



## Jerusalem returns to the Queen's Theatre Green!

2026 sees the return of the Hornchurch Passion Play! First performed in 1995, the play has become a 5 yearly (or thereabouts) regular for Hornchurch and the wider community.

The play re-enacts the last few days of Jesus life, triumphantly walking into Jerusalem, challenging the priests in the temple, the last supper, Gethsemane and, of course, Jesus' gruesome crucifixion and glorious resurrection three days later!

A cast of over 70 people are involved, led by Shane Mathews who takes on the role of Jesus for the 2nd time, after playing Him in 2022 (following postponement in 2020 due to COVID).

I have been involved since 1995 playing a soldier, John the disciple in 2000, Simon Zealot in 2006 and Jesus in 2011 and 2015, before taking over as director in 2022 and now in 2026. It is an absolute joy and a challenge taking the director reins, but a role made far easier by the enormous support from people around me and the wonderful, keen "army" of volunteer actors, crew, prayer support, technical staff and musicians, with my particularly thanks going to Hannah, my "right hand woman" and tech director.

The play is in full rehearsal, with the Last Supper, Gethsemane, the Priests' council, and the Temple and Market scenes to name but a few already rehearsed. This is all in preparation for the three performances over Easter weekend, where we literally attract crowds of thousands. The performance takes place around the Green, with the audience becoming the "crowd of Jerusalem" and unwittingly finding themselves at the forefront of all the highs and lows that Jesus and His disciples face!

We do not hide away from the historical facts of crucifixion, using "theatre secrets" to make this an extremely realistic, harrowing ordeal – followed by the glorious resurrection, the ultimate



high after the horrific low!

The mantra of the Passion play is all who volunteer are welcome, so if you are interested in taking part, we still have space for you! Crowd actors are always welcome, as well as soldiers (we portray our soldiers as modern-day army, rather than traditional Roman soldiers) so if you are teens to late twenties and fancy becoming one of the military elite or an antagonising crowd member, please do get in touch! Stewards, a prayer team and tea and coffee makers are other roles we always need help with.

Otherwise, all I ask is you pray for the play, spread the word and come along to watch with as many people as you can. It is free to watch (no tickets required) and takes place at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th April, on the Green by the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch

I look forward to seeing you there!  
God bless,

**Simon. HPP Director**

WEBSITE: [www.hornchurchpp.co.uk](http://www.hornchurchpp.co.uk)  
EMAIL: [director@hornchurchpp.co.uk](mailto:director@hornchurchpp.co.uk)

# What's on

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

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

## 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

### 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](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk)  
 Can you please note these details should you need to contact them.



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### Bullseye programme Contents to the Editor 2026

March Bullseye Sunday 1st February  
 April Bullseye Sunday 1st March

#### Uploading

March Bullseye 25th February  
 April Bullseye Wed. 25th March

**The Bullseye for March will be in the churches and online by Sunday 1st March 2026**

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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.

### 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](http://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](http://www.churchofengland.org) and [www.chelmsford.anglican.org](http://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.



254 St. Mary's Lane,  
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 Tel. 01708 220330

28 High Street,  
 Hornchurch RM12 4UN  
 Tel. 01708 442145

Email:-  
[Upminster@bfmulleyson.com](mailto:Upminster@bfmulleyson.com)

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**Services for February**

The pattern of Sunday morning services is set out on page 14 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 1st February Candlemas**

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

**Sunday 8th, Second Sunday before Lent**

- 8.30am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's
- 10.15am - Morning Worship at St Andrew's
- 10.15am - Holy Communion at St George's
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer at St Andrew's.

