

Use It or Lose It



We heard an excellent sermon the other Thursday, on the importance of using our God-given gifts.

could not possibly have children. But one night God persuaded him to sit down, lean back, and count the stars, with the promise that his descendants would be as numerous. After a lot of counting, Abraham got the picture, literally; a sky full of happy babies! It was then that "Abraham believed".

May you have all joy in believing.

It took me back to Dagenham days, when visiting preachers would tell us about spiritual gifts. Like faith, experienced as a God-given conviction that God will do for you as you have asked. Provided, of course, that you are habitually aware of God's miraculous activity in the Bible and in everyday life, that you are specific (not vague) and that the answer will serve the Kingdom.

The writer to the Hebrews (Christians born Jewish) gave Abraham as an example. Abraham had kept protesting that he and Sarah

Revd Peter Evans



Prayer for March 2026

(based on Jn3:21, Jn 14:6, Jn 8:12, Jn 16:33, Heb 13:5)

Lord,

In these weeks leading up to Easter, many of us spend time reflecting on what Jesus has done for us and how He can help us live our lives.

But we live in a harsh, confusing world, where traditional values are upended and we can hardly believe some of the things we hear from powerful world leaders. Truth seems to be lost in the darkness.

Lord, Your word tells us that, whoever lives by the truth comes into the light.

Jesus says He is the Truth. He also says He is the Light of the World.

Help us to hold fast to these facts. Help us to remember that Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble – so we shouldn't be surprised – but that He has overcome the world – so we should be encouraged.

Whatever is going on in the troubled world around us - we can live by the real Truth - and in the real Light – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, Who will never leave us or forsake us.

Thank You so much.

In Jesus' Name.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching

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

What's on

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

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

Weekly meetings

- Mon.** 10.00am to 11.30 am **Tadpoles** St Andrew's large hall, for children and their adults
 2.30 and 7.00 pm **Time Out** 2nd Monday of month meeting is 7pm North Street hall and 4th Monday meeting 2.30pm St Andrew's.
 8.30 pm **Escape** (1st & 3rd) St Andrew's small hall
- Tues.** ~ ~ ~ ~
- Wed.** 9.30-11.00 am **0-2 Playgroup** St Andrew's large hall. Toys, songs and craft, refreshments. All enquiries to Parish Office
 10.00 -12 noon **The Bridge** Large hall North Street
- Thur.** 1.30 pm **Little Fishes** St Andrew's large hall. Toys, stories and craft, refreshments, all welcome
- Fri.** 7-9pm **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.



Disclaimer: Neither the Vicar, Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council, nor the Editor take responsibility for the information given or views expressed in the Bullseye. Nor is any culpability accepted in work undertaken by advertisers.

Bullseye programme Contents to the Editor 2026

- April Bullseye Sunday 1st March
- May Bullseye Sunday 6th April

Uploading

- April Bullseye Wed. 25th March
- May Bullseye 30th April

The Bullseye for April will be in the churches and online by Sunday 29th March 2026

BF Mulley & Son

Incorporating Horace Fry



Chapel of Rest | Home Arrangements | Distance No Object

World-Wide Repatriation | Ample Client Parking | Memorials

Family Owned Funeral Home | 24 Hour Funeral Service

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) 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.



254 St. Mary's Lane,
 Upminster RM14 3DH
 Tel. 01708 220330

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

Email:-
Upminster@bfmulleyson.com

Email:-
Hornchurch@bfmulleyson.com

www.bfmulleyson.com



Services for March, Holy Week and Easter

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 1st March 2nd Sunday of Lent

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, 3rd Sunday of 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, Mothering Sunday

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 St Matthew's
 6.30pm - Holy Communion at St Andrew's

Sunday 22nd

8.30am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15am - Parade service at (also livestreamed)
 10.15am - Holy Communion at St George's
 6.30pm Mozart's Requiem at St Andrew's

Sunday 29th Palm Sunday

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

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday

10am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 8pm Holy Communion at St Andrew's

3rd April Good Friday

10am Walk of Witness departs from War Memorial
 10.45am Service on the Queen's Theatre Green
 11.15am - 12.45pm Easter Trail on the Queen's Theatre Green
 12 - 3pm Reflections at the foot of the cross at St Andrew's

Holy Saturday 4th April

11.15am - 12.45pm Easter Trail on the Queen's Theatre Green

Sunday 5th April Easter Day

6am Dawn Service at St Andrew's
 8.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
 10.15am Holy Communion at St George's
 11.00 Holy Communion at St Matthew's

Hornchurch Passion Play on The Green at 7.30pm, 3rd, 4th 5th April



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15TH MARCH 2026 AND 19TH APRIL

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



Guide, Brownie and Rainbow News

Guide, Rainbow and Brownie Leaders needed

14th Hornchurch Brownies

Savannah (below) worked really hard to earn her Bronze award before moving up to Guides after half term. Ava (Right) was awarded her Gold award after running an animal themed charity evening and attending Guide camp. Well done, Brownies, we are very proud of you!

