

## The Darling Buds of May



There is an old saying that "*March winds and April Showers bring forth May flowers.*"

These familiar words are believed to have originated from an old poem written in the 1610s. It was certainly in common use during the late 1800s.

However, like many similar old sayings, it is not limited to explaining the technical aspect of horticulture. It can also teach us that a period of suffering or hardship can be the foundation for a period of joy.

We have just passed through the Easter period, which was certainly – for Jesus and many of His followers – very much a time of suffering. The disciples were not to know that Jesus would rise again, having defeated death (even though He had tried to tell them on many occasions). Their joy on that Easter Sunday must have been so much greater because of the suffering that they had gone through seeing their friend condemned to death and executed as a common criminal.

No rational person looks forward to suffering and Jesus was no exception, as witnessed by His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. However, as the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, "*For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning it's shame.*"

Being Christians does not exempt us from the type of pain and suffering endured by the human race. However, at times like these, we need to remind ourselves that God is still with us, no matter what difficulties we might be going through. These times will eventually pass.



As Psalm 30 reminds us, "*weeping may remain for a night; but joy comes in the morning.*" Of course it may not happen as quickly as we would like. We need to trust that God knows best.

Biting winds and torrential rain are not something we look forward to. However, when we witness the beauty of the spring flowers at this time of the year, hopefully, we will consider that a few weeks of inclement weather are a small price to pay!

**Pat Bromhall**  
**Reader**

**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](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**

June Bullseye Sunday 3rd May  
 July Bullseye Sunday 7th June

**Uploading**

June Bullseye Wed. 27th May  
 July Bullseye 24th June

**The Bullseye for June will be in the churches and online by Sunday 31st May 2026**

Readers on-line who wish to complete the sudoku puzzle on Page 5 or the crossword puzzle on Page 9 will need to print those pages; the PDF format is not interactive.

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**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.

**Services for May**

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 3rd May 5th Sunday of Easter**

8.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
10.15am Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
6.30 Evening Prayer at St Andrew's

**Sunday 10th May 6th Sunday of Easter**

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 – Choral Evensong at St Andrew's

**Sunday 17th,**

8.30am - BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
10.15am - Parade service 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

**Sunday 24th Pentecost**

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

**Sunday 31st Trinity Sunday**

8.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
10.15am Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
10.15am - Morning Worship at St George's  
6.30 Healing Prayer 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.

**Pentecost not a Ghost but a Gift**

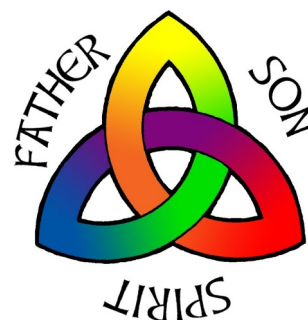
We used to call it Whitsun – 'White Sunday' because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we've even changed its name. It's now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.



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**NEXT DATES:**

**17TH MAY AND 21ST JUNE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
REYD SONIA GROOMBRIDGE OR MANDY GREEN**

**VIA THE PARISH OFFICE:  
01708 441571**



Guide, Brownie and Rainbow News

2nd Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Rainbows

Phoebe and Emily (below) were proud to be presented with their Rainbow Bronze Awards



1st Hornchurch East District Ranger Unit

Ranger Quiz Night and Bake Sale

The 1st Hornchurch East Rangers Unit recently hosted a Quiz Night and Bake Sale, bringing together members of the church and community for an enjoyable evening of fun and fellowship. Teams took part in a lively quiz while guests enjoyed a selection of delicious homemade treats. The quiz and bake sale raised £225.54 for Havering Association for people with Disabilities (H.A.D.), an organisation based in Hornchurch (RM11 3NN) that supports adults with additional needs. Alongside this, a raffle



held during the evening raised a further £195 towards the Rangers' new unit. The Rangers would like to thank everyone who helped organise, bake, donate raffle prizes, and take part in the evening, making it such a successful event.



**Charity of the Month for May 2026**

**Where hardship means hunger... urban farmers can grow hope.**

In the crowded and noisy settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening.