**Sunday 15th, Sunday next before Lent**

- 8.30am - BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's
- 10.15am - Common Worship Holy Communion and baptism 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 St Matthew's
- 6.30pm - Reflective service at St Andrew's

**Wednesday 18th Ash Wednesday**

8pm service of Holy Communion and imposition of ashes at St Andrew's

**Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent**

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

**Church opening for private prayer and reflection**

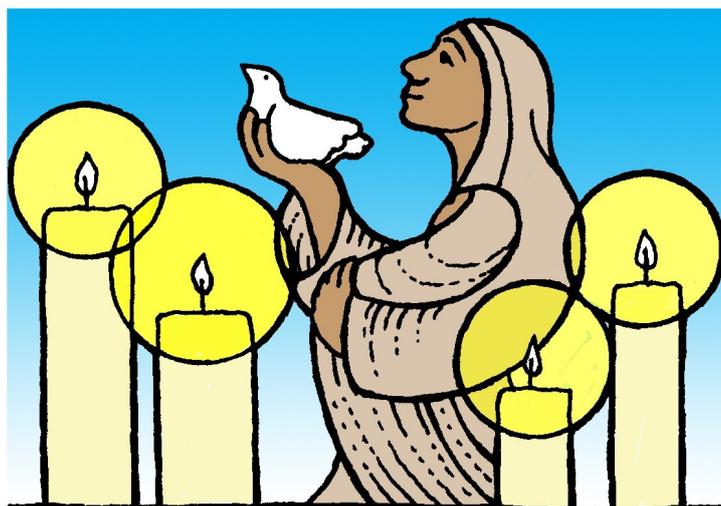
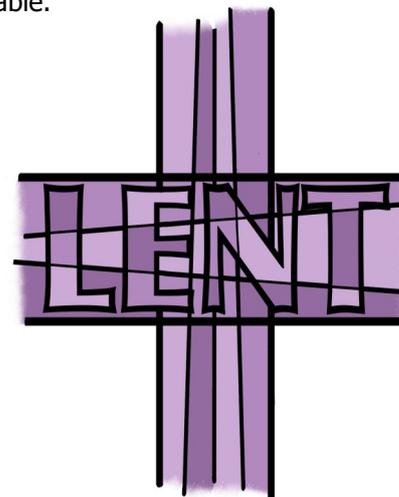
From September, St Andrew's church has been open for private prayer and reflection three days a week.

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.



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**NEXT DATES:**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY AND**  
**15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
**REVD SONIA GROOMBRIDGE OR**  
**MANDY GREEN**  
**VIA THE PARISH OFFICE:**  
**01708 441571**

Guide, Brownie and Rainbow News

14th Hornchurch Brownies

14th Hornchurch Brownies visited the cinema (right) to watch Zootropolis 2 before Christmas and we really enjoyed it. We even got a special badge to go on our uniforms.

Lucy and Laura (below) were awarded their Gold awards which is the highest award you can earn at Brownies — Well done, girls!!

Darcie from the 14th Hornchurch Brownies (bottom left) was awarded her Gold award after attending guide camp as her challenge — we are so proud of her!



Amy Saunders



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Isla is a Young Leader at 2nd Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Rainbows and 5th Hornchurch (St George's) Guides. She worked hard to complete her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This was presented at Church Parade on Sunday 25th January 2026.



**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](mailto:charlesandsandra@outlook.com)

**Time Out**

Our meeting on Monday 12th January was a group visit to the cinema to see Song Sung Blue. Meetings in February are: **Monday 9th - 7pm** in North Street Hall for a quiz night **Monday 23rd - 2.30pm** in St Andrew's Hall - a speaker telling us about the Bedfords Park Walled Garden. All welcome to both meetings. Please contact **Val on 07527 325996** for more information about the group or any of the meetings. Many thanks,



Jeanette

**Charity of the Month for January and February 2026  
Mercy Ships**

Founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens, Mercy Ships has worked in 55 countries, providing healthcare services to those in poverty. They are working to eradicate poverty diseases and follow the model of Jesus by bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor. They help people of all faiths or none. On board their ships the 'Africa Mercy' and 'Global Mercy', they have carried out thousands of operations to improve peoples' lives. The help does not stop



