would like to reach out to the good people of St Andrew's as I know there are people who will remember Fred and Margaret kindly. Perhaps via the noticeboard or parish magazine, I want to ask people to send best wishes or share memories that I can take to Fred so that he feels less isolated. People could WhatsApp or message me at **miller-francis@sky.com** or 07956587801"

Archbishop Designate, Sarah Mullally, sets out her hopes for the Church

Shortly after the announcement of her nomination as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Sarah Mullally delivered an address at Canterbury Cathedral, reflecting on her calling, the challenges facing the Church, and her hopes for its future. Rooted in her early vocation as a nurse and shaped by her ministry in London, she spoke of "washing feet" as a guiding image of Christian service, and of finding hope in the quiet faithfulness of churches, chaplaincies, and communities across the Anglican Communion. She addressed the Church's responsibility in

Cont. on P7

Beavers Wanted

The Beaver Scout Colony meeting at the Scout Hall in Chelmsford Drive on Thursdays 6 - 7 p.m. has vacancies for children aged 6 and 7 yrs. Please contact

Mao@8thhornchurch.org.uk

Sue: Beaver Leader,
8th Hornchurch.




Report of Winter Market

The weather outside North Street Hall on Saturday 22nd November was cloudy, cold and occasionally wet but the atmosphere inside was warm and welcoming. The hall quickly filled with shoppers and the tables with people enjoying a cuppa and a bacon roll. There were not many quite moments during the day and I think that all stalls did well. We had a 'new look' Santa's Grotto, which was very popular. (Photograph below). A great total of £3,347.55 was collected. Many, many thanks go to all volunteers who worked very hard planning, baking and making and giving their time on the day. All your hard work was rewarded with a good total for your church.

Jeanette





A Rocha UK


5d · 🌐

Make it a Green Christmas 🌟 This year, let your decorations care for creation as well as sparkle!

1. Bring nature indoors, pinecones, ivy, holly, and branches make beautiful, compostable décor.
2. Upcycle what you have, jars, fabric scraps, and dried oranges add charm and warmth.
3. Choose LEDs or beeswax candles for an energy-efficient glow 🕯️
4. Pick an FSC-certified or rented living tree 🌲
5. Create nativity or advent displays from natural materials, celebrating faith and creation together 🍷

Small choices, big impact. Let's make this Christmas joyful and gentle on the planet 🌍


#GreenChristmas



GREEN CHRISTMAS: Decorating

Upcycle what you have, jars, fabric scraps, and dried oranges add charm and warmth.

Bring nature indoors, pinecones, ivy, holly, and branches make beautiful, compostable décor.



Choose LEDs or beeswax candles for an energy-efficient glow

Message from St Andrew's Choir

Young voices play a very special part in the traditional church choir sound. We will be recruiting boys and girls aged from 7 years to come and experience the choir and see if their voice has potential. Please speak to Bill after any 10.15 service at St Andrew's or drop him an email to william.brooks861@gmail.com

Easy Sudoku solution on Page 14

Cont. from P 6

safeguarding, the need to confront power dynamics, and the importance of standing against hatred and antisemitism. She said she would seek to be "a shepherd who enables everyone's ministry and vocation to flourish," and expressed her desire to nurture confidence in the Gospel. "Held fast by the Lord's hand," she concluded, "please pray for me as I will pray for you."

9			6					
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		5				2		
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7	5	9	1	6		4	8	
3				7			2	5
					5			9

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Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

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7

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St James the Least of All

Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace' If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

On what it takes to be an ordinand ...

From: The Rectory,
 St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

And so, the old year draws to a close, and you are packing to move to your own first parish in January. Let me give you some final words of advice.

Curates, you will have noticed, are forgiven everything. I hope you have appreciated this period of grace, because come 1st January, all that will change. You will then become responsible for everything that goes wrong in your church. You must be able to mend leaking taps, shovel snow, arrange flowers, mow the churchyard and run jumble sales. You will be expected to know the moment someone falls ill – preferably the day before. In addition, they will expect you to preach profound sermons—in seven minutes flat, and to lead a life of prayerful solitude while being the life and soul of the parish. From the day your predecessor left, he will have turned into a saint. *You* will be their new disappointment. Be assured that *whatever* you do, you will *always* disappoint someone. Be prepared for phone calls at 3am telling you that someone has left a light on in church, and shouldn't you go turn and it off? You will be asked about car parking arrangements for the October Harvest Service by mid-January, while hymns for the 9 Lessons and Carols will be required by early summer. I suggest you buy in extra pullovers, overcoats and scarves for life in your vicarage. A good number of mousetraps may well come in useful too.