With no formal work opportunities, heartbreakingly low pay, and no social support, it's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face.

The aching hunger is bad enough. The relentless stress is overwhelming.

'When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food,' says Fridah Moraa, a recently widowed grandmother determined to support her family on what little she earns.

'Now I'm responsible for everything.' With school costs, rent and water to cover, providing food for every meal is a problem that never goes away.

With her inner strength, unstoppable resolve, and a little help from Beacon

of Hope, Fridah is overcoming poverty to feed the youngest members of her family and protect them from the threat of malnutrition.

Fridah rightly takes pride in all she is achieving: 'When I harvest what I've planted, it makes me happy. Urban farming has changed my life.'

Christian Aid and its supporters are joining together once again during Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) to fundraise in all kinds of ways – from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge.

With seven days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts. What will you do to support someone like Fridah to grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope?

- **£5** could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.
- **£10** could pay for the pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.
- **£15** could purchase the hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.
- **£30** could buy the trio of cone garden planters that host hundreds of plants in a tiny city space



Find out more about the campaign at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)

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

**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)

**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.

**Arlene Trump**

**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.

**Easy Sudoku** solution on Page 14

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

Passion Play ~ Easter 2026 ~ A photographic record.

The Passion Play was very well attended this year.

Good Friday was dull and wet and a large crowd was not expected; it was thought that the threat of heavy rain would put people off and more would attend on Saturday.

They were wrong, but they were right.

A large number of people attended on Friday despite the weather.

Then even more came on Saturday and Sunday when it was chilly but dry.

I don't recall ever seeing the Green as crowded as it was on Saturday night and I have attended since the first performance in 1995. Others with better spatial assessment abilities may correct me.

I believe some families had travelled a distance from out of the borough.

The Passion Play had been promoted on social media, tik tok especially and this (so I am reliably informed) generated a lot of enthusiasm both for the event and the young people and young clergy spreading The Word.

I was standing near an Indian family who were very struck with the power of the action and performances.

It doesn't matter how many times I have seen the play.

It doesn't matter that you recognize the voices and faces of friends and neighbours.

When the Calvary team hit those hammers and the cross goes up, they are no longer the men and women you have served a pot of tea with.

They are the disciples.  
That is Jesus Christ, dying for us.

This is Jerusalem.

A small boy, maybe 12ish, had been larking about with his mates but now went quiet.

Then as Jesus appeared over the parked cars (temporary spotlights) he said, in wonder, "He's Alive!"

And that alone will have made all the hard work of those who took part, whatever their task or role, worthwhile.

Photographs on this page and the next, by Michelle Petrou, Chris Metcalfe and the Hornchurch Passion.







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**Flag Days for 2026**  
 (Union Jack unless otherwise stated)

**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



**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](mailto:enquiries@parishpump.co.uk)*

**On dealing with summer fetes**

From: The Rectory,  
 St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

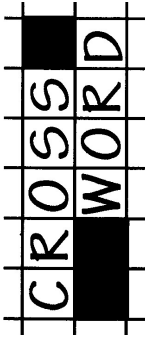
So, you are beginning to plan your first Summer Fete in your new parish. That you appear to be looking forward to it shows how little you know about them. Parishes hold Summer Fetes so that their clergy can preach more meaningfully on purgatory. Their ostensible purpose is to raise money for the church - which is wholly illogical. The parish could double the money raised if the Fete were dropped, none of the endless preparations made, if everyone spent a pleasant afternoon in their own gardens and each person simply donated £20 to the church instead. But we still feel obliged to go to endless trouble, making ourselves miserable so we can show each other what a good time we are having. That it generally pours seems to make the entire event even more grimly satisfying.