there as they work closely with people's countries' governments to try and improve general health care by training and mentoring local medical staff and renovating hospitals and clinics. Binti and Ibrahim, two devoted parents in Senegal, have always been proud of their daughter Sira. But as she grew, something began to trouble them. She struggled to walk and stand. When Sira was six, her legs had bowed outwards. "Sira was always so friendly, but when people started staring, she became so shy," her mother, Binti, remembers. "She wasn't happy. I was always worried, because at school her friends used to laugh at her. I am supposed to protect her from those things." After various hospital and clinic visits no one could help. Then the Mercy Ship came along. They saw Sira and knew they could help her. She came on to the ship and had her free operation, then had to learn to walk again with casts on her legs and then a walking frame. Her family were overjoyed when they saw the change. Now, Sira smiles as she plays football with her friends in the sunshine. She loves going to school. It makes her heart soar to do everything she always dreamed of. This



is the dawn of a new life for Sira, full of hope and possibility. If you want help other children and adults like Sira lead a normal life please donate via their website <https://www.mercyships.org.uk/who-we-serve/patient-stories/sira/?form=donate> Or leave a cheque payable to 'Hornchurch PCC' with the Parish Office who will collate donations and send on to the charity after the end of February. If you have any charities to suggest, please email or leave a note for me at the parish office

**Arlene Trump**

### Five Christians beheaded by Islamic State in North Kivu, D. R. Congo

Islamic State is celebrating the beheading of five Christians in the Lubero District of North Kivu, north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In a social media post, the terrorists declared "praise be to God" for the killings in the village of Musenge on 24 January.

Local media sources report that the five were among at least 25 civilians murdered by fighters from Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP).

The fighters also burned down a church building, a health centre and 63 homes – almost the entire village.

Many villagers have now fled the area, adding to the growing total of people in Christian-majority north-eastern DRC displaced by ISCAP and other armed groups such as the M23 movement.

"How can we understand that fighters have been operating freely for over two weeks in the same area, attacking village after village, without any effective response from the security forces?" asked a community leader in Musenge.

"The population feels abandoned to its fate," he continued, "exposed to massacres while official speeches multiply without any visible action on the ground." Lubero District has borne the brunt of ISCAP activity over the past 12 months.

At least five health centres in the area have been forced to close by the persistent violence. Among them is the health centre in Byambe, where 28 people (17 at the centre and 11 in the village) were slaughtered on 14th November 2025.

ISCAP (formerly known as the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF) has claimed the killing of more than 800 Christians in north-eastern DRC since its violence against Christian communities escalated in December 2024.

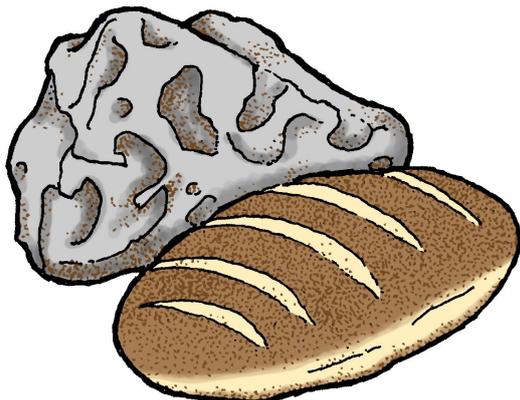
On 16th January the terrorists claimed the beheading of five "infidels" in the village of Bukia, also in Lubero District. Three days later seven more Christians were killed in Mafwi, Lubero.

Six other believers were beheaded in separate attacks in the neighbouring province of Ituri on 23rd January, one near Mambelenga and the other in Ofaye Otto Maber.

#### How you can pray

Ask the Lord to overcome the power of those who oppose Him and His people. Pray for safety and security for the people of north-eastern D. R. Congo, as well as for comfort to those who have been bereaved and displaced by the violence.