Welcome to your new life of an incumbent. Expect that each Sunday morning, as you prepare for the service, there will be a straggling queue of people who want to tell you an astonishing variety of things: there is a large cobweb 30 feet up over the pulpit, they don't like the second hymn on the board, the flowers look rough this week, there may be a bat in the vestry, some child has left a shoe in the back porch, and the car park has broken glass in it. You may find this a distraction as you prepare for a worship service. But remember that at least they have bothered to come to church at all. In my experience, congregations are always irritating, but at least they do take up a lot of space, and that looks good in the pews. The church would look empty without them.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



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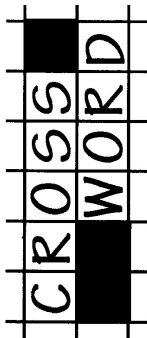
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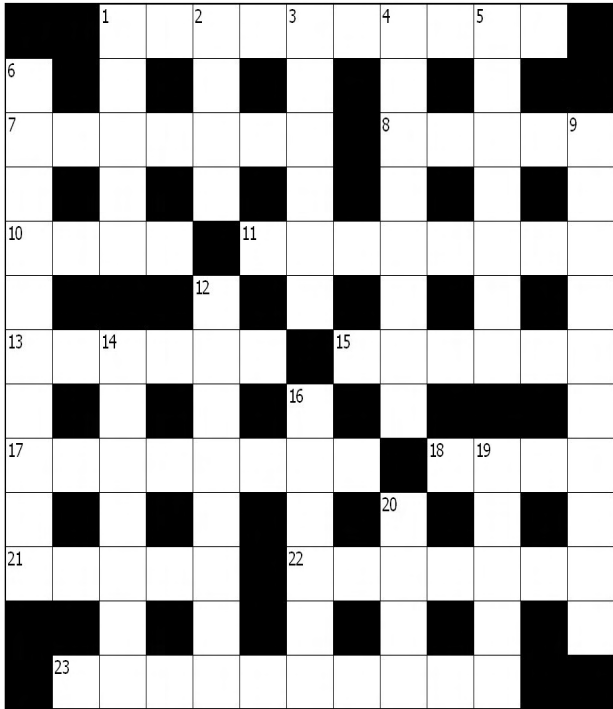
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Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Across: 1, Tabernacle, 7, Absalom, 8, Incas, 10, Roes, 11, Captured, 13, Fright, 15, Cavell, 17, Cyclonic, 18, Herb, 21, Sonar, 22, Amazeing, 23, Settlement, Down: 1, Taste, 2, Bold, 3, Ramiah, 4, Abiathar, 5, Lucerne, 6, Sacrifices, 9, Saddledbags, 12, Theocrat, 14, Incense, 16, Pilate, 19, Exist, 20, Save.

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Christmas Voices

Saturday 6th December, 7pm
(doors open 6.30)
St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch
Admission £5.00 (children free)

Featuring St Andrew's Church Choir -
Director Bill Brooks,
Saint Francis Hospice Choir with their new
Director Davida Robinson
and the Cappella Singers -
Director Caroline Morris.
This is our annual concert in aid of
Saint Francis Hospice.

It includes carols for choirs and audience
this year will be directed by
Caroline Morris.