No, the real reasons for a Summer Fete are twofold. First, it gives the entire parish the chance to inspect the Rector's garden. Whatever state it is in, it will cause disapproval. If it is poorly kept, then I am clearly being ungrateful for having three acres of lawn to enjoy. Mowing it each week should be one of my delights; what else would I do with a whole day off each week anyway? The hand mower, kindly given by Colonel French is assumed to be quite adequate - and rumour has it that I need to lose weight anyway. The mower was presented to me when the Colonel bought his own gardener a sit-on motor mower - which is of a size and opulence that makes me assume it has a drinks cabinet and satellite navigation.

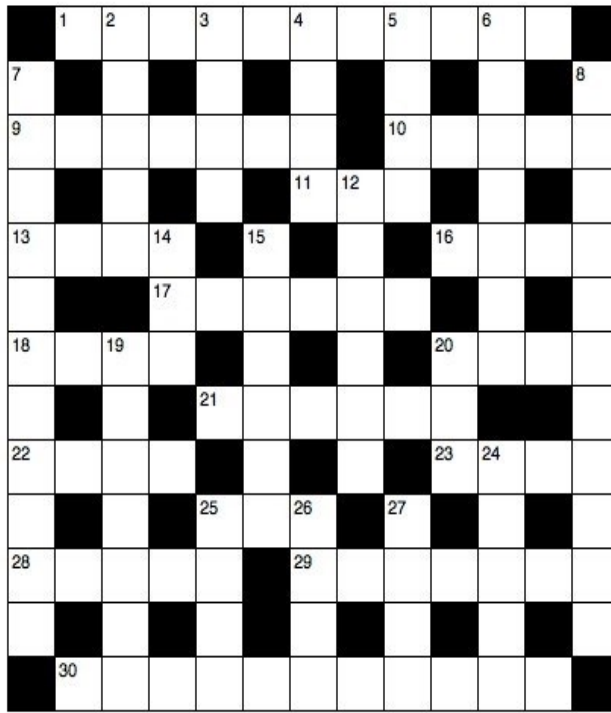
The second reason for a Fete comes as a special perk for the organisers. It gives them a chance to inspect the inside of the Rectory. Under the pretence of looking for a little more sugar, they can systematically inspect all the kitchen cupboards and comment on their contents. By the end of the day, the whole parish will know what marmalade I spread on my toast, that I use unnecessarily expensive washing powder, and where I have unsuccessfully tried to hide the gin. The details of what then happens while the Fete is in progress must wait until my next letter, when we will have had our own. It is now time for Evensong, drinks with Major Mallet and his wife, and then a quiet evening with a good book, while I toy with other possible hiding places for the gin this year.

Your loving uncle,  
**Eustace**





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**Across**

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
- 16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts13:50) (6)
- 18 Burden (Luke11:46) (4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21 Sign (Luke23:38) (6)
- 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25 Has (anag.) (3)
- 28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, — sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

**Down**

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3 'A bruised — He will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
- 14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
- 15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19 Refrain (1 Peter2:11) (7)
- 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
- 25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke6:30) (4)
- 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

**Across:** 1, Overwhelmed; 9, Valleys; 10, Strap; 11, Top; 13, Reel; 16, To do; 17, Incline; 18, Load; 20, West; 21, Notice; 22, Wash; 23, Thin; 25, Ash; 28, Noah's; 29, Ever not; 30, Onesiphorus.  
**Down:** 2, Value; 3, Reed; 4, Hosp; 5, Lisp; 6, Ear lobe; 7, Overflowing; 8, Opportunity; 12, Obtain; 14, Lid; 15, A cross; 19, Abstain; 20, Wet; 24, Hindu; 25, Asks; 26, Hero.



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**Christmas Market**

We thank Jeanette Street for all her hard work in organising the Christmas Market. In the April edition of Bullseye, Jeanette stated that she was stepping back. So we think this is the opportunity to form a Fundraising Committee for St Andrew's church. We have sounded out a few people, and the response is positive. We understand the Christmas Market will be held on Saturday 21st November 2026 at North Street Hall. If you are interested in being a member of the Fundraising Committee, would you please contact Janet & Graham Martin on 07922 138172.

Thank you. God Bless.