Amy Saunders



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

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 Haverling Libraries Facebook page or see the Council website for more information.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday - the fourth Sunday of Lent- offers families an opportunity to honour the women who have nurtured them. Lots of different streams and traditions have come together to make today's Mothering Sunday the special day that it is. In the Middle Ages it was an occasion for everyone to visit their 'mother' church - the place where they had been baptised. Later, an opportunity for those who worked away from home to visit their mothers became added to the mix of reasons to make it a special day. Today we honour all women who have in one way or another been special to us, and in church this is usually signalled by small bunches of flowers for every woman present. Treating mums and grans to Sunday lunch, chocolates and flowers is also part of the present mix. And will there be a simnel cake to be seen - a tradition from ages past - with its rich layers of marzipan, and eleven balls

of marzipan on top, reminders of the 11 disciples who remained faithful to Jesus? Not everyone has enjoyed a wonderful or enduring relationship with their mum, so lest we get carried away on a wave of love and sentimentality, there is usually space in the Mothering Sunday church service to reflect on and pray for those whose relationships with their mother were not all they might have been. Also, there are the families blighted by the lack of, or death of a child; families remembering a mum who died tragically young; women who never had a child but would have dearly loved the opportunity; all these and more are a recognition of the imperfections of human love, human life. These imperfections can be brought in prayer to the God who mothers us. In the Old Testament, Isaiah speaks of God comforting His people like a mother hen. In the New Testament,

both Matthew and Luke bear witness to Jesus expressing His desire to gather His people as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Yes, God has strong maternal qualities which He invites us to discover and enjoy! Have you discovered the mothering, nurturing, maternal qualities which God offers to all people? It's lovelier than flowers, more long-lasting than simnel cake, better than a visit from family, and it's free to everyone who wants it - it could be yours!

Revd Roy Shaw

Writer at Parish Pump; a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

Charity of the Month for March and April 2026 Hopefield Animal Sanctuary

In 1983 we had the coldest winter for 20 years and the headlines were not about the weather but the Rainham marsh ponies and cobs being abandoned by their owners. A local doctor's receptionist and her husband (Paula and Ernie Clark) decided to take action and so the Sanctuary was formed.



To start with they managed to get half an acre of land in Pitsea, with the view of nursing and then fostering out the animals. The first horse they fostered out was not well treated by his new owners and ended up back in the sanctuary, so they vowed that the animals would have a home for life.

As the size of the sanctuary grew, they had to move and went to Langdon Hills. When they grew again and needed more space, they put the word out that land was needed. Tesco's kindly offered the land in Brentwood for a peppercorn rent and this is where the sanctuary now runs. Both Paula and Eric have helped many animals over the years and were awarded MBE's. Sadly, these founders have since passed away but their legacy continues under the guidance of 5 trustees (one of whom is their son) who continue this wonderful work today.

Hopefield rescues all kinds of animals from horses, farm animals, to alpacas, reindeer, exotic animals and reptiles. They are open to the public which generates some funds but they rely on donations generously given for our community sanctuary.

If you would like to know more, please visit their website <https://hopefield.org.uk/>

To support this charity please donate in the following ways:

Giving a cheque to St Andrew's parish payable to 'Hornchurch PCC' clearly mark on the reverse as 'Charity of the Month Hopefield Animal Sanctuary', which we will then collect together and send as donations at the end of the month.

Give direct to the charity via their website using this link <https://hopefield.org.uk/donate/>

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

Arlene Trump

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.

More than 30 killed as Islamists target Christian communities in Benue State, Nigeria

More than 30 people were killed in Benue State, Nigeria, as Islamist terrorists unleashed three days of violence against Christian communities.

The killings are just the latest massacre in what Nigerian church leaders have called a "genocide" of Nigerian Christians.

Barnabas Aid estimates that at least 45,000 Christians have been killed by Islamists in northern and Middle Belt Nigeria since 2009.