**Please join us to start the Christmas
season with a good sing and help
raise much needed funds for the
Hospice.**

Christmas Eve at St Matthew's
Carols by Candlelight at 4pm

St Matthew's Church Chelmsford Drive RM14 2PH



With tea, coffee
and mince pies.
Fellowship and a
Merry Christmas

Hornchurch Country Park, Squadrons Approach, Hornchurch, RM12 6DF

Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre Open daily 10am - 4pm: (Winter times from 1st November)

Café, Gift shop, Picnic facilities, Toilets, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Essex Wildlife Trust's Ingrebourne Valley Nature Discovery Centre is a partnership project between Essex Wildlife Trust and Havering Council. Built in Hornchurch Country Park, the centre overlooks the fantastic marshland and reedbeds of the River Ingrebourne Valley. Dogs are not permitted in the Nature Discovery Centre

Visit the RAF Hornchurch Remembrance Collection—a brief history of the aerodrome from 1915 to 1962. Free entry during normal opening hours.

Ingrebourne Nature Tots Tuesdays 28th

November, 2nd and 9th December 2025 .

10am-12pm

Step into the enchanting world of Nature Tots, where your little ones can embark on an outdoor adventure. Activities vary each week, from muddy pancakes in the mud kitchen, lots of fun in the hammock, creative crafts, and so much more! These sessions are designed to spark curiosity about the natural world and empower you to embrace the holistic benefits of outdoor play for your child's well-being and development £9.50 each session Advanced booking essential

Ingrebourne Nature Tots Friday 5th and 12th

December 2025. 9.30 to 11.30 Prices and activities as the Tuesday group.

Details for 2026 to be advised in due course.

Ingrebourne Santa's Grotto Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 December 2025 10:00am - 3:00pm

This Christmas, step into a world of festive wonder. Your experience begins with the chance to decorate a charming wooden Santa Key – a keepsake to treasure for years to come. Children will then be invited to put their Christmas wishes to paper by writing a personal letter to Santa, ready to be hand-delivered during their special visit. With their key and letter in hand, little ones will be welcomed into Santa's beautifully decorated grotto, where they can share their wishes, meet Father Christmas, and receive a special early Christmas gift to take home.

Bookings can be made inside the Nature Discovery Centre or on-line

www.essexwt.org.uk/events/2025-12-21-ingrebourne-santas-grotto Please select your half hour arrival time window before checking out - you can arrive anytime to the event between that slot. Experience lasts approximately 20 minutes. £7.75 per child, adults free

Thursday 1st January 2026. New Years Day Walk. 10:30am - 12:30pm Meet at the Nature Discovery centre at 10.30 This walk will last about 2 hours at a relaxed pace and is suitable for adults and accompanied older children. Wear suitable walking clothing and footwear for outdoor conditions and weather . Trails may be muddy. All welcome, no need to book



Contact number: 01708 520364 Contact e-mail: ingrebourne@essexwt.org.uk



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Hornchurch Library

At 44 North Street Hornchurch.

Not just for books; talks, activities and more.

Contact the librarians on 01708 434903 or

libraryevents@haverling.gov.uk or visit the Havering Libraries
Facebook page or see the Council website for more information.

Do you want to advertise in this magazine?

Then contact Arlene the Advertising Manager by email to
advert.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk
for further details

Escape Men's Group

We meet on the first and third Monday at 8.30pm at St Andrew's church.
For further details contact **John Speller** on 07599 791420 or by e-mail
john.speller@hotmail.co.uk

Food Bank

Donations are always needed, in food or cash. For a donation in money
please continue to send a cheque, payable to Kingdom Storehouse Ltd, to
the Harold Hill Food Bank, Unit 1, Guardian Business Centre, Faringdon
Avenue, Romford, RM3 8FD, or you go online to
<https://haroldhill.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Hornchurch Christmas Cracker

We had a wonderful afternoon in North Street Hall for The Parish of Hornchurch outreach event during the Hornchurch Events & Community Hornchurch Christmas Cracker. We welcomed over 170 people of all ages who took part in activities, crafts, games, chatted and enjoyed refreshments.

Some of the volunteers from Hornchurch Passion Play, Brownies and Rainbow Uniformed Groups, 0-2's Baby and Toddler Group, The Well, The Bridge, Messy Church and our Clergy, Revd Ken, Revd Sonia and Revd Marianne shared information about The Parish, upcoming Advent and Christmas Services as well as events like the Winter Market at North Street Halls next Saturday.

A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who helped out, before, during, after and those supporting us in prayer from home.

The Christmas Tree and Christmas Street lights around Hornchurch sparkled and twinkled brightly and the crowds of people in the High Street all looked like they were having fun. A great community event, so pleased we could be part of it again this year.