**Janet & Graham Martin**

## Havering Singers Fundraising Quiz Night

### Saturday 16th May

North Street Halls, North Street  
Hornchurch RM11 1QX  
7pm for a 7.30 start

Bring your friends for a fun night  
and don't forget your drinks and nibbles

Tables of no more than 8  
£7 per person



**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 Fridays** 1, 8, 15, 22 May 2026 9.30 to 11.30 1 week £10.35 Or discuss block booking with the centre. 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. Advanced booking essential

Next period of block booking Friday 5 June 2026 - Friday 17 July 2026 £59.29 - child ticket (7-week block) £10.35 - child ticket (1 week)

**Ingrebourne Dream Catcher Workshop Sunday 3 May 2026** 2:00pm - 3:00pm Advance booking is essential. Please note this event is for ages 5+ only. All children must be accompanied by an adult. £7.75 per child taking part in the activity.

**Ingrebourne Home Education Group.** Now at Grange Farm Chigwell. 6, 13, 20 May 1pm to 3pm. £10.50 a single week; for block booking contact Grange Farm via [learnrod@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:learnrod@essexwt.org.uk)

**Ingrebourne River Explorers: Home Education Session. Tuesday 19 May 2026 1:00pm - 2:30pm** Join us for our special monthly outdoor learning Home Education sessions. This month is rivers! Taking place at Hacton Road Car Park (not from the centre), at the end of the park, we will head to our Ingrebourne River access site, take some measurements of the river, and use our nets to see what creatures live in the river! This session is best suited to children aged 6-12 (Key Stage 2). Children remain the responsibility of their accompanying adult and must be supervised at all times. £7.73 per child

**Ingrebourne Minibeast Hunting Wednesday 27 May 2026** 10:30am-11:30am; 12pm-1pm Explore different habitats to identify a variety of species that call these places home. See how many you can identify and learn what makes each minibeast mighty! All equipment will be provided, including: sweep nets, bug pots, and ID sheets. £5.64 per child. Adult price on application.

For other Week of Wildlife events copy this website address [www.essexwt.org.uk/events](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events)



**Ingrebourne Owl Flight & Talk Show Saturday 30th May 2026** 5:00pm - 7:00pm (arrive from 4.30 for 5pm start)

Barley Lands Farm Park bring their informative and fun show to Ingrebourne.

Covering a wide range of topics that include conservation, habitat, diet, adaptations and biology. Whilst giving you the opportunity to be up close and personal with these magnificent birds, capturing your attention and imagination.

This is a 2 hour talk with a 15-minute Q and A / tea break in the middle. £10.90 adults and children

**Natural mandalas workshop Sunday 31 May 2026** 11:00am - 12:00pm In this gentle, hands-on workshop, participants are invited to design their own nature mandala using a thoughtfully curated collection of natural materials—such as leaves, stones, flowers, seeds, shells, and branches—already gathered and prepared for you. Please note this event is for ages 5+ only. All children must be accompanied by an adult. £6.70 per person

Contact number: 01708 520364

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

**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)

**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

**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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+44 7483 405861

**Calling all Flower Arrangers**  
(or those who love to see them in church)

We would love to hear from you if you love flowers and particularly arranging them. We are a friendly crew who presently do them and we're hoping that some more people would like to get involved. No experience necessary. We don't have regularly times that we do them so if you are interested, we can probably fit around when you are available. If you are interested please ring **Jackie on 07758 058194.**

**Faith: Don't Be Vague!**  
**Part II ~ Use It!**

A year later, Pastor Paul was again in that mining town, preaching. Entering the chapel, he saw a tall couple, radiantly joyful. He recognised the woman. Later she said "This wonderful man is now my husband. He came last summer to form a teenage choir and teach them Christian songs and hymns. The girls all tried to get his attention, but he had eyes only for me. He perfectly fitted the description of the man I was to receive by faith. Isn't God amazing!

Amen!

