Bullseye News from the Parish of Hornchurch

December 2026

Bullseye

FREE

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News from the Parish of Hornchurch

St Andrew's, St George's, St Matthew's and Messy Church

Advent

Welcome to Advent! I thought I would have a look to see what Advent books I might have to offer inspiration for this article. In my Kindle library I found "Do nothing, Christmas is Coming" written by our former bishop, Stephen Cottrell. For each day of December there is a challenge to look at some traditional pre-Christmas preparations followed by possible less stressful ways to tackle them. It is a spiritual Advent calendar; the chapters are very short. On my real-world bookshelf I found "Listening to the music of the soul" by our current bishop, Guli Francis-Dehqani. It has eight reflections each with a QR code link to a piece of music. These two books remind me that Jesus came to make our burdens lighter. It's very hard to celebrate Christmas fully when we are exhausted mentally, physically and/or spiritually.

Like the season of Lent, for the Church Advent is a time for prayer and reflection. We know we are going to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and we are invited to examine what that means for us. How does the life, death and resurrection of Jesus affect the way we live each day? Advent also reminds us that Jesus will return. Are we ready for that? Those are big, deep questions but I take encouragement from the two books I mentioned that, while the questions are challenging, we can approach them in bite-sized pieces.

And then we have our Advent church services. We may be keen to get to the Christmas carols and the familiar gospel stories, but Advent is a time to look at the whole of God's plan. Each Sunday has a theme. In our Parish we remember the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary the mother of Jesus as we light the candles on our Advent wreath. People who prepared the way for Jesus and told others what God would do through him. Other churches focus more on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love: the things that Jesus brings. In Advent we are preparing to celebrate the fact that Jesus chose to live as a human and show us how to live a life of hope, peace, joy and love. Christmas is all about showing those things to each other and helping more people meet Jesus and want to live like Him.

It's not easy to resist the pressure of endless Christmas adverts and movies to celebrate in a particular way. Spending time each day in prayer and reflection is always a good idea, but it can seem impossible especially in the run-up to Christmas. God doesn't want it to be a burden. The Gospels make clear that Jesus grabs every minute He can to recentre Himself with God not despite the pressures on Him, but because of them. He invites us to follow in His footsteps. Being like Jesus requires frequent times of spiritual preparation. I don't think we'll see that advert on our TV this Christmas. It's up to us to show others what that's like.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas.

Anne Jarrett
Authorised Local Preacher



What's on

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

Weekly meetings

Mon.	10.00am to 11.30 am 2.30 and 7.00 pm 8.30 pm	**Tadpoles** St Andrew's large hall, for children and their adults **Time Out** 2nd Monday of month meeting is 7pm North Street hall and 4th Monday meeting 2.30pm St Andrew's. **Escape** (1st & 3rd) St Andrew's small hall
Tues.	~ ~	~ ~
Wed.	9.30-11.00 am	**0-2 Playgroup** St Andrew's 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.

Parish Mission Statement

What is our purpose? We strive to:

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

"Worship in spirit and in truth" John 4.24 NIV

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

Bring others to knowledge of and faith in Jesus Christ
Jesus said - "Make all nations My disciples" Matthew 28.19 NIV

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

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Readers on-line who wish to complete the sudoku puzzle on Page 4 or the crossword puzzle on Page 8 will need to print those pages; the PDF format is not interactive.

Bullseye programme Contents to the Editor 2026/7

January Bullseye Sunday 6th December
February Bullseye Sunday 3rd January

Uploading

January Bullseye 30th December
February Bullseye Wed. 27th January

The Bullseye for January will be in the churches and online by Sunday 3rd January 2027

Useful Telephone Numbers

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

Pastoral care / Prayer requests

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

Services for December

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 6th December 2nd Sunday of Advent
8.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
10.15am Holy Communion at St Andrew's (also livestreamed)
3.30pm-5pm – Messy Church Advent
6.30 Blue Christmas and Memorial Service at St Andrew's
Tuesday, 8th December at 1pm– Lunch-time Carols followed by refreshments at St Andrew's
Sunday 13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent
8.30am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's
10.15am - Nativity, toy and Parade service St Andrew's
10.15am - Holy Communion at St George's
6.30pm – Evening Prayer at St Andrew's
Saturday, 19th December at 2.30pm (North Street Large Hall) Christingle
Sunday 20th, 4th Sunday of Advent
8.30am - BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's
10.15am - Holy Communion at St Andrew's (also livestreamed)
10.15am - Carol Service at St George's
11.00am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Matthew's
2.45 pm - The Well at Christmas at St Matthew's
6.30pm - Nine Lessons and Carols at St Andrew's
Thursday 24th Christmas Eve
10am – Holy Communion at St Andrew's
4pm – Family Communion at St Andrew's
4pm Carols by Candlelight St Matthew's followed by refreshments.
11.30pm – Midnight Communion at St Andrew's
Christmas Day Thursday 25th December
8.30am – BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's
10.15am – Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Sunday 27th John the Apostle
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 - No service

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

St Matthew's Church Chelmsford Drive RM14 2PH

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



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NEXT DATES: Christmas at The Well 20th December and 17th January 2017

For more information contact:

Revd Sonia Groombridge or Mandy Green

Via the Parish Office: 01708 441571

Church opening for private prayer and reflection

St Andrew's church is open for private prayer and reflection three days a week.
These days are 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.