Karen Dunstan



Floodlighting of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch

Many thanks to all who have sponsored the floodlighting during December 2025:

December **Bruce Evans, Pansy Evans and Beatrice Ware** ~ Thinking of you all every day, and miss you all so much ~ **Frances, Charlotte and Clara-Pansy Man;**

3rd For **Milly (Amelia) Phillips** ~ the magic in our lives. You are forever in our hearts, loving you always, your family xxx ~ **Joy Whiteman;**

12th **Debby McCarren** ~ In memory of **Thomas McCarren and Huseyin Ruso** from their parents, (McCarrens and Rusos);

Remembering our much loved parents ~ **Sylvia and Roy Yeldham** ~ with great fondness on their Wedding Anniversary on 17th December ~ **Sally Gibson;**

19th **Sue King** ~ In Loving memory of **Frances** on her birthday 19th December and Frances and Ernie Jones' wedding Anniversary on Christmas Day. Gone from sight, but always in our hearts, love is eternal;

20th **Wendy Rogers** ~ In Loving Memory of my dear husband, **John** in December and on his birthday 20th December;

23rd **Sandra Belson** ~ Remembering my lovely husband, **Derek Noel Belson**, who died on 23rd December, and his birthday on Christmas Day. A wonderful Husband, Dad and Grandpa, unforgettable. With all our love from your family and friends;

24th **Maureen Pudney** ~ In Loving Memory of **Bob**, a loving husband and dad, from Maureen, Andrea and Stephen;

27th **Mrs June Chilcott** ~ In Loving Memory of **Vie Bond** on her birthday 27th December from June Chilcott and family;

28th **Mrs Doreen Green** ~ **Doreen and Stephen Green** In Loving Memory of our beloved **Harry** on his birthday 28th December. Loved and missed forever darling.

If you are interested in being a sponsor please telephone the Parish Office on 01708 441571



World Vision Tea Party at St Paul's Cathedral

Earlier this month I was invited by World Vision to attend a tea party at St Paul's cathedral as thanks for my continued sponsoring of a child (now children) under the sponsorship scheme. Over the last 30 years my family and I have sponsored four children, and I know that many other members of the congregation do the same.

As was mentioned in the June edition of Bullseye, St Matthew's sponsored a child until the pandemic and the parish now continues the sponsorship of Morie in Sierra Leone.

The tea party took place in the Wren Suite in the crypt.

We sat at round tables, each with a World Vision leader. Our places were each laid with a colourful napkin which was for us to keep, a gift made by ladies of a workshop in Kenya. On the table were items representing various aspects of World Vision's operations.

The gathering opened with a video about what sponsored children have gone on to achieve as adults. I liked the story of Leonard in El Salvadore. As a child he frequently pestered the manager of the Municipal Water and Sewage Works for his district: why don't my village get water regularly? Why does the supply keep breaking down? The answer was always 'lack of funds' He said that through the World Vision sponsorship he was able to get the education and training that meant he became a respected person in the community. And was then appointed the manager of the sewage works. This used to be a political appointment that attracted a lot of corruption. Now he is the manager, he has the same budget, but uses this honestly he can mend leaks and keep things going properly.

His elderly parents could be seen beaming with pride as the taps flowed.

We then had time to talk amongst ourselves and share experiences of the children while having the tea and cake.

The next session was on the work of World Vision outside the sponsorship programme. They are one of the leading charities in Australia and some of the sponsors featured were Australian. There is also World Vision Korea, Germany, South Africa and other countries. They came relatively late to the UK.

They partner to provide more fresh wholesome water than any other NGO. They have the international infrastructure to respond well in emergency situations such as cyclones in Mozambique and Malawi, or conflict in Sudan or Ukraine. They try to work meet local needs. In one village they perceived the most

pressing problem to be the distance needed to walk to fetch fresh water. But the inhabitants were more worried about the number of orphans in the village due to their parents' deaths from HIV, and the sickness of other adults.

Another project is education about Climate Smart methods of agriculture like Drip Irrigation, a method good in drought areas that waters directly to the roots and less water lost to evaporation or run-off when it does rain.