**Revd Peter Evans**

**Twelve Christians killed by Islamic State in north-eastern Nigeria**

Twelve Christians were killed and a church building burned down when Islamists attacked a Christian community in Adamawa State, north-eastern Nigeria, on 21st April. The attack was carried out by the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) "By the grace of God Almighty," declared an Islamic State (IS – also known as ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) social media account, "soldiers of the Caliphate raided the Christian village of Kubako ... killing 12 Christian combatants." In recent months, IS propaganda has used the word "combatants" to describe Christians and Jews who have refused to accept either conversion to Islam or dhimmi status as subjugated people under Islamic rule. North-eastern Nigeria is the epicentre of ISWAP and Boko Haram activity. Kubako lies just across the state boundary from Borno State, where ISWAP has slaughtered hundreds of Christian and Muslim civilians as well as Nigerian soldiers. In a separate incident on the same day, also in northern Adamawa State, suspected Islamists killed Emmanuel Ezeokwe, a church minister in the village of Zinai. Tens of thousands of Christians have been killed by Islamists in northern and Middle Belt Nigeria over the last 15 years in what church leaders have referred to as an anti-Christian "genocide".

**How you can pray**  
Ask the Lord to bring an end to this campaign of violence, for the sake of all people in north-eastern Nigeria and especially our brothers and sisters who are viewed as "combatants". Pray that He will comfort the bereaved and make His people in Adamawa State a witness of His glory and grace

**Barnabas Aid**



**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"

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

*Many thanks to all who have sponsored the floodlighting during April 2026:*

In Loving Memory of **Joy Hobson** a wonderful wife and mother to our children ~ **Barry Hobson**

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



The Friends of the City of London Churches ~ A Brand New Website



membership and volunteering - and merchandise which helps the charity provide small grants to the City Churches that need support.

The Friends have a full programme of events, talks, guided walks to churches, visits to Guild and Livery Companies and other places of interest around the City.

Each church has a separate website so for the up-to-date advice on the church services it would be advisable to check the individual website, some of the City churches have a different congregation on Sundays compared to their weekday attendees.

Check out the much-improved website at [www.fotcc.org.uk](http://www.fotcc.org.uk)

**A Day in the City?**

The Friends of the City Churches have unveiled a brand new website which is now live. Lots of very useful information, and a much improved website, well worth exploring.

In the Church Finder there are 63 entries relating to churches of all denominations within the City plus surviving Towers and City gardens/ churchyards. Also the website has useful information about events in the churches, as well as services and concerts. Details about Friends

**Rob Brabner**

**Red Squirrels on the Isle of Wight**

A sunbeam, in the woods of Wight  
 Illumines a magenta coat  
 And, sat within that beam of light.  
 A squirrel – red! And how we gloat!  
 Though squirrels are a common sight  
 We see them nearly ev'ry day  
 Aloft within the treetops height  
 But these are never red – just grey.  
 But there, upon the Isle of Wight  
 No greys have ever set a paw  
 So go! You never know, you might  
 See squirrels you've not seen before.  
 A lovely island's best delight –  
 Red squirrels on the Isle of Wight

**Nigel Beeton**

**At Messy Church**

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

- Saturday 16th May** Pentecost 3.30 - 5 pm  
outside St Andrew's Church
- Wednesday 19th August** Summer 3.30 - 5 pm  
outside St Andrew's Church
- Friday 30th October** Light Party 4.30 - 6.30 pm North Street Hall  
Hornchurch
- Sunday 6th December** Advent 3.30 pm - 5 pm  
St Andrew's Church Halls

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.



Messy Church  
in Hornchurch

**Visit of the Bishop of Chelmsford**

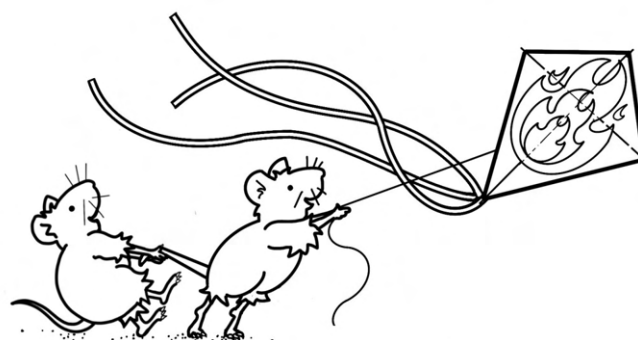
Bishop Guli undertook a Pilgrimage during Lent and Holy Week walking the Barking Area Art Trail. On Day Six (Tuesday 31st March) she and her team walked from Harold Wood to Romford visiting St Andrew's on the way. She saw our stained glass windows, our pulpit, altar cloth, the old Bible and other books.