Most of the deaths took place in Kwande Local Government Area (LGA), beginning on 3 February at Abande market where sixteen civilians and a police officer, Isaac Madu, were shot and killed by terrorists. A further 13 were killed just three days later in the village of Anwase.

On the same day Fulani militia killed two residents of the Akpete community in Apa LGA, Matthew Ochanga and Isaac Adanu.

Elsewhere in Benue State on Sunday 8 February, nine worshippers were abducted from an early morning prayer meeting by 25 men with weapons.

"They were speaking Fulfulde [the Fulani language] and chanting 'Allahu Akbar' as they surrounded us," said a member of the congregation who was able to escape. On a recent visit to Plateau, another Middle Belt state, the British author and journalist David Patrikarakos described a landscape of burned-out church buildings and "broken crosses".

"It's as though someone has tried to erase every visible sign of Christianity from this land," writes Patrikarakos.

"In the face of all this," he continues, "calling the violence here merely a 'farmer-herder conflict' ... begins to sound like a diplomatic euphemism."

"We are being displaced," Patrikarakos was told by Iliya Ayuba Fwangle, a local leader in the Christian Association of Nigeria, adding the need to make known "the genocide we Christians are experiencing here".

According to a survivor of a May 2023 Fulani Islamist attack, "The churches are always their main target." Muslims are also among the victims of jihadist violence. Earlier this month, more than 160 people were slaughtered in two Muslim-majority villages of Kwara State, western Nigeria, reportedly because they refused to accept the authority of the Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh).

Yet Patrikarakos' investigation confirms what Barnabas Aid project partners and contacts in Nigeria have long reported, that militants attack Christians villages "screaming 'Allahu Akbar' and calling the Christians living there infidels".

In December 2025, 27 Christians were abducted from a church and the village of Aiyetoro-Kiri in Kogi State. The attack left one worshipper dead. Two others died in captivity and a fourth after being released and hospitalised.

"If anybody is telling me that this is not genocide against Christians," said village head Olusegun Durowaye, "I don't know where you are getting your story from."

How you can pray

Ask the Lord, who has won for His people the victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:57), to comfort those bereaved by these atrocities in Benue State. Pray that increased awareness of this persecution in Nigeria will lead to action to protect our brothers and sisters. Pray that there will be an end to Islamist terrorism and violent criminality, for the sake of all Nigerians.

Calling all Quiz night fans

Join us on
Saturday 30th May 7.30pm
in North Street Halls

for a joint Kenya and Escape Group fundraising evening of Quiz rounds, Raffle and Lucky Envelopes.

Tables of 6(ish) can be booked via Terry Keens (07985 095702); John Speller (07599 791420); or Alan Ruyten (07710 570042).

Participation is £6 per person.

Flag Days for 2026

(Union Jack unless otherwise stated)

Sun April 5th: Easter Sunday

Thur April 23rd: St Georges Day (St George's flag)

Wed May 6th – Fri May 8th: Coronation Day through to VE Day

Sat Jun 13th: Official Birthday of HM The King

Tue Sep 8th: Accession of HM The King

Tue Sep 15th - Sun Sep 20th: Battle of Britain Day through to Battle of Britain Sunday

Sun Nov 8th – Wed Nov 11th: Remembrance Sunday through to Armistice Day

Sat Nov 14th: Birthday of HM The King

Mon Nov 30th: St Andrew's Day (St Andrew's flag)

Fri Dec 25th: Christmas Day



A child's journey to heaven

As a child, when living in a country village, I ran uphill across the full length of a large green meadow. The very top of the meadow and the bright blue summer sky seemed to be fused together. It beckoned me. In my innocence I imagined heaven was resting on top of the meadow. Nothing else came into view between the meadow and the sky. After all, wasn't heaven up in the sky? All I had to do, or so I thought, was to run and meet it. And so I ran and ran. Oh, it was a long way.

But when I arrived, feeling very hot and breathless, I soon realised it wasn't so. The blue sky was still above me and 'heaven' was a very long way off. Where I imagined I would find its entrance I found instead, another meadow and could see another, and then another, all forming a wonderful patchwork gradually disappearing into the distance. Was I disappointed? I wasn't sure. I could look back and see 'my' meadow stretched out before me, and was aware of how far I had come. Well, that's a bit of an achievement running all this way, I thought, feeling excited.

However, I shall have to find another way of getting to heaven; it's not going to be so easy after all. Our journey to heaven may not be so easy. Our path will depend on how we work our passage, either under blue or darkened skies, confident throughout in God's love and grace. Running across a meadow is simply child's play.

