

## Away in a Manger

At this time of year, we (rightly) tend to look ahead to Jesus' birth; the "Little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay". As we enter the season of Advent, a season of waiting, we are reminded of the wonder of God coming among us in Jesus – fully human and fully divine. Of course, the "Little Lord Jesus" did grow. In his Gospel, Luke tells us that He "increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour" (Luke 2:52). This season isn't limited to Jesus the baby; it's also about Jesus the man.

A hymn that I particularly like (though not an Advent or Christmas hymn) begins with the words, "Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets". It is a hymn which urges us to respond to Jesus – to wait on Him, to work for the Kingdom's causes, to actively care for others, and to seek to cast out hatred with love. Even as He is waiting, Jesus calls us to join him; the hymn puts it as an invitation, a question: "Who will join My journey?".

Advent is not a season for static waiting; we do not (or at least should not) just stay in one place, watching the days go by. Advent is a journey, towards Bethlehem, towards the "Little Lord Jesus". It is also the start of the Church's year, when perhaps we can make a New Year's Resolution and recommit to following and joining Jesus in service of others, working for the Kingdom's causes, in active care, and in seeking to show love.

Recently, I heard the season of Advent

and Christmas described as entering "The Tinsel Tunnel" – an ideal time for the church to reach out into the community and share the Gospel message: the good news of Jesus Christ. It is also a time when we can allow Jesus to speak through us, inviting others to join His journey, to commit to following Him. It is a time when we can join Jesus in the streets: waiting; raging against injustice, and seeking to bring hope; reaching out to others; and calling others to His journey, to His way.

So as we enter the Advent season, we recognise it as a season of waiting and expectation, and we pray that (in the words of the hymn I've mentioned) Jesus will work within us to make us fit to wait on Him. We also recognise Advent as a season of journeying, trusting that (again in the words of the hymn) Jesus will guide our feet. As we go into the Advent season, seeking to follow Jesus, perhaps these words from the last verse can be our prayer:

*Listen, Lord Jesus,  
let my fears be few,  
walk one step before me;  
I will follow you.*

**Revd Lisa Bewick**  
Associate Vicar



# 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

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

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

## 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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Readers on-line who wish to complete the sudoku puzzle on Page 10 or the crossword puzzle on Page 11 will need to print those pages; the PDF format is not interactive.

## Bullseye programme Contents to the Editor 2024/5

January Bullseye Sunday 1st December  
 February Bullseye Sunday 5th January 2025

### Collating

January Bullseye Mon. 30th December  
 February Bullseye Wed. 29 January 2025

**The Bullseye for January will be in the churches and online by Sunday 29th December 2024**

## 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.



**Parish Christmas Services**

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. Entrance to St Andrew's is not structured. Hand sanitizer continues to be freely available at various places in church premises, the wearing of masks is a matter of personal decision, as is a worshipper's choice of seat. 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 are available.

**Sunday 1st December**

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

**Sunday 8th,**

8.30am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
 10.15am - **Nativity and Toy service** at St Andrew's  
 10.15am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St George's  
 6.30pm – Evening prayer at St Andrew's.

**Tuesday 10th 1 pm Lunctime Carols** at St Andrew's

**Sunday 15th**

8.30am - BCP Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
 10.15am - Common Worship 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 - **Christmas at The Well** at St Matthew's  
 6.30pm - 6.30 pm **Blue Christmas and Memorial Service** at St Andrew's

**Sunday 22nd,**

8.30am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St Andrew's  
 10.15am - Parade service at St Andrew's (also livestreamed)  
 10.15am - Common Worship Holy Communion at St George's  
 6.30pm – **6.30 pm Nine Lessons and Carols** at St Andrew's

**Christmas Eve**

4pm St Matthew's – **Carols by Candlelight**  
 4pm St Andrew's – **Family Holy Communion**  
 11.30 pm St Andrew's – **Midnight Communion**

**Christmas Day**

8.30 am and 10.15am St Andrew's – **Holy Communion**



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**NEXT DATES:**  
**15TH DECEMBER 2024**  
**AND 19TH JANUARY 2025**

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

VIA THE PARISH OFFICE:  
 01708 441571

**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





**The Visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester to Hornchurch War Graves.  
Tuesday 26th November 2024**



HRH the Duke of Gloucester visited Hornchurch cemetery and St Andrew's churchyard on Tuesday 26th November. The Duke is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps and has a personal interest in New Zealand, history, culture etc.