They challenge practices damaging children: child marriage, child labour and the use of child soldiers.

Gifts in wills were mentioned. One legacy was used to provide a bicycle to a girl struggling to get to school. She could not leave for school, which was a very long walk away, until she had completed several hours of house and field work. She arrived late and tired and was tempted to leave. With a bicycle she had time to eat breakfast and arrived on time. Her studies improved and she wrote a poem (translated) about her wonderful bicycle.

Being a Christian faith organization is important and the leaders believe it helps in dealing with all and any other faiths or none.

The most important thing they want us to do is to pray. Pray for the children, their families and communities, for the staff and the volunteers. Especially those working in dangerous parts of the world. Then we were asked to spread word of World Vision and their work as it is not as well known in the UK as it is in Australia. Sponsorship is down so more interest would be welcome.



Afterwards a St Paul's guide gave us a brief tour and talk about several features of interest in the Cathedral. Sponsors get regular photographs of their child and progress reports and can exchange cards and letters at Christmas and the child's birthday. From this I heard from India all about Election's love of cricket and his ambition to be a policeman and now I know that Lafael in Malawi is doing well in grade 3 of primary school. If you are interested this is their website.

www.worldvision.org.uk/sponsor-a-child

Carol Metcalfe



Messy Church in Hornchurch Light Party

All ages gathered for our annual Messy Church in Hornchurch Light Party on 31st October, with 3month old babies, toddlers, teens and adults we celebrated Jesus Light of the World. People came along on their own, with family or friends and many with three generations of families. Sweet treats, bracelets, glow sticks and a bag of goodies were shared at the Welcome and Registration Table by Liz and one of our young helpers, Ella. Prayer activities provided space to chat about God and our lives. Pumpkin themed games and the Lego were popular. Chalk art, playdough and bead threading to create necklaces or bracelets, were sensory experiences enjoyed by all ages and the science experiment resulted in a colourful surprise! Thank you to Kim, Marlene, Jody, Joyce and Debbie for leading the activity tables and team members who were unable to join us on the evening surrounded us in prayer support. Revd Ken led our Worship and Celebration with Kim showing us the



actions to the songs. Our catering team led by Jane provided a fantastic three course meal of spicy pumpkin soup, jacket potatoes with various toppings, and a DIY rainbow cupcake decorating session with coloured icing, cakes and rainbow sweets to make our own dessert.

We welcomed many new people, caught up with regulars and look forward to seeing everyone at another Messy Church Service soon. Our next Service is on 6th December, 3:30-5pm at St Andrew's Church and Halls. All ages are welcome as we journey through Advent and

anticipate the excitement and joy of celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas. You can book your place via Eventbrite. Check our Facebook page and The Parish of Hornchurch website for regular updates on events and Services.

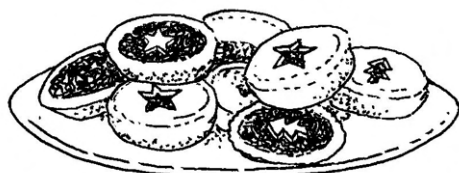
Blessings, Karen



Lost bag at Macmillan Coffee morning

At the recent coffee morning, which was very successful, there was however a very disappointing incident. Janet had her Purple Tote Bag with Crosses pattern taken from the kitchen. The bag contained Janet's apron and Graham's lunch. If someone took the bag by mistake, we will be at The Bridge again on Wednesday 17th December. Thank you.

Graham and Janet Martin



At Messy Church

We Learn about God ♦ Welcome all the Family ♦ Activities & Crafts ♦ Eat Food ♦ Hear Bible Stories

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 6th December 3:30-5pm
St Andrew's Church Hall: Advent

Sunday 1st February 2026 3:30-5pm
St Andrew's Church Hall: Candlemas

All ages are welcome. Please wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear for the outdoor sessions

Book via Eventbrite. Take a look at our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/messychurchinhornchurch> Or

www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk for regular updates and further details about when and where Messy Church is meeting. We look forward to seeing you at a Messy Church session very soon.