3rd Hornchurch Girls' Brigade Company



A Busy and Exciting Term!
The Autumn term has been a very busy and exciting one for the girls, with lots of adventures, new experiences and opportunities to learn together!
In October, we enjoyed a fantastic evening at Laser Quest in Romford, using some of our Jack Petchey Award money. The girls had a brilliant time and there was plenty of fun and laughter! We also enjoyed a trip into London to see Paddington the Musical, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.
Looking ahead, our girls aged ten and over will be heading into London in November to see Jesus Christ Superstar.
This term, we have been working towards our Lest We Forget badge, exploring the important theme of Remembrance.
Our sessions have included: Remembering Together, Children in War, International Soldiers, Working with Older Generations
As part of our International Soldiers session, we welcomed Jeremy Shearmur, who shared the fascinating story of the Māori soldiers who came to Hornchurch and sadly lost their lives.
Following his talk, we visited their graves, went into the church to see the memorial plaque and viewed the Māori soldier depicted in the window of the Bell Tower. This was a very special opportunity for the girls to learn about the contribution and sacrifice of these soldiers.
We were also delighted to welcome Revd Barbara Baker who joined us for our Children in War and Working with Older Generations sessions. Barbara shared wonderful memories of her childhood, including her experiences of being evacuated during the war. She brought along some interesting photographs, and the girls thoroughly enjoyed listening to her stories and asking lots of questions.
To finish our session, we enjoyed a lovely traditional tea party with old-fashioned treats, including jam tarts, apple pies and fruit cake. A wonderful way to bring generations together!
On Sunday 8th November, we proudly took part in the Remembrance Parade and Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. We were extremely proud of everyone who took part and helped us remember those who gave their lives.
There is still plenty to look forward to before the end of term!
We've packed a lot into this term, with a wonderful mix of fun, friendship, learning, and remembrance.

Captain Karen Speller and Lt Emma Wilkin

Easy Sudoku solution on Page 12

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

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Rose Petals

To anyone who has been donating dried rose petals - thank you. However we no longer use these to make up confetti for the weddings so please do not leave them by the pigeon holes in the Assembly area.

Kind regards and thanks,
Jackie Bruniges



Flag Days for 2026

(Union Flag unless otherwise stated)
Mon Nov 30th: St Andrew's Day (St Andrew's flag)
Fri Dec 25th: Christmas Day

A Night to Remember

The night began as any other
The world not aware of a special birth,
Prophesied so long ago
That God would come upon our earth.

Shepherds roused by a choir of angels,
Wise men saw a special star,
Gathered round the tiny infant,
Bringing gifts from afar.

God had sent His Son to call us,
Jew and Gentile, bond and free,
All may come to know His presence
Reaching out to you and me.

As we celebrate this Christmas,
Let Jesus come not as a stranger,
But as a friend and loving Saviour –
Not just a baby in a manger.

Megan Carter

Guide, Brownie and Rainbow News

Emma, Chloe and Isabelle of 5th Hornchurch Guides and Hornchurch Brownies worked very hard at the Goodie Jar Tombola at the Parish Christmas market in November. It was a pleasure to be assisted by them (even if I didn't win anything)
More news of the Christmas market in January.



Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library

The good music continues.
Wed 2nd December at 2pm A TASTE OF SPAIN - presented by Mike Beaman. There will be ABBA songs in Spanish plus Matt Monroe, The Gypsy Kings, some Flamenco plus an excerpt from Carmen and of course Julio Iglesias.
Wed 16th December at 2pm CHRISTMAS MUSIC & READINGS - Our annual festive get together with regular presenters delving into their Christmas archives and emerging with music for Yuletide and maybe a piece of prose or poetry. There will be drinks and some seasonal bites to eat during the interval.
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**

Floodlighting of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch

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



For **Milly (Amelia) Phillips** – the magic in our lives. You are forever in our hearts, loving you always, your family xxx - **Joy Whiteman**;
12th December ~ In memory of **Thomas McCarren and Huseyin Ruso** from their parents (**McCarrens and Rusos**) - **Debby McCarren**;
17th December ~ Remembering our much loved parents - **Sylvia and Roy Yeldham** - with great fondness on their Wedding Anniversary on 17th December - **Sally Gibson**;
19th December ~ In Loving memory of **Frances** on her birthday 19th December and **Frances and Ernie Jones'** wedding Anniversary on Christmas Day. Gone from sight, but always in our hearts, love is eternal - **Sue King**;
20th December ~ In Loving Memory of my dear husband, **John** in December and on his birthday 20th December - **Wendy Rodgers**;
Remembering my lovely husband, **Derek Noel Belson**, who died on 23rd December and his birthday on Christmas Day. A wonderful Husband, Dad and Grandpa, unforgettable. With all our love from your family and friends - **Sandra Belson**;
24th December ~ In Loving Memory of **Bob**, a loving husband and dad, **Maureen, Andrea and Stephen;**
27th December ~ In Loving Memory of **Vie Bard** on her birthday 27th December from **June Chilcott and family;**
28th December ~ **Doreen and Stephen Green** ~ In Loving Memory of our beloved **Harry** on his birthday 28th December loved and missed forever darling.- **Mrs Doreen Green**.