#### Barnabas Aid January 2026



### The Holy Spirit and You

The last three Gifts of The Spirit referred to as Gifts of Information which is Supernaturally Revealed by God! We might often refer to these as "The Mind of Christ" Manifesting through this Gift of a Spirit-Filled Believer; These Spiritual Gifts are a God-given ability from God, To receive Supernaturally and Discern God's thoughts; Usually with facts concerning something or anything About which it's humanly impossible for one to know. There is in life what is known as natural discernment, Some people refer to it as mental or natural intuition; This is not a God-given but usually a controlling spirit! It's linked to clairvoyance and witchcraft for centuries, And is nothing to do with Christian Gifts of The Spirit; Jesus Christ Himself never used any demonic giftings, And exposed the Devil and all his counterfeit giftings; St Paul emphasizes this in Acts 16 v 16-24 driving out The Spirit of Divination, it came out from a Slave Girl. This Spirit was used to make money for her owners; Paul with The Spirit of God, would've Discerned this! For the average person it might seem surprising but, This is a common practice even in Britain and deeply Impacted by The Ministry of Trevor Dearing at Saint Paul's Church Hainault recorded in the early 1970s! At one Healing Service a Woman got Healed by The Spirit of God; Her Husband went berserk, and rushed To attack the Minister with a knife and The Holy Spirit Knocked the man to the floor subduing all aggression; This was a common occurrence during The Meetings! Trevor Dearing wrote many Books about Satan's work, His Ministry enhanced by the Discerning Spirit of God.

#### Mark Lendon

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### The Oglethorpe Players

It's time to exercise those "little grey cells" in some detective work again, as we welcome back The Oglethorpe Players who are presenting a Whodunnit & quiz night for church funds. Details below. Please invite friends & try to book an entire table, confirming all ticket requests by **SUN. MARCH 1st**, as this makes things much easier with ticket money collection. Please put all ticket monies in an envelope with your name on & which performance you are booking. These can be given to Mike or Jane H by **MAR 1st** or collected on the door. There will be the usual observational & general knowledge quiz rounds & a raffle so please save the date.

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e-mail [mrjeh83@gmail.com](mailto:mrjeh83@gmail.com)  
Ref Murder Mystery

### The Great Commandment

Jesus gave us a commandment which covers all that can be said to sum up the aims of our Christian faith.

Love God with all our heart, with all our mind and with all our strength. And love our neighbour as ourselves.

Mk 12: 30-31.

So simple and yet so hard.

So, let us look at what it can tell us.

1) Christianity is very much a personal relationship with God.

- It's only 'me' that can search for God
- It's only 'me' that can accept what I discover.
- It's only 'me' that is on a path specifically meant for me by God.

No one can force us to follow Christ or can decide for us, and no one but God can see into our hearts and into our relationship with Him.

So, it's important to realise that it rests on us to respond to His hand held out to us, at whatever stage our relationship is with Him, even if we have been following Him for years.

Learning to accept that hand held out and learning to trust in Him is an ongoing journey throughout our life.

Growing as Christians is not like bodily growth, which diminishes as we age. It is a growth which becomes stronger, the older we get, because we learn that it is a relationship, which will last forever.

So, 'Love God' is 1st of all.

2) We are also to have a relationship of love with those alongside us.

Our relationship with God gives us a bond with those who also follow Him. So, it's important that we not only celebrate together, but also to learn from each other.

That is one of the reasons why 'The Church' exists -- to encourage and grow our 'God part' with those who, maybe, have come to God by a different path.

Because real love (God's love) always overflows and affects those around His people. As a community, we can share that love in the wider world.

3) It's hard enough being a human being in this world, but finding a path to God as individuals and discovering that others too have found a path gives us a strong sense that we are not alone.

With God and His people, we become who we are, and who we are meant to be, and, strengthened by a love which is beyond our understanding, we can face the world and all that life throws at us.

May God continue to bless us as we follow our paths to Him, now and in the future.

**Revd Barbara Baker**

### Easy Sudoku solution on Page 12

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

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### 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"

### 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.**



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**St James the Least of All**

*The Revd 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 the art of drinking well ...**

From: The Rectory,  
 St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

You closed your last letter with the remark that it was time to retire to bed with a cup of cocoa. That may be all very well for the pious intensity of a theological college — although a stiff whisky was always acceptable in my day — but it is not a style to continue once in the parish. I do feel obliged to give you a few hints about what should and should not be drunk in public as a parish priest. Morning visits are to be discouraged, but if one is unavoidable, and you are invited to have a drink, then it has to be coffee. It is the only time of day when a mug is acceptable — provided, of course, that it is bone china or porcelain. In the afternoons one changes to tea, but only from cups. Blended varieties may be all very well for Curates in their first year, but it should be Darjeeling for an incumbent. And fruit teas are for Quakers only.