Terence Trimmer

The Holy Spirit and You

St Paul describes "Love as being Greater than Faith!" And we know from Scripture that St Paul wrote most of his Letters from the confine of his own prison cell; It's hard to believe that, as Paul's Faith sustained him, And carried him to Advise on so many current issues; Whether on True Commitment, Marriage or Giftings! There are so many issues that are very relevant today, So we can adjust our Beliefs to today's Modern World; The love St Paul describes to Christians is Greater than Martyrdom and trust in Jesus Christ, and Greater than Giving to The Poor, though this is a requisite for us all; St Paul describes God's love as Greater than Prophecy, Which he proclaims "All Christians to earnestly desire" And there as a gift to edify those in a Christian Church; It is Greater than Speaking in Unknown Languages too, And St Paul comments as Greater than the gift of Hope; So we get to see that God's Love is not like human love! It's Love that forgives all past hurts, pain and truly Holy, As in The Lord's Prayer should we but truly adhere to it! Sadly in this modern world vengeance is still very active Causing untold damage to this cruel unrepentant world; We see this in War situations of intense agony and pain! St. Paul actually invites us to think a more excellent way, Which in turn creates an strong intimate Godly mindset, Living in today's world:- Still possible with genuine Faith, As it's like starting a new modern car on a power switch; And Paul reminds us there's nothing new under the Sun! So human love is 'Inconsistent & limited' unlike our God's Which is all-embracing and unconditional to all Believers; In France they claim there's Five Ways of Expressing Love, But with God there are an infinite number of ways to love, It's only with Jesus Christ can we reach the lost with Love!

Mark Lendon

The reflection to the left was written by Terry Trimmer who was a regular contributor to this magazine. It was first published in the September 2014 edition, and then it was read at his funeral in February by his granddaughter Gemma.

As well as Bullseye Terry contributed for a period to Parish Pump, the resource magazine we subscribe to (for Eustace, puzzles and more) and specific interest magazines such as for The Noel Coward Society. Other interests were Military History and the bond Hornchurch has with the island of Niue.

His contributions to Bullseye were much appreciated.

I hope to have a longer tribute from his family next month.

Carol Metcalfe
Editor



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.

The
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**THE AIR RAID
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INCIDENT**
*'whodunnit'
& quiz night*

Fri 6th March 8pm
Sat 7th March 2.30 & 7.30pm

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Tables of 6-8 - £8 per person
Bring your own Drinks & Snacks

For Tickets please contact by
e-mail mrjeh83@gmail.com
Ref Murder Mystery

Bell Ringers Birthday Peal



One of our bell ringers, Michelle Stephenson, recently celebrated her 50th birthday on 9th January 2026. At this time we also realised that she was just about ready to attempt her first peal. Although apprehensive about ringing continuously for 3 hours, Michelle agreed to give it a go as it was an opportunity not to be missed.

So, on 8th February 2026, a full peal on the 10 bells of St Andrew's was successfully completed to celebrate Michelle's 50th.

Very well done, Michelle, and thanks to all who took part in this occasion. Full details are shown below with a photograph of the band above.

Essex Association Hornchurch, Essex St Andrew
Sunday, 8th February 2026 in 3h 20min

5039 Grandsire Caters
Composed by George F Williams

- 1 Michelle A Stephenson
- 2 Helen J Carter
- 3 Clara M Waller
- 4 Marianne R Hayward
- 5 Lucas J Owen
- 6 John M Church
- 7 William J Stungo
- 8 Roderic K Bickerton
- 9 Clive J Stephenson (C)
- 10 James P Riley

Rung to celebrate the recent 50th birthday of Michelle Stephenson and 70th birthday of Andrew Barham.

First peal - 1.
First Grandsire - 3.

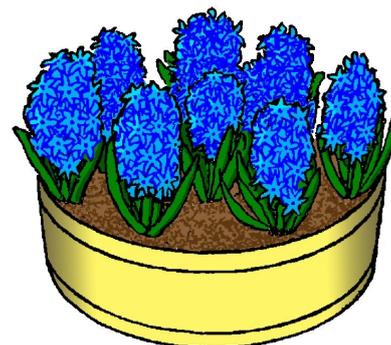
Clive Stephenson

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.



Easy Sudoku solution on Page 14

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

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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 how to run a church council meeting ...

From: The Rectory,
 St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Clearly, the sight of your vicar running out of the room halfway through your last church council meeting, saying he should have stayed as a traffic warden, where he was universally liked, has unnerved you. It would have unnerved me, too, since a universally popular traffic warden is an exceptional creature.