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

Charity of the Month for November and December 2026
The Children's Society

Across the country, young people's needs are being ignored, with those facing abuse, exploitation, or mental health struggles only receiving help at crisis point. At The Children's Society, we know a brighter future is possible. We provide complete support that's specific to every child and challenge the government to deliver policies that will protect children. A future of hope and happiness belongs to every child. Together, we can make sure that no child has to face life alone.

By bringing your community together to Christingle, you are creating hope for children across the UK. Thank you so much. It's true that our children are facing many challenges. But it's also true that, together, we can write a very different story for childhood in the UK. As a Christingler, you're part of a nationwide community of people determined to change children's futures for the better. Your compassion will change lives

The donations raised at Christingle services can make a big difference for children and young people. Here's how: £20 could pay for art supplies for a young person who's feeling low, giving them a creative outlet and a way to express what they're feeling.

£45 could enable a child to have an intensive half-hour cognitive behaviour therapy session with one of our trained practitioners to help them self-manage their emotions.

£90 could provide vital hygiene and health kits for three young people living in poverty or in unsafe housing.

£180 could fund regular vital check-ins between a project worker and three children who are depressed or expressing suicidal tendencies to make sure they're safe

Thanks to you, we delivered 77 crisis support services across the UK last year, helping more than 57,652 young people and almost 3,547 parents and carers. directly. And more than 77,307 amazing supporters like you got involved through volunteering, donating, fundraising, and campaigning.

Thanks to amazing Christingle organisers like you, we're able to be here for young people when they need us most

For more inspiration, speak to our Supporter Care team or visit **childrenssociety.org.uk/support**. You can also sign up to our free monthly prayer email subscription.

Find out more at **childrenssociety.org.uk/support-in-church**.

You're making a brighter future possible for young people across the country. Thank you so much.

Christingle candles will be available to collect to add your donation but must be returned to St Andrew's Church no later than 20th December. Alternatively, you can give cash or cheques payable to 'Hornchurch PCC' and we will collate and send the donations after the return date for the candles.



Arlene Trump

Reports of numerous incidents of Christian persecution and murders in Africa

Barnabas Aid 9th November: Six Christians have been beheaded in separate attacks carried out by Islamists in Cabo Delgado Province, northern Mozambique.

Three were captured and killed by militants from Islamic State Mozambique (IS-M) in Matambalale, Muidumbe District, on Sunday 1st November.

Three others suffered the same in separate attacks in Mueda District. In the past few months, IS-M attacks against Christians in Cabo Delgado have become more frequent, with at least eight fatalities reported in September and into October.

Counter-terrorism experts have assessed that IS-M has grown to an estimated 400-500 fighters following a recruitment drive in early 2026.

According to a senior analyst from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project, "IS-M is engaged in a political project … that rejects the secular state and advocates for rule based on their interpretation of Islamic law."

Around 2,750 civilians have been killed by IS-M since 2017, while many thousands have been displaced by the ongoing violence.

Barnabas Aid 19th November: At least 14 Christians have been killed by suspected Fulani Islamists in separate attacks across Plateau State in Nigeria's Middle Belt.

Two people lost their lives in separate attacks outside Jos, the state capital, on Sunday 15 November.

Dauda John Davou, 42, was killed in an attack on a community in Riyom Local Government Area (LGA) in the early hours of the morning. Da Ishaku Pam Vwos, 79, was the victim in Barkin Ladi LGA later that evening.

Armed militants were heard speaking Fufulde (also known as Fulani) as they launched two further attacks later that day near the border between Mangu and Qua'an Pan LGAs, during which ten people were killed and several houses burned.

Fufulde is not spoken as a native language in Plateau State.

Mathias Sohotden, Director of Culture of the Mwaghavul Development Association, said the attackers took advantage of the moonless night to enter Zwaghal village, Mangu at around 9.30pm, conducting the attack despite soldiers being stationed five miles away.

"They first attacked a house on the outskirts of the village where they killed a couple and their twin children," Sohotden said. "They then proceeded to kill more people in another house and near a commercial building in the centre of the town."

Gunmen also killed two people on Monday afternoon, 16 November, including David Gambo Mashat, a commander of Operation Rainbow, a Plateau State-owned civilian security outfit.

He was travelling by motorcycle with one other person in Manguna District of Bokkos LGA Government Area, when they were ambushed and killed at about 1.30pm.

In the last seven years, tens of thousands of Nigerian Christians have been killed by Islamists, including Fulani militia, Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province.

How you can pray

Pray that the Lord will comfort those bereaved in these latest attacks.

Continued on P7

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St James the Least of All

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James the Least of All in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained… by the Revd Dr Gary Bowness

If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: ***enquiries@parishpump.co.uk***

On the sort of dog that a clergyman should own. . .