If an inappropriate vessel is offered, then the drink should be accepted, but left untouched. Since the visit will be discussed in the finest detail throughout the parish the moment you have left, your host will soon learn why and not make the same error a second time. It is for the same reason that if you ever want to circulate a piece of news round the parish as quickly as possible, never put it in the parish magazine, just mention it casually during one of your visits. Everyone will know by teatime.

Alcoholic drinks must be carefully judged. A sherry — dry, naturally — is probably best if you are invited to lunch. In the early evening, a gin and tonic would be the drink of choice. To ask for whisky would indicate that you are about to go over to Rome, and a mineral water that you have your roots in non-conformity. Beer is never, ever drunk in someone's house unless you suffer from some personal tragedy, such as being the diocesan youth chaplain.

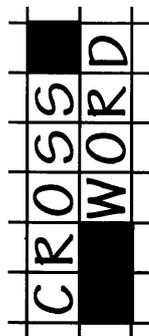
However, an occasional beer in the pub with the bell-ringers (who will be real ale fanatics to a man) or after choir practice — which seems to be the real purpose of holding practices anyway — or as a treat for the sacristan, will show you are a man of the people. It is some years since I visited the pub.

Understanding wine should be taught at every theological college as an essential part of the ministry. Develop a taste for claret, dear boy, and you will be starting your journey towards high office.

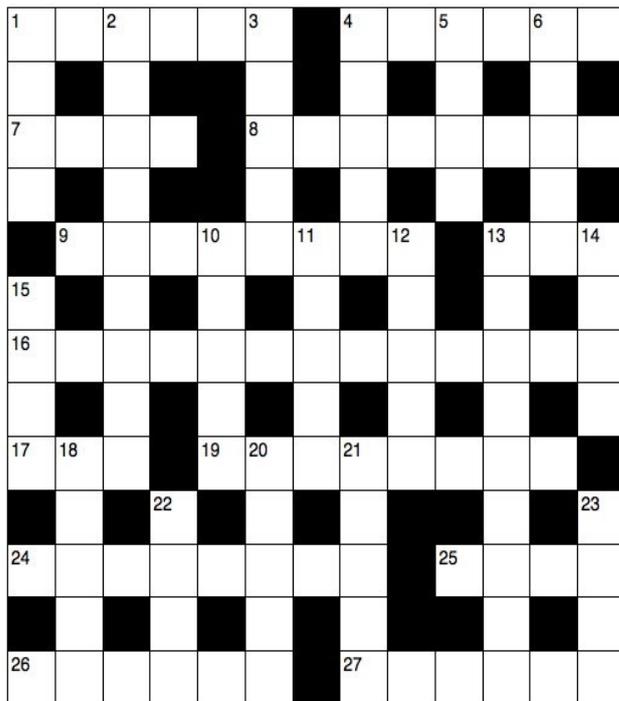
And perhaps you should give that tin of cocoa to the verger.



Your loving uncle,  
**Eustace**



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**Across**

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

**Down**

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

**Down:** 1, Cock; 2, Epistle; 3, Taken; 4, Tenet; 5, Cane; 6, Leave; 10, Erase; 11, Guide; 12, Honey; 13, Barbarian; 14, Guys; 15, Asia; 18, Rod in; 20, Voice; 21, Rahab; 22, Hope; 23, Mene; 27, Bronze; 19, Every day; 24, Admonish; 25, Dire; 26, Sneeze; 9, Strength; 13, Beg; 16, Salvation Army; 17, ARC; **Across:** 1, Credit; 4, Tackle; 7, Cain; 8, Kenanah;



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**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](mailto:william.brooks861@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:libraryevents@haverling.gov.uk) or visit the Haverling Libraries Facebook page or see the Council website for more information.