But perhaps it is necessary to give you some advice for the day when you do have to chair your first church council meeting.

1. Consider every agenda issue carefully beforehand and decide what you would like to do. Then, at the meeting, consult widely, listen to every opinion, weigh all the arguments, and then do precisely what you had decided before the meeting ever took place.

2. Never, ever, let council members discuss hymns, which avoids getting blood on the carpets.

3. Arrange the seating in rows, all facing the front, so that everyone must respond directly to you. The last thing you want is for council members to be able to discuss matters freely with one another.

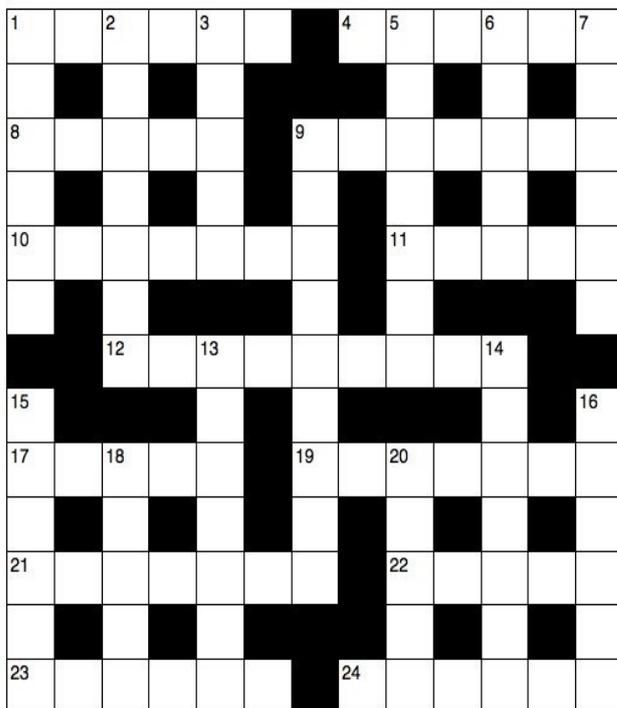
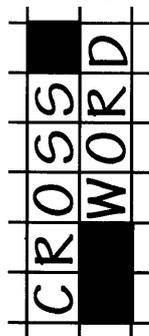
4. Start smoking a pipe. At those times when you are faced with an issue when you really are unsure of how to respond, taking out your pipe, dismantling it, searching for a pipe cleaner, squinting down the stem to see if it is clean, mopping out the goo in the bowl, searching for your tobacco pouch, filling the pipe, tamping it down, asking if you can borrow matches and attempting to light it several times over, will give you more than sufficient time to formulate a reply. Once you have perfected the routine, the silence will have been so protracted, that most of the committee will have long forgotten what the question was anyway.

5. If someone is talking too long, consult your diary, noisily and obsessively, about next month's appointments, or write a note to a committee member who is at the back of the room and get it passed to him. The speaker should soon get the message.

These are the simpler techniques of committee management. The advanced procedures must wait until you are strong enough to bear them.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace





Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)

Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 "They — — , " you will say, "but I'm not hurt!" (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Across: 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge. 12, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 19, Indige. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 24, Beggar.
Down: 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten. 9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.



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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 in 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

Lent Course

Weekly during the 6 weeks of Lent.
Starting on Wednesday 25th
February, continuing through March at
St Andrew's Church in the evenings.
7:30 PM AND 9PM

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

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

Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre Open daily 10am - 5pm:
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 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 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

Ingrebourne Nature Tots Fridays

Friday 27 February 2026 - Friday 20 March 2026 9.30 to 11.30 5-week ticket £40 or 1 week £9.50 Activities as the Tuesday group Advanced booking essential

The Spitfire 90th Anniversary exhibition. 7th and 8th March 10am to 4pm Admission £2.50 (adults) Featuring the life of the aviation designer of the Spitfire RJ Mitchell

Paint & Sip Thursday 19 March 2026 10:00am - 12:00pm Our instructor will walk you step-by-step through creating a beautiful painting on a canvas, all while you enjoy a comforting hot drink in a bright, cheerful daytime setting. All materials provided and tea/coffee included. Adults Only. £30.