From: The Rectory,
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am absolutely delighted to hear that you are getting a dog. But be careful which variety you choose. First, your dog must be something substantial, but not prone to fighting or making amorous advances towards parishioners' dogs. A mongrel may be all very well for you as a curate, but just think to the future when you are an incumbent. Get a pedigree. It sets a better tone at the Rectory.

It should also be a breed that sheds fur copiously. That will deter your more fastidious parishioners from bothering you at home. If it also drools, that is a bonus. I would recommend you do *not* get a sheepdog. They become very stressed while trying to round everyone up as they roam round your lawn at the annual Summer Fete.

It can be quite useful giving your dog a name that - naturally, by coincidence - is remarkably similar to that of an awkward parishioner. Being able to bawl out commands to 'come', 'sit', and 'stop that', along with the pet's name, can be cathartic to you, salutary to the parishioner concerned and instructive to the rest of your congregation.

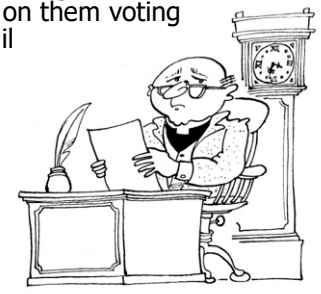
Dogs keep every confidence you tell them, are infinitely sympathetic when you moan about the flower arrangers, and they also make an excellent audience when you rehearse your Sunday sermon on them. Just like my parishioners, my Labrador gives me a look of well-meaning incomprehension as I get underway, and within minutes slips into a peaceful doze, which continues until my sermon concludes.

When gentlemen of the road call, before you open the door, make a series of very audible commands that imply you are restraining a ravenous beast. That your ravenous beast is smiling and tail-wagging, is irrelevant. It will make your caller hesitate to ring the bell another time.

Dogs also provide an excellent excuse for terminating endless meetings, overlong phone calls, parish socials and even visits to the bishop. Even the hardest of hearts cannot stop you from dashing home to give your pet a needed walkies, much, of course, as you would like to continue enjoying yourself with whoever it is you are obliged to flee from.

But do not take them to your church council meetings. When difficult decisions have to be made, you can never rely on them voting the way you want. My Labrador will wag her tail and agree with anyone.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



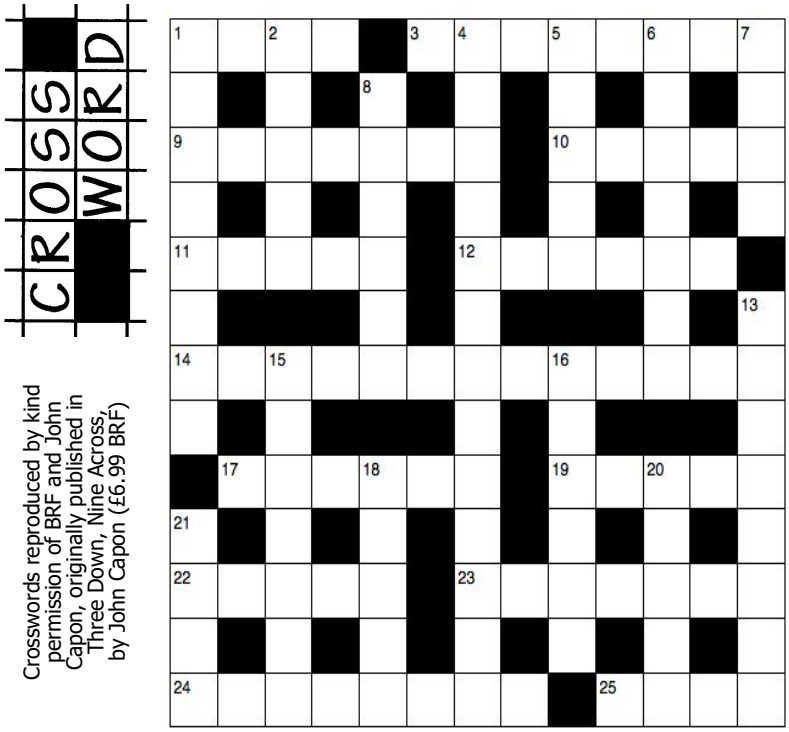
Continued from P6

Pray that they will know the Lord's presence and support even amid the lasting grief and pain.

Ask for increasing wisdom for the authorities to tighten security to prevent future attacks, and that the perpetrators, however well prepared and organised, will be identified and brought to justice and, if possible, true repentance.

Ask that He will bring an end to the power of Islamist terrorists, for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and for all the communities affected by this ongoing violence.

See more at
www.barnabasaid.org/gb/news/



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 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (3,2) (Acts 9:3)
22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

Across: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod.
Down: 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.



Prayer for Christmas 2026

Father God,

We need Good News! The world is confusing and uncertain. Every day brings new worries and messages of wars and doom, in this world of power-crazy leaders and technology that threatens our existence. We need Good News!

And You have given us Good News. You sent Your Son, Jesus, to save us from our selfishness. Jesus, Who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Jesus the Light in the darkness, the Light Who has overcome the darkness once and for all. Jesus, Your gift at Christmas. Jesus, our Best News ever.

To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12). Help us to open our hearts, to receive Him afresh this Christmas and to know the assurance that we belong to You. Thank You, Father, for Jesus, for Christmas.
Amen.