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

Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre Open daily 10am - 5pm: (Winter closing time 4pm until 15th February)  
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** Tuesday 13th January 2026 - Tuesday 10th February 2026. 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 6 weeks block booking - £40.00

Then 24 February to 24 March (5 weeks) 10am to 12pm 5-week ticket or a 1-week ticket. £40 or £9.50 The 1-week ticket option is for 24 February only. Advanced booking essential

**Ingrebourne Nature Tots Fridays** Friday 16 January 2026 - Friday 13 February 2026. 9.30 to 11.30 Prices and activities as the Tuesday group.

Then Friday 27 February 2026 - Friday 20 March 2026 9.30 to 11.30 5-week ticket or a 1-week ticket. £40 or £9.50 The 1-week ticket option is for 27th February only. Advanced booking essential

**Ingrebourne Home education** Wednesday 4th and 11th February 2026 10:00am - 12:00pm £9.50 inquire at reception for further sessions on Wednesdays

**Ingrebourne Wilder Holiday Club 5+ Tuesday 17th February 2026 9am-3pm** Our Wilder Holiday Club includes themed, inspiring activities led by our team of experts. There will be plenty of opportunities for nature discovery, learning new skills, and following your interests with lots of time for free play! Child ticket: £37.00

**Ingrebourne Bird feeder making** Wednesday 18 February 2026 1:30pm-2:30pm; 2:30pm-3:30pm Join us this half term for a fun and creative family-friendly bird feeder workshop, perfect for families. £6.67 per child

**Ingrebourne Survival and Campfire Pancakes** Wednesday 18 February 2026 10am-11am; 11:30am-12:30pm  
Join us for this family event, where we will make shelters in groups with our tarps and ropes, practice fire lighting with a flint and steel, before cooking some pancakes and waffles over the main fire! (weather permitting) This is a family event, that is recommended for ages 5+ (they have to be safe near a fire, and younger children may need assistance from adults). All attendees, including both adults and children, will require a ticket to attend. All children must be accompanied by an adult. £6.67 per child £6.67 per adult Advanced booking essential

**Ingrebourne Birds of Prey Flight & Talk Show** Saturday 21 February 2026 Arrive from 16.30. Barleylands Farm Park bring their informative and fun show to Ingrebourne. This is a 2 hour talk with a 15-minute Q and A / tea break in the middle. The first half of the talk will be showcasing the animals, getting them close to



visitors, and the second half is more 'action' related with birds flying over the top of people's heads. £10.90 adults and children. Advance booking essential

Contact number: 01708 520364 Contact e-mail: [ingrebourne@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:ingrebourne@essexwt.org.uk)

**Do you want to advertise in this magazine?**

Then contact Arlene the Advertising Manager by email to [advert.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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/>

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## Trams for Romford, 1901-8?

Another extract from Prof. Martin's essay on the History of Gidea Park.

<https://www.gedmartin.net/martinalia-mainmenu-3/420-origins-of-gidea-park>

Another problem that inhibited the development of the Gidea Hall estate helps explain the timing of Herbert Raphael's offer of a public park. The construction of houses would presumably be largely aimed at prosperous families whose breadwinners were employed in London: Romford simply did not have a sufficiently large *haute bourgeoisie* to sustain such a project. Efficient means of travelling to the city were thus a vital precondition for bricks and mortar. The Gidea Hall mansion was about a mile from Romford's railway station, and the area of the estate likely to be built on was even further to the north-east. One possible answer would be a tramway: a horse-drawn service from Manor Park had been proposed as early as 1885, but the scheme was abandoned two years later. However, until the end of the nineteenth century, tram services were confined to the inner urban area. Then, between 1901 and 1903, the burgeoning suburbs of East Ham, Barking and Ilford opened local networks, served by much more reliable electric streetcars. In March 1903, Ilford's system reached the urban district boundary at Chadwell Heath, just over two miles from Romford. Although the market town was a less dynamic community than its fast-growing neighbour, its civic leaders began to plan a link to the evolving metropolitan network as early as 1901. It was at this point that Herbert Raphael decided to convert his vague intention to offload Black's Canal into a formal proposal to endow a municipal park. "Having been informed that the council had under consideration the construction of an electric tramway, his views had become somewhat enlarged. An electric tramway would, of course, enhance the value of his property". More to the point, a public park established almost three-quarters of a mile east of the town centre was likely to be included in any tram service. The townsfolk might well have settled for a shuttle service