Ingrebourne Wilder Holiday Club 5+ Tuesday 31 March 2026 and Tuesday 7 April 2026 9am to 3pm Child ticket: £37.00 Nature discovery, learning new skills, and following your interests with lots of time for free play! You can take part in everything from fire lighting to den building, natural crafts to tool use, and pond dipping to animal tracking

Ingrebourne Family Forest Fun Wednesday 1 April 2026 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Join us in the woods for a morning full of fun in nature. Look for mini-beasts, dig in the mud kitchen, build a shelter, create nature crafts, and enjoy a campfire (weather permitting). £8.80 per child. Only children require a ticket to attend. Assistance dogs welcome.

Ingrebourne Adventurers Wednesday 8 April 2026 1:00pm - 3:00pm £6.67 per child. £6.67 per adult. Join us on a walk to look for wildlife that is springing into life in April. We will look for birds, flowers, and hunt for bugs, with local wildlife expert Neil to help you

Ingrebourne Wild Evening Out Wednesday 8 April 2026 7:00pm - 9:00pm. This event will start and take place at the Albyns Farm Car park for an evening wildlife walk around the park's lake and woodland. As daylight fades, we'll look and listen for nocturnal species and use bat detectors to discover what comes alive after sunset £10.88 per child. £10.88 per adult.

Contact number: 01708 520364

Contact e-mail: ingrebourne@essexwt.org.uk



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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/>

Easter is the Reason for Christmas!

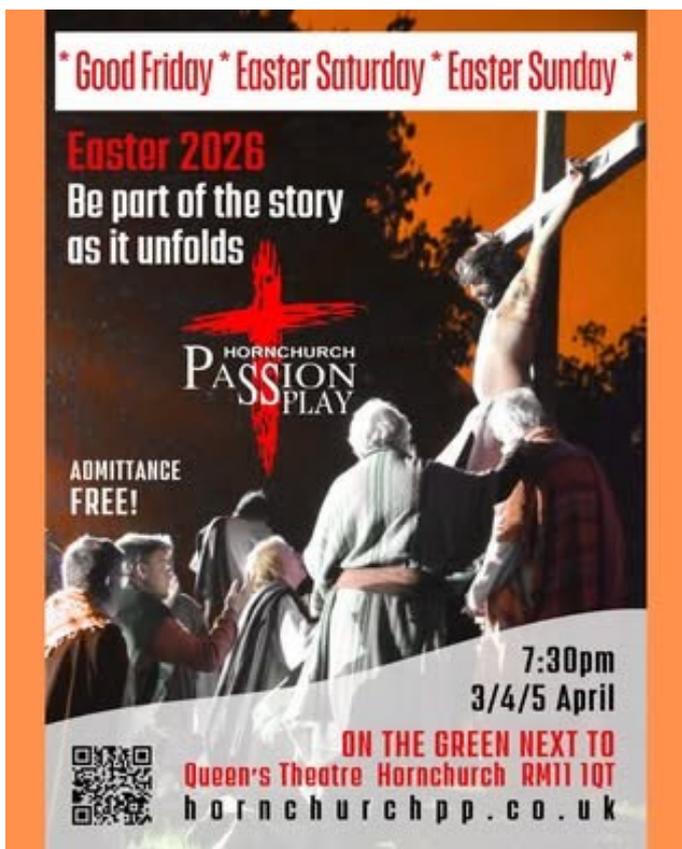
All welcome Saturday 14th March from 10.30-12.30 at North Street Hall, Hornchurch
Your help would be much appreciated

1. Providing Cakes
2. Serving Refreshments
3. Helping with craft activities (prepared for you)
4. In the hall to welcome all who come and to chat with them over refreshments
5. On the High Street or outside North Street Hall to hand out invitations to all our Easter Services and Hornchurch Passion Play
6. Praying for our outreach to the community before and on the day at home.

If you would like to promote the church organisations or groups to which you belong you are welcome to bring along flyers and have a small table or leave the flyers at St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch in the 'W' pigeonhole (Withers) or with the parish office.

Please contact Christine Withers by e mail christine@withers.org.uk or via the parish office 01708 441571 to let me know how you can help. I look forward to sharing with you in this ministry to our community.

Christine (Withers)



The Way of the Cross

'Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.' (Luke 9:23)

These words of Jesus are spoken at a turning point in the gospel. Jesus challenged the disciples about His identity and their commitment to Him: *'who do the crowds say I am?'* (Luke 9:18). It is at this point that He *'resolutely set out for Jerusalem'* (9:51). On our journey through Lent, as we look to the events of Good Friday and Easter, what are our priorities as Jesus' disciples?