The Clergy were asked that this visit not be publicized around the parish because of the current security



situation.

On arrival the Duke was introduced to the Mayor of Havering, Jerry O'Sullivan, our Revd Ken Wylie,, Brigadier Lisa Ferris of the New Zealand Army, currently at the New Zealand High Commission, Gareth Hardware of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and Tony Matthews the volunteer leader of the CWGC team responsible for the maintenance of the graves in Hornchurch and Havering. *See Bullseye edition February 2024*

The party first made their way to the War memorial in the main War Graves area of Hornchurch Cemetery. Revd Ken led prayers and a minutes silence was kept. Then the Duke laid a wreath followed by the Deputy Lieutenant, the Mayor, Brigadier Ferris and Carole Barratt of the Royal British Legion Hornchurch Branch.

Tony Matthews has details of all the Commonwealth War graves on his iPad and he was able to tell the Duke about those graves, like that of Raimund Sanders Draper, that are of obvious interest, and every other grave that the Duke inquired about, in particular the three New Zealand pilots buried here. He asked how many men were pilots, how many air crew and the number killed in accidents not combat.

The party then moved on to St Andrew's churchyard and the WWI graves.

We knew that the Duke had a particular wish to see the graves of the 4 servicemen from Nuie who served with the New Zealand Army at Grey Towers Camp during WWI. He stopped and gave attention to the row of Royal Flying Corps graves that line the main path through the Conservation Area and Mr Matthew's could be heard giving details as required.

*Cont. on P5*







He was very interested in the graves and the men and women buried locally and asked some imaginative questions about the service personnel concerned and spent some time discussing the churchyard and grave maintenance. *Cont. from P4*

The Duke and the Deputy Lieutenant then left with their escort to their next engagement and the civic, church and military delegation were invited for refreshment at the RBL club in the High Street.

**CA Metcalfe**  
**Photographs CA and CP Metcalfe**

### 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**

### The Cappella Singers of Upminster

**Christmas Concert 2024**  
**Thursday, 5th December, 7.30 pm**  
Trinity United Reformed Church, Upminster

**Conductor - Caroline Morris**  
**Organist - Richard Brasier**  
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[thecappellasingersofupminster@gmail.com](mailto:thecappellasingersofupminster@gmail.com)



**Guide, Brownie and Rainbow News**

**5th Hornchurch (St George's) Guides**

Chloe, Eaton, Avneet and Edie were really happy to make their Guide Promises (below left) Lily-Rose (below right) was pleased to gain her Bronze Award and Bella & Amy (further below right) were pleased to gain their Silver Guide Awards



**2nd Hornchurch (St Andrew's) Rainbows**

Lamayca (above left) was happy to gain her Rainbow Bronze and Silver Awards and Naomi (above right) was very proud to gain her Gold Award

**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)





Above Young Leaders from 2nd Hornchurch Rainbows and 5th Hornchurch Guides were ready and happy to start on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition.

Isla, Megan, Darcey, Ava.

### The Holy Spirit and You

Every morning we get the fresh opportunity,  
 To greet the Lord of life as a fresh beginning;  
 Inviting the Holy Spirit to join us in all we do!  
 To guide us, to fill us and to lead us in the day,  
 Rooted in purpose, peace and love of all truth;  
 Together so we can seek God's divine presence,  
 Asking for wisdom to discern His will each day;  
 To have the strength to overcome all problems,  
 Trying to bring God's love into a difficult world;  
 God's love can reach the highest of mountains,  
 And also with healing for the depths of despair;  
 God's Spirit can heal everyone's heart and mind,  
 That's open to receive His precious healing touch;  
 God's will never rejects a true and humble heart,  
 For He is in the business of healing in everything;  
 Both the physical, emotional or spiritual in nature,  
 He's the divine solution to all and every problem;  
 When the heart is touched we can always receive,  
 What the Holy Spirit reveals beyond our thoughts;  
 For we are limited through human understanding,  
 The many complexities of a misunderstood world;  
 Some of these things man just cannot understand!  
 The Holy Spirit is there to guide us, so each can be,  
 Equipped with strength and comfort from on high;  
 To walk in the richness of God's heavenly light, as  
 We say, Heavenly Father, come into each moment;  
 Into all we say and do, in every minute of the day,  
 Asking God's Holy Spirit to fill each part of our life!  
 As the Holy Spirit comes, He guides us to all truth,  
 So we can be overcomers, to do God's divine will;  
 God's peace will settle on each and every decision,  
 As we surrender to the Holy Spirit's divine calling;  
 Righteousness will be continually on our decisions,  
 In seeking to rely more and more on the Holy Spirit;  
 The Holy Spirit's plan is to prosper us in all we do,  
 Greater and in more ways than we could imagine!