South Street, Romford, looking south towards the railway station. This photograph was taken in the 1920s, before the street was widened. Motor buses first appeared locally soon after the start of the Gidea Park project. With care, they could navigate the narrow stretch, but trams on fixed rails would have been a hazard. The town's central crossroads is behind the camera.

from the centre of Romford to Chadwell Heath; Raphael needed the line to come through the Market Place and as far as Hare Street, the likely jumping-off point for a building project. Hence, for Herbert Raphael, his gift of the park was inextricably linked to his intention to build houses. As he assured the people of Romford at the opening ceremony in 1904, "the park would always be for the unlimited use of the public, *no matter how much built over the surrounding land might become*". Unfortunately, problems soon appeared. In November 1901, Romford Urban District Council announced that it intended to apply for a private act of parliament authorising it to construct a tramway system. The principal line would run along the main road from Chadwell Heath to Hare Street, with a spur down South Street as far as Oldchurch Road. The scheme was strongly criticised at a public meeting of local ratepayers as "a very risky experiment with the public money". The Council planned to spend around £130,000 constructing the system, but its own forecasts suggested only a relatively small profit margin.

Doubters were hardly persuaded by appeals to the example of East Ham, with eight times the population, while the estimate that a town of 12,000 people would generate 6,000 passenger journeys a day was dismissed as "absurd". Nor were the objectors mollified by a tactless municipal official who told them that "all the incidental expenses of the Bill were already incurred.... all the Council wanted the meeting to sanction was that they should be allowed not to lose the money they had spent". "You should have called this meeting before you spent this money," one of them replied. The argument for the trams, that they would help the town to grow, prompted opponents to dismiss the kind of community that would emerge. As one of them put it, "the only possibility of this scheme paying was by all the land being cut up into pieces as large as a table and a house being built on each. Was that the sort of town they wanted Romford to become?" "No," chorused the critics, who won a show of hands' vote against the proposal by 109 votes to 91. Within hours of this Cont.on P 12

### Floodlighting of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch

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

In memory of a dear friend **Doreen Chignell ~ Colin Jones.**

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



**Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library**

**Wed 4th February at 2pm PARADE OF THE ANIMALS** ~ presented by Dawn Cunningham Clayton with a programme that represents a sort of musical Noah's Ark with a selection of land, sky and water-based animal tunes and songs plus a couple of comical songs with Arthur Askey and Flanders & Swann putting in appearances.

**Wed 18th February at 2pm LAUGHTER & TEARS** ~ presented by Mike Beaman. Songs about crying and laughing, from Don't Cry for me, Argentina to Cry by Johnnie Ray via The Laughing Policeman, Laughter in the Rain by Neil Sedaka and Vesti la giubba where Pavarotti sounds pretty distraught.

All programmes are of recorded music played on high quality audio equipment and take place in the 1st floor main meeting room (lift available), 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](mailto:sraindle@aol.com)

**Trams for Romford cont. from P 11**

defeat, the chairman of the Urban District Council began negotiations with private companies to take over the scheme. In November 1902, the Empire Electric Light and Power Company gave notice that it would seek the private act of parliament that the Council was no longer empowered to pursue. Its representative supplied more detailed information when the bill was considered by a parliamentary committee in May of the following year. The company planned to use eight tramcars to operate services every eight minutes over four miles of track. Romford's tramways would essentially provide a local service. The trams would also allow residents "to get to Ilford and take advantage of the better train service", since twice as many trains stopped there as at Romford. The Romford Tramways Act duly passed into law, but the final decision was firmly knocked back to the Urban District Council. Given the intensity of local opposition, the project remained in limbo.