To deny ourselves: this means to saying *No* to ourselves and *Yes* to God, as we humbly submit our will to His. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane *'not My will but Yours be done.'* (Luke 22:42). It means putting Jesus first in everything: our work, family, ambitions, possessions, marriage, finance and future. We will not be guided by self-interest, but by allowing God to show us how to live in His way.

To take up our cross: this reminds us that the disciple is not immune from suffering, as we follow Jesus along the way of the cross. Just as He carried His cross to Golgotha, we cannot avoid experiencing suffering in a fallen world. Every day we are to live in a way that demonstrates to everyone that we have died to ourselves, our selfish ways and ambitions, and seek to live for God. It means breaking old selfish habits and ways of thinking, as we allow God to renew us by His Spirit.

Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

In all of this we cannot lose, because like Jesus, it is only through death that we find God's new life. *'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.'* (Jim Elliot).

Canon Paul Hardingham
Writer at Parish Pump



Floodlighting of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch

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

4th March ~ In Loving Memory of **Frany**, just a breath away, 4th March 2002. Devoted wife, mum, nan and great nanna - **Susan King and Family**;

In Loving Memory of my grandparents **Mary and Harold Fitzgerald** ~ **Julie John**

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



A grand evening out ~ Ingrebourne Birds of Prey Flight & Talk Show

On Saturday 21st February we went to the Ingrebourne Visitors Centre for the visit of Barleylands Birds of Prey Talk and Flight.

The first half was a talk by the two bird handlers with an introduction to



three of their birds. There are 23 native birds of prey in the British Isles, not counting odd migrant birds and escapees.

First, we met Grace a very pretty kestrel, one of the most common (37-40,000 breeding pairs) birds of prey, the one we see hovering about the sides of roads. . She is 15 years old which is good for a kestrel, they don't live so long in the wild. When we see them hovering they are looking for food. They will catch birds and insects in flight but the most efficient way to catch small rodents is to follow their trails. They have specialized ultraviolet vision which can detect the urine trails of voles and mice which they see as a yellow glow. Follow that glow and there should be a mouse at the end of it; saves all that tedious waiting about for one to run. They rely on sight, their hearing is ok but their sense of smell is poor.

Then we met Jet who is a peregrine falcon. Jet was wearing his custom made leather hood designed to keep him calm. There are not so many peregrine falcons as there once were. They are very good at taking pigeons in flight. Therefore they were deliberately shot 80 years ago during the war to protect the delicious military carrier pigeons and numbers have not fully recovered. However, they have adapted well to an urban environment. Cities have plenty of pigeons and a tall building provides shelter rather like a mountain cliff. Their night vision is poor but cities are well lit at night.

There are 5 native species of owl. The

barn, tawney, little owl, short-eared owl and long eared owl. The eagle owl and the snowy owl pass through but snowy owls have not bred here for 50 years.

Edgar (left) is a very lively tawny owl. They are not sociable birds. Short-sighted but with very good long-range eyesight, well camouflaged with feathers resembling tree bark. They are the most common owl but heard (to-whit, to-who) rather than seen.

One of the handlers carried each bird around the seating so we could see them closely and we were allowed to take photographs so long as we did not touch the birds or distract them. Questions were encouraged throughout the talk, especially from the children. Then we broke for refreshments and a collection of discarded loose feathers and dry owl pellets could be inspected.

Then we met Ken the Harris hawk. These are a North American bird from the mid-west states like Arizona that has escaped from captivity in some numbers. Unlike other birds of prey they will work to hunt in packs, taking turns to chase a rabbit until the prey is exhausted. They have managed to breed here but they are susceptible to frost bite on their wings. Occasionally they have also bred with native buzzards producing a hybrid bird called a hazzard, large and a very good hunter. Ken was invited to fly across the room between handlers but it was all too much of an effort, even for a tasty reward.

The next bird we met (below) was Gonzo the African vulture who was adorable. He's 20 years old and doesn't fly any more as he has no tail



feathers. He lost these after recovering from cancer of the uropygial gland that provides oil to the feathers. He walked up and down meeting us all. Vultures are not pretty (I'd say he had character) but they do an excellent job where ever they are, keeping their environment clean.

The final bird was Mystic the barn owl. They are less in number than the



tawny but seen more often flying at dawn or dusk. Other names are the screech owl the church owl or the ghost (silent flight, white under belly) owl. She could be distinguished as a female by the black speckles down her chest. Usually the female of a prey bird is the larger. Mystic came to Barleylands having been confiscated from a family who had bought her as a pet for their daughter, a fan of Harry Potter. Sadly, they thought that the magic of Hogwarts was the right way to keep her and she was very unwell in a parrot cage. She is beautiful now with the right food and exercise.