Mark Lendon



2nd Hornchurch Rainbows  
 The Rainbows enjoyed making their angels (on the table behind them) to hang up in the assembly area



### Time Out

Eight members joined together on Monday 21st October for a quiz supporting 'Pussycat Lodge' at the Crumpled Horn in Upminster. Some enjoyed a sausage and chip supper before the count up of the score. We tied on 47 with another team and, following a tiebreaker question, our team were successful! We won prizes of wine or chocolates. On Monday 11th November 27 members, friends and guests met at 7pm in North Street Hall where we welcomed a speaker telling us about the First World War Battlefields in Northern France. We watched slides of the sites and saw items that had been retrieved from these places. A very moving and informative talk.

There is only one meeting in December:  
**Monday 9th December - 7pm in St Andrew's Church** for our Carol Service with readings, carols and mince pies in the hall.  
Please contact Val on 07527 325996 for more information about the meetings or group.



Jeanette

### The Bridge

Members of the Bridge took part in making angels for the Dorcas project. The tables were quickly swamped with people making angels from wool or paper. We eventually made 34, these will be added to others made by other groups to be displayed in the Assembly Area starting at Advent

Jeanette





**David Cast ~Brief Encounters**

I often spoke to David (who died a few months ago, aged 93) after the 10.15 am Sunday services. However, it was not until we discussed our school days, we realized with great surprise, we had both briefly attended the same senior school, between 1945 – 1946. We were transferred from our previous school in Manor Park and East Ham to Sandringham School at Forest Gate.

I did not know David particularly well at school as he an academic year ahead of me. He was also the school captain and I was only a lowly secretary of one of the school houses.

Like most young men at the age of 18 we had to serve a period of National Service for our King (George VI) and Country. I think David may have been was one of the few National Service airmen who actually served as aircrew. He qualified as a RAF Wireless Operator. When he returned to civilian life he joined the Solicitors, Law and Stationery Co in the City of London, as a salesman to the legal profession.

David enjoyed many interests and also meeting people. He was equally happy spending a quiet afternoon with his rod, line and sinker.

As many people are aware, David was greatly involved with the setting up and running of the RAF Heritage Centre in Suttons Lane. He was pleased he could make this contribution to the RAF and all it had meant to him. David was a true gentleman with a keen sense of humour. He always had a kind word to say about his fellow Christian brothers and sisters, and simply wished everyone well. It was always a delight to be in conversation with him.

His presence amongst us will be sorely missed and particularly because of his contribution to the welfare of our church of St Andrew's  
God Bless you David!

**Terence Trimmer**

**'Christmas Voices'**

**Saturday 7th December, 7pm**  
**(doors open 6.30pm)**  
**St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch**

Featuring St Andrew's Church Choir, Saint Francis Hospice Choir and the Cappella Singers.

This is our annual concert in aid of Saint Francis Hospice. It includes carols for choir and audience directed by John Morris. Please join us for a good sing and to raise much needed funds for the Hospice.



Admission £5.00 (children free)

**Ladies Guild of Change Ringers Visit St Andrew's**

The Ladies Guild is a national organisation whose aim is to support and encourage all women bell ringers to reach their full potential. Much of the country is covered by 8 Districts, each of which arranges a programme of ringing activities at towers in their area. Several members of the Eastern Division of the Ladies Guild came to St Andrew's for their final ring of the year and were joined by some of our own bellringers for an enjoyable two-hour ring on the morning of Saturday 16th November 2024.

The photograph shows the lady ringers in the ringing gallery.

**Pauline Murray**





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**Easy Sudoku** solution on Page 16

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

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**St James the Least of All**

*Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

**On why Carol Services are so dangerous . . .**

From: The Rectory,  
 St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as "the Curate who offended Mrs Smith."