Daphne Kitching

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

Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre Open daily 10am - 4pm:
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. Currently being revamped, reopening soon.

Every Wednesday at 9am Tai Chi with QI Fitness £7 a session
Every Saturday 9.15am to 10am Yoga with Shadeyah

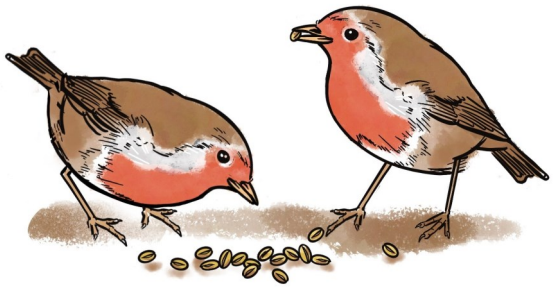
Step into the enchanting world of Nature Tots, where your little ones can embark on an outdoor adventure. Activities vary each week, from muddy pancakes in the mud kitchen, lots of fun in the hammock, creative crafts, and so much more! These sessions are designed to spark curiosity about the natural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

Ingrebourne Nature Tots Tuesdays Dates: 3,10,17,24 November, 1,8 December 10am to 12pm 6-week ticket or a 1-week ticket. £48 or £9.50 Sibling Discount £43.20 Advanced booking essential 10am-12pm

Ingrebourne Nature Tots and Kids Wednesdays Dates:4, 11,18,25 November 2, 9 December 9:30am - 11:30am 6-week ticket or a 1-week ticket. £48 or £9.50 Sibling Discount £43.20
Advanced booking essential

Ingrebourne Home Education Group. Wednesdays
In relaxed outdoor settings, we run a number of home education groups where children can be themselves and work together to develop social skills and to foster a deep understanding of wildlife and a love of the natural world. Activities may include den building, woodland crafts, using tools, and fire lighting.
Dates: 4, 11,18,25 November 2, 9 December 12:00pm - 2:00pm 6-week ticket or a 1-week ticket. £48 or £9.50 Sibling Discount £43.20 Advanced booking essential
Dates for January 2027 are not yet published; keeping checking the website for details as and when they are available.

Daytime paint and sip ~ Winter Robin Monday 7th December 2026 10am to 12 noon. Dani, from Paint Circle, is a teacher who believes that anyone can paint. Sip, laugh, and let your creativity flow as you create a masterpiece to take home. All materials provided and tea/coffee included. The painting will feature a charming robin perched on a weathered fence post, adding a vibrant splash of red to a tranquil winter landscape. £30. Advance booking is essential. Please note this event is for Adults only.



Ingrebourne Natural Christmas Wreath Workshop Monday 14th December 2026 10am to 12 noon
Learn how to make a beautiful natural wreath using fresh foliage, natural decorations and seasonal embellishments. All materials are provided, £30 Advance booking is essential. Adults only event.

Ingrebourne Santa's grotto Saturday 19th December 2026 and Sunday 20th December 10:00am - 3:30pm. Meet Santa in his enchanting winter hideaway, share your Christmas wishes, and take home a special early gift to make the season even more magical.
Walk-up opportunities may be available, but Santa is a very busy man! We recommend booking in advance online to guarantee your place. Suitable for families - all children must be accompanied by an adult. The event runs between 10:00-15:30, when booking a ticket you will need to select a 15 minute arrival time window. Approximate duration of event - 5 minutes. There may be a short wait on arrival.

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

Bell Ringers' Annual Dinner 2026

For the second year running, the bell ringers' Annual Dinner was held at Marygreen Manor in Brentwood. It was attended by 46 bell ringers and friends with many old friends returning for the occasion.
In particular, past bell ringers Matthew O'Connor and Charlotte Pope joined us from St Albans and Portsmouth respectively. Both Matthew and Charlotte lost their fathers earlier in the year.
Clive spoke about Terry O'Connor (Matthew's Father) and Ray Rogers (Charlotte's father) with very fond memories.
Terry worked in the Parish Office at St Andrew's for many years during the 1990's and early 2000's. He was 'always there' smiling and welcoming people into the church.
Ray learnt to ring the bells at St Andrew's in 1996, with Charlotte, and remained a loyal member of the band for about 25 years. He was friends with everyone and fostered a good spirit within the band. Together with his wife Janyce, they supported all our social events, outings and dinners.
Following these happy memories, dinner was served efficiently and people remarked that the food was good quality and good value for money.
A group photo followed and is shown above as a memory of a very enjoyable evening.