Mystic flew across the room for us quite a few times, until she had enough to eat and was literally fed up. She joined the other birds in their individual carrying cases, lined with astroturf and we gave the handlers a round of applause. It was a very interesting 2 hours that I can recommend if they come again. More about the Ingrebourne Country Park on P10.

**Carol Metcalfe
Photographs by Chris Metcalfe**

The Bridge

At our session on Wednesday 18th February we were treated to pancakes, with lemon and sugar. We also had some extra help to serve from two delightful young people, Olivia 9 and Ava 10 both on holiday from Hacton Primary, also members of 14th Hornchurch Brownies who attend with Olivia's Mum who is a volunteer at the Bridge. The guests enjoyed chatting to the girls, they also enjoyed a pancake race around the hall by the girls, great fun!

Jeanette



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"

At Messy Church

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

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 4th March at 2pm **LETS HAVE SOME BIG BANDS, SWING & DANCE** - presented by Graham Fenegan. A selection of swing, dance and more from the best of American Big Bands plus some British ones as well. Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Ted Heath, and Geraldo will contribute to a swinging afternoon.

Wed 18th March at 2pm **REMEMBERING THE SWINGING 60s** - presented by Mike Beaman and Stephen Raindle. Music from a never to be forgotten decade that will be relived via the music of the day. Don't expect it all to be pop but much of it will be. Nostalgia at its best including a reminiscence of the 1966 World Cup.

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

Time Out

There were 3 tables of 5 each at a Quiz Night at North Street Hall on Monday 9th February. The Quiz master was Alan Ruyten accompanied by Hilary. There was a prize for the best table name won by 'the Famous Five' they also won the quiz by one point. We all had a good evening of fun and knowledge.

On Monday 23rd February we welcomed Lois Amos who presented a slide show about the history of Bedfords Park, and especially the Walled Garden. She outlined, with photos, the decline and regeneration of the garden with the help of an army of volunteers. There were 27 members present, including some Escape members. A very inspiring story of her journey to bring the garden back to life.

Photo below of Jackie, Lois and Val

Meetings in March are:

Monday 9th March - 7pm in North Street Hall, a craft evening of glass painting. Please bring a jar to paint. Paints provided.

Monday 23rd March - 2.30pm in St Andrew's Hall, a talk given by our PCSO Angela.

Please contact Val on 07527 325996 if you require any information about these meetings or the group.

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

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

Jeanette



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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*

A prayer as Lent continues

Let me hold fast to You, beautiful Lord, Whom the angels themselves yearn to look upon. Wherever You go, I will follow You. If You pass through fire, I will not flinch, I fear no evil when You are with me. You carry my griefs, because You grieve for my sake. You passed through the narrow doorway from death to life, to make it wide enough for all to follow. Nothing can ever now separate me from Your love.

Bernard of Clairvaux 1090 -1153

The Love that gives love

Jesus Christ, the love that gives love,
You are higher than the highest star;
You are deeper than the deepest sea;
You cherish us as Your own family;
You embrace us as Your own spouse;
You rule over us as Your own subjects;
You welcome us as Your dearest friend.
Let all the world worship You.

Hildegard of Bingen 1098 – 1179

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

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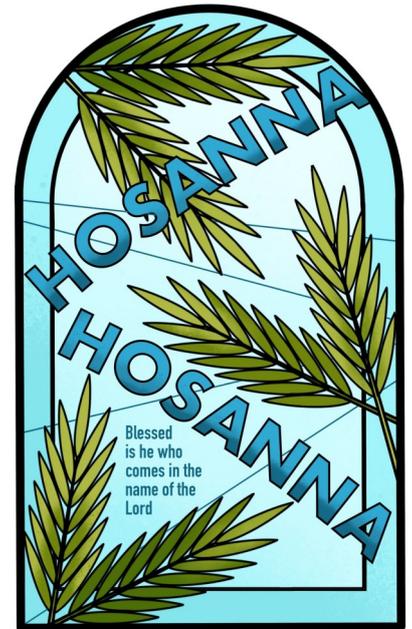
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SUNDAY SERVICES in the Parish of Hornchurch

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		February 2026
Baptisms	None	
Marriages	None	
In Memoriam	"I am the resurrection and the life" John 11v25	
	None	



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
 Jacque Humphreys 01708 441571

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