Then the party moved on to Langtons and to The Green to inspect preparations for the Passion Play.

**Prayer for Pentecost 2026**

Loving Father and giver of all gifts,  
 This month we thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit which You promise to all who call on Your name, turn away from self-centred living and put their trust in Jesus. Help us to do that, Lord. Then, when events in the world and the circumstances of our own lives are difficult to understand, we have Your Holy Spirit who brings life and power.  
 He is faithful and constant. He will lead us into all truth and give us the words and thoughts we need to experience Your peace in the midst of turmoil. At this time when we remember the birth of Your church, may we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit afresh and move into each new day confident that we are yours and that in You is our true security.  
 In Jesus' name.  
 Amen.

**Daphne Kitching**



**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.



**The Holy Spirit and You**

Anyone who reads the Book of Genesis can see God in Every facet of Creation the Divine Creator of Perfection. In Genesis Chapter's 1 and 2, we see this order in steps, The Sun, Moon and Stars are created on the fourth day, And 'The Fishes of The Sea' are created on the fifth day; I urge those sceptics of Creation to read these Chapter's, As they will give you a deeper insight to the heart of God; So, God's pattern of creation is without doubt perfection! You won't find this in AI or social media because they are In competition with God to take people into False Reality; Removing Human Beings from the natural order of God! "AI and Digital Identity" could be the entry for Antichrist? No one explains how Eyes of Humans came by Evolution! That is a major problem to anyone accepting that Theory, Because it basically denies all the existence of a Holy God. That in itself should make us stop and wonder at Creation! When we see Flowers blooming or sight of Cherry Blossom, Or the colours and varieties of Birds and Animals, "It's God" And have no doubt, all children and adults really know this; St Paul states, "There's nothing new, under The Sun" and in Ephesians 1 v 18, Paul answers those who doubt this Truth:- "I Pray also that the eyes of your Heart may be Enlightened" Whether it's Sparrows, Magpies, Robins or Woodpeckers, all Of them know their unique calls that lead to their courtship, That's how our God procreates and rejuvenates everything!

**Mark Lendon**

Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

**Wed 6th May at 2pm BLUE AND THE BLUES** - presented by Graham Fenegan. Music that has 'blue' in the title be it popular, orchestral, classical or any genre and include the sky, sea, moon or even the River Danube but additionally there will be some 'Blues' singers and musicians. If everyday day you have the blues come along and shake them away.

**Wed 20th May at 2pm WAKE UP & SETTLE DOWN** - presented by Stephen Raindle. A selection of mainly classical music that will vary from up-tempo to restful. There will be marches, boisterous dances, adagios, night time melodies and soothing vocals.

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

**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 P5

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

At the meeting on Monday 13th April in North Street Hall 16 members welcomed Mike Brace who talked about his life and achievements following an accident which took his sight as a child; very inspiring.

On Monday 27th April Kim McClean took the group through a Tai Chi session.

**Meeting in May**

**Monday 11th 7pm** in North Street Hall - Armchair Theatre - a play reading.

There is no meeting on Monday 25th as this is a Bank Holiday.

For more information about the group or meetings please contact Val on 07527 325996.

Jeanette and Val

**Duty Done (For this month)**

Sitting there, on Sunday morning,  
Congregations in their pews  
Read their magazines, informing  
Them of all the latest news.

All save one who sits there smiling –  
She knows that journal very well  
Having spent a month compiling –  
She knows what those pages tell!