Earlier in the day, there was some general ringing and a quarter peal in memory of Terry and Ray. Charlotte was able to take part in the ringing as shown below:

Hornchurch, Essex
St Andrew
Saturday, 14 November 2026
70 Grandsire Triples
(Plain Course)
1 Charlotte E Pope
2 Michelle A Stephenson
3 Jamie E Slack
4 Letitia J Smith
5 Nicholas M Allen
6 Jonathan R Slack
7 Neil P Booth (C)
8 Alan S M Street

Hornchurch, Essex
St Andrew
Saturday, 14 November 2026
Rounds and Plain Hunt on 7
1 Clive J Stephenson (C)
2 Valerie A Swain
3 Letitia J Smith
4 Jane F Harper
5 Jamie E Slack
6 Neil P Booth
7 Paul D Shrubsole
8 Jonathan R Slack

Hornchurch, Essex
St Andrew
Saturday, 14 November 2026
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Charlotte E Pope
2 Letitia J Smith
3 Nicholas M Allen
4 Neil P Booth
5 Clive J Stephenson (C)
6 Alan S M Street
Rung in affectionate memory of Ray Rogers and Terry O'Connor
who both passed away earlier this year.
Ray was a regular ringer in the local band for 25 years.
Terry was Parish Administrator at St Andrew's for many years.
Rung by their friends and Ray's daughter Charlotte.

Clive Stephenson



The Holy Spirit and You

Did you know "The Holy Spirit talks more than any other person"
Yes, through our decision-making processes, thinking and judging.
He that hath ears, let's hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.
We read Revelation 2 v 7, 11, 17, and Revelation 3 v 6, 13 and 22.
The Holy Spirit expects us to continuously listen out for His voice;
The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord hah made them too
This scripture from Proverbs 20 v 12, explains that God knows us;
The Holy Spirit's there to teach us all things for Him. John 14 v 26
The Holy Spirit reminds us of all the teaching of Jesus, and brings all things to your remembrance, whatever He said John 14 v 26b.
The Holy Spirit is able to discern any sin in our life; And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and righteousness, and of judgement. John 16 v 8. Come now and let us reason together says the Lord;
Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; Though they be as red as crimson they shall be as wool Isaiah 1 v 18.
That is the Lord's answer to His cleansing fountain;
The Holy Spirit is able to bring to mind things in your future too!
He will show you things to come to your advantage John 16 v 13
The Holy Spirit usually shows us what assignment He has for us.
Then the Spirit said to Philip "Go and join thyself to this chariot"
All this is recorded for us. Acts 8 v 29, as confirmation from God.
The Holy Spirit is able to pinpoint our mind to motives of others around us.
And the Spirit asked me, go with them without doubt.
Luke records this in Acts 11 v 12 for our complete understanding.
The Holy Spirit is able to pinpoint your exact assignment for you!
As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, The Holy Spirit spoke, Separate unto me, Barnabas and Saul for the work unto which I have called them for. Which we see in the Book of Acts 13 v 2;
The Holy Spirit is able to give an exact location and geographical area of your specific assignment. So they being sent forth by the Holy Spirit, departed unto Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus, as asked Acts 13 v 4.
We see that Paul's obedience to the work of the Lord is still very present in Cyprus.
It should be on your visit list of countries too!

Mark Lendon. B.A. Soc.



Christmas Monday – Benbecula

I am the Gift, and I am the Poor,
I am the Man of this evening's night;
I am the Son of God at the door,
Requesting the Monday gifts aright.

On her knee noble the mild-white Bride,
Noble the King of life at her side,
Son of the moon, and Son of the sun,
Great MacMary the God-looking Maid.
I am at the door, be it undone,
With a cross on each right shoulder laid.

I see the hills, and I see the strand,
The herald angels coming I see,
I see the kind graceful dove at hand,
Coming so gently and friendily.

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

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**

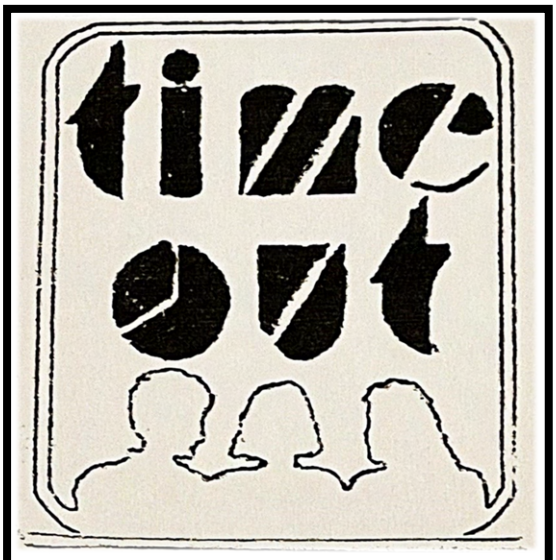
Beaver Scouts

Beavers meeting at the Scout Hall in Chelmsford Drive on Mondays 6.15 - 7.15 p.m. and on Thursdays 6 - 7 p.m. have vacancies for children aged 6 and 7 years looking to take part in games, craft and other fun activities to gain badges.
Please contact **Mao@8thhornchurch.org.uk**

Sue - Beaver Leader, 8th Hornchurch.

Do you want to advertise in this magazine?

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



We are a Ladies' social group for all ages and meet every 2nd and 4th Monday (afternoons and evenings) for speakers, craft, plays, plant and book swaps, chat and outings to local theatre and cinema.
Our new programme starts with a Meet and Greet 14th Sept, so if you are interested, please get in touch. We'd love to meet and welcome you.
Tel: **Val 07527325996** for details.

Hornchurch Library

At 44 North Street Hornchurch.
Not just for books;
talks, activities and more.