There were no doubt further intense negotiations before the Empire Electric Light and Power Company put forward put forward a considerably revised scheme in November 1903. The proposed tram network would be considerably extended, with one new line along Victoria Road into the growing suburb of Heath Park, and another down the continuation of South Street and on to Hornchurch. There would still be narrow stretches of road, but powers were sought to widen specific stretches of High Street and South Street. The Urban District Council had now taken to meeting in secret session, but it was rumoured that "there is not a single Councillor who does not desire to see electric tramways in Romford" and that "strenuous efforts" were being made "to secure most advantageous terms for the townspeople". As one journalist optimistically concluded "there does seem to be some possibility of the present generation enjoying trips to Raphael Park by electric car". However, the prediction did not come to fruition.

No doubt, potential passenger numbers in the small town of Romford and the village of Hornchurch could hardly support the planned enlargement of the network, while acquiring legal powers to undertake road-widening schemes was not the same as possessing the resources to tackle the work. There was a further attempt in 1905 to deal with the road-widening issues, but the project was wound up three years later. It is worth noting that there was a considerable difference between running trams *to* Romford and operating trams *through* Romford. The projected 1885 horse-drawn tramway project would have stopped on the west side of the river Rom, avoiding the need to invade the sinuous High Street. By gifting his lake to the community, Raphael had practically ensured that the network would have to extend to the gates of the new public park. And that more or less ensured that the trams would never run.

**Prof. Ged Martin**

**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

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

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*\*You do not need to purchase snacks or drinks in order to enjoy the community cafe*

**Prayer of thanks for Candlemas and the Presentation at the Temple**

Dear Lord,

The shortest month, the snowdrop month! February brings those beautiful, hopeful little flowers, also called Candlemas Bells. Thank You, Lord, for the beauty and the hope.

Thank You for the reminder of when Jesus was presented at the Temple as a baby. Thank You, for Simeon recognising in that vulnerable baby the promised Saviour of all the world.

Oh Lord, how this world needs to hear afresh that message of salvation.

Open eyes to see You and to know You. Open ears to hear Your message of hope and reconciliation. Open hearts to receive Your love and to share it, for the sake of all the suffering people of the world.

In Jesus' Name,  
Amen.

**Daphne Kitching**

**Christmas Market**

No, you haven't read that wrong, this is about the Christmas Market. I am stepping back from organising this event so need someone, or better 'a team' of people, to take it on. There is another person helping me so she will be around to help, she can't do it on her own. This event raises thousands of pounds for your church each year so it creates valuable income. I'm happy to be around to advise, and on that matter, if it is to happen at all the hall needs to be booked now to save the dates needed.

Please contact me on 07983 527274 if you are interested.

**Jeanette Street**

**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](mailto:administrator@8thhornchurch.org.uk)

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**At Messy Church**

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

**Dates for your Diary**

**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](http://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.

**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**  
**December 2025 ~ January 2026**

**Baptisms**

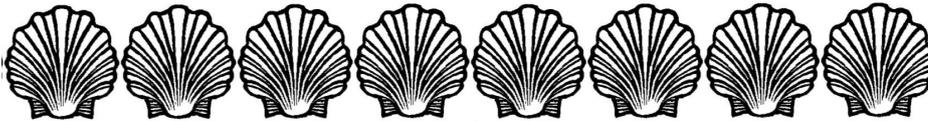
**January 11th** Ashley Allan Baker  
 Amelia Joyce Jane Baker  
 Christopher James Fenn  
**25th** Ziggy Lee Griffiths

**Marriages**

None

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

**December 15th** Rosemary Peggy Sullivan 98  
**January 7th** Terence Trimmer 93



**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:**  
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**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**  
**Editor:**  
 Carol Metcalfe 01708 451535  
 article.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk  
**Advertising:**  
 Arlene Trump  
 advert.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk  
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