Messy Church
in Hornchurch



Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

Wed 3rd December at 2pm Jazz in Paris - presented by Graham Fenegan. Many American and other musicians visited and recorded in Paris or have records about or with Paris in the title. Many stayed and lived there for periods finding their acceptance by European audiences more welcoming than they often did in the States. Today let's welcome some of the results from, amongst others, well known composers, gypsy guitarists, cafe singers, big bands and more.

Wed 17th December at 2pm Christmas Music & Readings - Our annual festive get together with our presenters delving into their Christmas music archives and emerging with music for the festive season along with one or two pieces of poetry or prose appropriate to the time of year.

All programmes are of recorded music played on high quality audio equipment and take place in the 1st floor main meeting room, Hornchurch Library, North Street, RM11 1TB commencing at 2pm and finishing by 4pm. Admission £2 per person with interval refreshments available at nominal cost. Buses 165, 256 & 370 pass the library.

For further details or to be added to our email list call **Stephen Raindle** 01708 470670 or email **sraindle@aol.com**

THE BRIDGE



Meets in the Large North Street Hall every Wednesday morning 10am—12pm

A social group for anyone recently bereaved or on their own who is looking for company and conversation.

Tea, coffee and cake is available for a voluntary donation.

Please contact St Andrew's Parish Office on 01708 441571, Jane on 07981 985973 or Jeanette on 07983 527274 for information

Sudoku solution from P7

9	3	4	6	2	1	8	5	7
2	7	1	5	8	9	3	4	6
5	8	6	7	4	3	1	9	2
8	9	7	2	1	6	5	3	4
1	4	5	3	9	7	2	6	8
6	2	3	4	5	8	9	7	1
7	5	9	1	6	2	4	8	3
3	1	8	9	7	4	6	2	5
4	6	2	8	3	5	7	1	9

Flag Days for 2025

Thursday December 25th: Christmas Day



RAF HORNCHURCH HERITAGE CENTRE



Great Day Out of Family Fun & Education



Our Heritage Centre is aimed at educating all and preserving the memory of those who served at Suttons Farm and RAF Hornchurch.

We have themed rooms to walk you through the past of the historic WW1 and WW2 Airfield in Hornchurch and the people who lived nearby.

Open 'Every Weekend' from 11am to 4pm, and available for group/school bookings at other times.

Suttons House, 119-121 Suttons Lane, Hornchurch, RM12 6RU
Tel: 01708 898091 Email: info@rafhornchurch.com



www.rafhornchurch.com

New Windmill Hall

ST. MARY'S LANE, UPMINSTER, RM14 2QH

Community Café

Every Friday
11am – 3pm

**A warm welcome space**

Optional activities to support your health and wellbeing

Come alone or bring a friend

Join the jigsaw table— get artsy with some crafts— read a book or write your own—play our baby grand piano and have a sing-a-long!

Refreshments and snacks at affordable prices*

Come for lunch —all proceeds will help to sustain our community café for the future

Let's build something great, together!For more details email newwindmill@hotmail.co.uk or call 01708 220242**You do not need to purchase snacks or drinks in order to enjoy the community cafe*

Calling all give it a go-ers

Do you have a skill, talent or hobby that could make for an engaging evening for young people aged 6-14 years?

8th Hornchurch are looking for individuals to support the excellent work of our current volunteers by offering to run an exciting session for Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, 1-2 times a year.

Whether it's something adventurous, creative, hands-on or part of your day job we would love to hear from you.

For further information please email administrator@8thhornchurch.org.uk

Scouts
8th Hornchurch

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Outreach to the Community in Hornchurch

Saturday 13th December at North Street Hall
10.00am-1.00pm

(help needed from 9.45 for setting up)

10.10 There will be a briefing and time of prayer before going out into the community

12.30 Finish on the streets and come in for refreshments and to share stories.

Help Need on the Day:-

Setting -up tables, chairs, activities

Helping to run family activities (all will be provided and set up for you)

Providing cakes – please label these if they are home-made

Serving refreshments

Helping to hand out Christmas Service Postcards in 3 locations close to the hall and inviting people to come into the hall for refreshments and to chat.

People in the hall to enjoy refreshments, welcome and chat with all who come along. (It bore fruit when we did this at Easter)

If you run a group and you wish to publicise your activities, you are welcome to bring along flyers or leave them in the W pigeonhole at St.