Contact the librarians on 01708 434903 or
libraryevents@havering.gov.uk
or visit the Havering Libraries Facebook page
or see the Council website for more information.

Time Out

There were 17 members at the meeting on Monday 9th November in North Street Hall. Karen walked us through making a Christmas scented decoration the hall was full of lovely smells by the end of the meeting. Photo of our efforts attached.
Meeting for December: Monday 14th December 7pm in the church - Christmas Cheer. An informal Christmas celebration in church with poetry, readings and a few carols accompanied by some of our own musicians. Followed by tea/coffee and mince pies in the hall.
If you have any questions or queries about any of the meetings or the group please contact **Val on 07527 325996.**



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/

At Messy Church

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

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 Eventbright.

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.





Escape Men's Group

We meet on the first and third Monday at 8.30pm at St Andrew's church.
For further details contact
Tony Wright 07802 250774
or by if by e-mail
john.speller@hotmail.co.uk

Sudoku solution from P4

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

New Windmill Hall

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

Community Café

Every Friday
11am – 3pm



A warm welcome space

Optional activities to support your health and wellbeing

Come alone or bring a friend

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

Refreshments and snacks at affordable prices*

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

Let's build something great, together!

For more details email newwindmill@hotmail.co.uk or call 01708 220242

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

THE BRIDGE



Meets in the Large North Street Hall every Wednesday moming 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

Calling all give it a go-ers

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

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

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

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

Scouts
8th Hornchurch

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South Hornchurch – Not just an Add-On Place

Professor Ged Martin, who until 2020 wrote a column in the Romford Recorder on local history, has very kindly allowed Bullseye to reproduce some of his essays about the history of Hornchurch and Havering from his website at **https://www.gedmartin.net/martinalia-mainmenu-3 .**

South Hornchurch covers a large area – over a mile across, bounded by the Ingrebourne and the Beam rivers, and stretching three miles north from the Thames. But why not call it West Rainham or East Dagenham?

Until 1810, when Rainham New Road linked London with Tilbury Fort, connections to nearby places were weak. The tree-trunk bridge in Rainham Road South was probably barely a footbridge. Hence it was called Beam Bridge – which became the name of this stretch of the River Rom. South Hornchurch was originally the South End of the vast manor of Havering. A guide book in 1818 called the scattering of cottages south from Wood Lane "the little village of Southend".

Local agriculture was long dominated by cattle raising. Animals were grazed on the lush lowland meadows in summer but moved to drier, higher ground in winter. For centuries, Dovers (near Dovers Corner) was owned along with Gooshays (Harold Hill) and Bretons with Redden Court (Harold Wood). Another Essex parish with a South End was Prittlewell, on the Thames estuary. When Southend-on-Sea mushroomed into a holiday town in the 1890s, the Post Office decided it couldn't handle two Southends, and by 1902 ours became South Hornchurch. But Southend Road recalls the older name.

By the 19th century, South Hornchurch was a thriving community but a bit of a Cinderella. A mission church opened in Southend Road 1864, but it had no resident clergyman. Services were taken by a lay reader, except when the Vicar of Hornchurch visited to give Holy Communion. The Lay Reader for over 33 years was Mr Attwooll who was mentioned in the November edition of Bullseye.

Whybridge primary school dates back to the same period. By 1899, it was teaching 150 children.



Whybridge School from Geograph.org, by N Chadwick and used here under the Creative Commons Licence.

North-south links were weak. "South Hornchurch is to many modern Hornchurch folk an unexplored land," wrote local historian Charles Perfect in 1920, adding with embarrassment, "there are probably few parishioners who know very much about its people." Hornchurch "proper" had become a smart commuter suburb. Meanwhile, market gardening had taken over in South Hornchurch and Rainham. The area specialised in spring cabbages and autumn fruit. The "Cherry Tree Publick House" was mentioned in 1773. The orchards sound idyllic, and a 1906 guide book called Cherry Tree Lane "a pretty spot". But there was a hitch.

London before motor vehicles depended on horses – a quarter of a million of them by 1900 – and horses cannot be toilet trained. Thousands of tons of manure were shipped downriver each year. And it was not just horses. Few of London's four and a half million people had access to proper sewerage. The stink at Rainham Creek, where the barges were shovelled out, was notorious. The cabbages and the cherries flourished, but the respectable suburbanites further north held their noses and turned their backs.

It's no surprise that when building began in South Hornchurch in the 1920s, sites were cheap and houses were down-market. Streets like Sunningdale Road and Elmer Gardens lacked tarmac and sewerage even in the mid-1950s. (I remember them!) Patchy development helps explain the survival of two South Hornchurch farmhouses, Albyns and Bretons. South Hornchurch would never be "posh" but it is the proud product of its own heritage and history, not just an add-on to somewhere else!