She it was who, deadlines facing  
Got those varied items in  
Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing  
Each a battle she must win!

Though she earns no princely wages  
Though she gladly gives her time  
Efficiently she fills those pages  
Choosing pictures, prose, and rhyme.

So she sits, her rest deserving  
For this month her duty's done  
Maybe she's just strength conserving –  
Soon she starts another one!

Nigel Beeton



**New Windmill Hall**  
ST. MARY'S LANE, UPMINSTER, RM14 2QH

# Community Café

**Every Friday**  
**11am – 3pm**



**A warm welcome space**

Optional activities to support your health and wellbeing

**Come alone or bring a friend**

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

**Refreshments and snacks at affordable prices\***

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

**Let's build something great, together!**

For more details email [newwindmill@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:newwindmill@hotmail.co.uk) or call 01708 220242

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

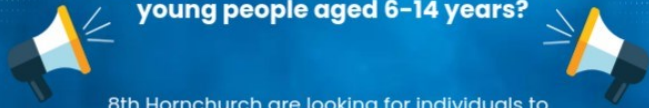
## Faith and Faith: Word and word

Margaret, an old friend just rang me, without meaning to. It turns out some church friends have been giving her grief, saying "You can see the word (Word?}. Just believe it". They even say to each other "Is she really saved?" Now Margaret remembered, from long ago, something about rhema faith, and asked what that was about. I answered "Rhema is a Greek word meaning 'a saying or instruction', usually to an individual. So; rhema faith is trust in a word that God has said to you, or has pointed out to you in the Bible, as applying to you personally." That kind of word is like a seed which you allow God to plant in you, which you water by enjoying it, thanking God for it, and trusting that God will bring it to germination and fruition. That might take a short time, or a long time. The thing is, it is your treasure, for safe-keeping, for you to ponder and meditate on, until you have the conviction that the event will happen, or the thing exists and has your name on it. I will give you examples of rhema faith next month, Deo volente (God willing.)

**Revd Peter Evans**

## 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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**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**

**March 2026**

**Baptisms**

**March 19th** Roman James Harding

**Marriages**

None

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

**March 6th** Stanley Wood 89  
**10th** Patricia Annette Hedges 92  
**19th** Alexander Charles Beckman 90



**PARISH STAFF**  
 (Days off in brackets)

**Vicar**  
 Revd Canon Ken Wylie (Friday)  
 01708 441571

**Associate Priest**  
 Revd Dr Marianne Hayward  
 01708 441571

**Readers**  
 Pat Bromhall 01708 441571  
 Carole Sherratt 01708 441571

**Authorised Local Preachers**  
 Anne Jarrett 01708 441571  
 Mark Cornish 01708 441571

**Pastoral Care Team**  
 0789 55 12480

**SAFEGUARDING TEAM**  
 by e-mail to

**Children**  
 child.safeguarding@parishofhornchurch.co.uk

**WHO'S WHO in the Parish of Hornchurch**

**PARISH OFFICE**  
 222 High Street, Hornchurch,  
 RM12 6QP

**www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk**  
 Office hours:  
 Monday—Thursday 10.00am - 4.00pm  
 Friday 10.00—12 noon.

General enquiries about Baptism, Marriages and Hall bookings should be made to St Andrew's Parish Office  
 Staff: Arlene Trump and Nina Mortimer  
 Tel: 01708 441571 e-mail:  
**office@parishofhornchurch.co.uk**

**UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS**  
**Scouts, Cubs and Beavers:**  
 Andrew Rice 01277 262702  
**Girls' Brigade:**  
 Karen Speller 01708 442848  
**Guides, Brownies and Rainbows:**  
 Sandra Cox 07932 192535

**CHURCH WARDENS**  
 Jeremy Shearmur 01708 441571  
 Anne Jarrett " " " "

**Choir Master** Bill Brooks  
 01708 509489  
**Organist and Worship Band coordinator** Andy Losq

**PRAYER NETWORK**  
 Jane Harder and  
 Jacquie Humphreys 01708 441571

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