Andrew's Church for Christine Withers by

Wednesday 10th December).

Please e mail me to let me know if you are available to help (christine@withers.org.uk) or ring the parish office (01708 441571) They will need your name, contact telephone number, and how you would be willing to help.

Please join in sharing God's love with our community this Christmas. If you are unable to attend – please take postcards from your churches and use them to invite your neighbours and friends to our very varied Christmas Services.

Thank You in anticipation of your response.

Christine (Withers)**Prayer for Christmas 2025**

Dear Father,

Christmas is coming. It's all such a rush – planning, shopping, spending, wrapping, posting, stressing! What's it all about?

Lord, help us, in all the rat-race busyness, to make time to focus on that baby at the centre of it all. That baby Who is Your Son, Who was with You in the beginning and Who, with You, created all things; that baby Who brings life and light and hope and salvation; that baby Who was and is Jesus, God, made man.

Lord, we thank You for that baby-gift to us – the greatest gift there has ever been.

Thank You that because He came, grew up, lived, died and rose again, there is light in the darkness of this world's mess – light that can never be put out, that evil can never overcome.

Jesus is the Light of the World. Putting our trust in Him, we thank You, Lord, for Christmas – for Your grace and love for us.

In Jesus' Name.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching

SUNDAY SERVICES in the Parish of Hornchurch

8.30 am: Morning Worship at St Andrew's Church

10.15 am: Parish Worship at St Andrew's **4th Sunday** Parade Service

6.30 pm: Evening Services at St Andrew's.

2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays at St George's Parish Worship at **10.15 am**

3rd Sunday only at St Matthew's **11.00 am** Holy Communion, **2.45pm** The Well, other churches as above as usual.

Thursdays 10.00 am Mid-week Holy Communion at St Andrew's See **Page 3** for greater detail

St Andrew's Church
222 High Street RM12 6QP

St George's Church
Kenilworth Gardens RM12 4SG

St Matthew's Church
Chelmsford Drive RM14 2PH

Messy Church

Hornchurch Parish Churches

October 2025

Baptisms

October 12th Maya Isabel Collins
Jasmine Ann Collins
Ella Sophia Collins
Lucas Jacob Collins
Harper Lily Brown
Darcie Samantha Brown
26th Rebecca Jane O'Rourke

Marriages

None

In Memoriam "I am the resurrection and the life" John 11v25

October 5th Stella Hortensia Zula 76
12th Georgina Iris Watling 98
20th Gwendoline Bailey 90



PARISH STAFF (Days off in brackets)

Vicar

Revd Canon Ken Wylie (Friday)
01708 441571

Associate Priest

Revd Dr Marianne Hayward
01708 441571

Readers

Pat Bromhall 01708 441571
Carole Sherratt 01708 441571

Authorised Local Preachers

Anne Jarrett 01708 441571
Mark Cornish 01708 441571

Pastoral Care Team

0789 55 12480

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

by e-mail to

Children

child.safeguarding@parishofhornchurch.co.uk

WHO'S WHO in the Parish of Hornchurch

PARISH OFFICE

222 High Street, Hornchurch,
RM12 6QP

www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk

Office hours:
Monday—Thursday 10.00am - 4.00pm
Friday 10.00—12 noon.

General enquiries about Baptism,
Marriages and Hall bookings should be
made to St Andrew's Parish Office

Staff: Arlene Trump and
Nina Mortimer

Tel: 01708 441571 e-mail:

office@parishofhornchurch.co.uk

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

**Scouts, Cubs and
Beavers:**

Andrew Rice 01277 262702

Girls' Brigade:

Karen Speller 01708 442848

**Guides, Brownies and
Rainbows:**

Sandra Cox 07932 192535

CHURCH WARDENS

Jeremy Shearmur 01708 441571
Anne Jarrett " " "

Choir Master Bill Brooks
01708 509489

**Organist and Worship Band
coordinator** Andy Losq

PRAYER NETWORK

Jane Harder and
Jacquie Humphreys 01708 441571

BULLSEYE

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Distribution: Via the Parish Office

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