Prof Ged Martin

Craft and Chatter

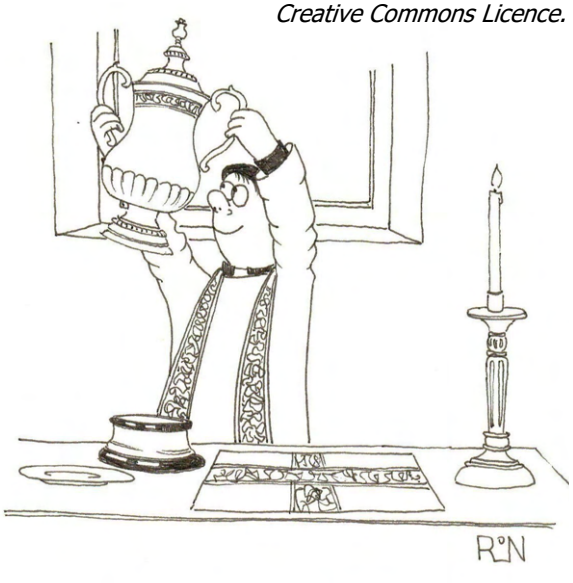
Whether you are an experienced crafter or just starting out, bring your craft to an informal weekly get together, get creative and have a cuppa.

Every Wednesday 12noon to 2pm (£3)
Starting Wednesday 13th January 2027
(term time only)
St Andrews Church Hall 22 High Street Hornchurch RM12 6QP
For more details contact chrissythreads@hotmail.co.uk









The special silverware only came out once a year

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



The Bridge

At the meeting on Wednesday 18th November guests enjoyed making Christmas angels to display at home.
A photograph of their efforts is to the right.

Jeanette

Christmas Land returns to Hornchurch for 2026

bringing festive magic to thousands while supporting local mental health services

Christmas is coming to Hornchurch as Christmas Land prepares to return to Harrow Lodge Park for the 2026 festive season, promising a sparkling Christmas experience for families, friends and visitors of all ages.
Following an incredible 2025 season that welcomed more than 32,000 visitors, Christmas Land is back for another year, inviting the local community to step into a festive wonderland filled with thousands of twinkling lights, enchanting Christmas scenes and plenty of opportunities to make special seasonal memories.
Organised by local mental health charity Mind in Havering, Barking & Dagenham, Christmas Land combines festive entertainment with an important charitable purpose, with money raised supporting the charity's work across Havering, Barking and Dagenham.
At the heart of the attraction is the historic Harrow Lodge House, beautifully illuminated for the season. Visitors can explore the spectacular outdoor Christmas Lights Walkway through the Secret Garden, discover dazzling decorations and themed displays, and capture memorable photographs along the way.
Younger visitors can also enjoy a magical visit to Santa's Grotto, where children can meet Father Christmas and receive a wrapped Christmas gift.
Festive food and refreshments will be available on site, including warming mulled wine and German beer for adults to enjoy.
With walkway tickets starting from just £5.50 per person and free entry for babies under two, Christmas Land offers an accessible festive outing for local families looking to get into the Christmas spirit while supporting a worthwhile cause.
The 2026 attraction will also include a dedicated special educational needs (SEN)-friendly session on 7th December, with reduced visitor numbers and lower music levels to help create a more comfortable experience for visitors who benefit from a quieter environment.

A festive attraction with a purpose

Beyond the lights, decorations and Christmas excitement, Christmas Land plays an important role in supporting local mental health services. Every ticket sold helps contribute to the work of Mind in Havering, Barking & Dagenham, helping the charity continue its support for people experiencing mental health challenges in the local community.
By bringing people together during one of the busiest and most emotionally challenging times of the year, the event offers an opportunity to celebrate the festive season while supporting a cause that matters all year round.
Sarah Balser, CEO for Mind, Havering, Barking and Dagenham said:
"Christmas Land is all about bringing people together and creating that special feeling of Christmas. We were delighted to welcome more than 32,000 visitors in 2025, and we're excited to open our doors again for 2026.
"What makes the attraction particularly special is that it is about more than Christmas lights. Every visit helps support Mind in Havering, Barking & Dagenham and the important mental health work it carries out across our local communities. We hope families will come along, enjoy the magic and help us make this year another fantastic success."

Plan your visit

Christmas Land will be open at Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch, from **Friday 27 November 2026 to Saturday 2 January 2027**.
Walkway admission starts at £5.50 per person, with Santa's Grotto tickets priced at £8 per child, including a wrapped Christmas gift.
Advance booking is strongly recommended, particularly for visits to Santa's Grotto, which operates on selected dates.
Christmas Land is wheelchair and buggy friendly, with a free public car park nearby, although spaces may be limited during busy periods.
For tickets, opening information and further details, visit **www.christmasland.co.uk.**

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	**St George's Church**	**St Matthew's Church**	**Messy Church**
222 High Street RM12 6QP	Kenilworth Gardens RM12 4SG	Chelmsford Drive RM14 2PH	

Hornchurch Parish Churches November 2026

Baptisms

November 15th Jake Jozef George Townsend
22nd Alexander Robin Pocock

Marriages

November 28th Johnathan Martin Seymour and Sarah Amy Hodge

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

November 1st Sheila Mary Starling 92





WHO's WHO in the Parish of Hornchurch

PARISH STAFF
(Days off in brackets)

Vicar
Revd Canon Ken Wylie (Friday)
01708 441571

Associate Priest
Revd Dr Marianne Hayward
01708 441571

Curate
Revd Emeka Enweani
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

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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