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings.

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

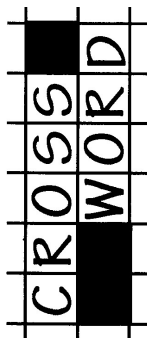
If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on "Here endeth", "This is the Word of the Lord", and "Thanks be to God", are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

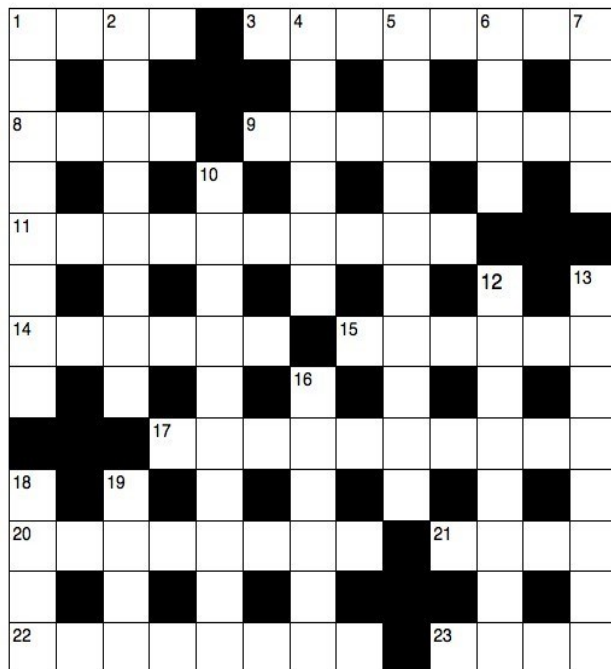
You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.

Your loving uncle,  
**Eustace**





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**Across**

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

**Down**

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

**Across:** 1, Lame; 3, Obtained; 8, Omit; 9, Merchant; 11, Burdensome; 14, Crafty; 15, Please; 17, Blacksmith; 20, Splendid; 21, Tier; 22, Singeing; 23, Hand.  
**Down:** 1, Look back; 2, Main road; 4, Breast; 5, Accomplish; 6, Near; 7, Date; 10, Pestilence; 12, Basilica; 13, Tethered; 16, Action; 18, Asas; 19, Clan.

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**Art exhibition**

Our very own David Scrutton is displaying examples of his work at **Upminster library, Corbets Tey** between 16th and 28th December.

Whilst David specialises in Aviation Art his work includes landscapes and local scenes. Works are mainly watercolours and will be reasonably priced.

**Flag Days for 2024**

Wednesday Dec. 25th: Christmas Day

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

**Nature Babies Every Wednesday** For parents or carers of an infant under 18 months old. Bring your buggy for a gentle stroll around the fields and forest guided by one of our team. Children can explore the natural world or snooze while adults have a chance to talk to others, enjoy exercise in the fresh air and learn about the natural world. Sessions 60 minutes; meet at the Nature Discovery Centre at 1.30. Come dressed for the weather, including layer/sun hats for the little one. £4 per child, or £20 for 6 sessions if booked in advance. Contact Michelle via [ingrebourne@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:ingrebourne@essexwt.org.uk)

**Nature Tots.** As the seasons change, discover and learn each week through a range of fun wildlife themed activities from bug hunting and leaf spotting to natural painting and stick creatures. Suitable for ages 18 months to 5 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please come suitably dressed for the weather as we will be outside for the whole session. Meet outside the Visitor Centre on arrival. There will be access to toilet facilities if required. Advance booking is essential. You only need to book a place for the child attending, you do not book a place for the accompanying adult or younger sibling under 18 months.

We are currently offering Nature Tots as a block booking.

We are trialing a 10% discount on all sibling tickets and have a limited number of places available for families in receipt of universal credit. We may be able to offer free taster sessions and shorter blocks of sessions priced at £8 per week. To find out more please email our Wilder Learning Officer at [learning@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:learning@essexwt.org.uk)

The current block is fully booked; the next block is scheduled for ~

**Tuesdays** 14th January 2025 - Tuesday 11th February 2025. 10am-12pm £35.00 (5 weeks) and **Fridays** Friday 17th January 2025 - Friday 14th February 2024 10am-12pm £35 per child (5 weeks)

**Ingrebourne Home Education Group Age 5-11** 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.

Events run in block sessions and take place weekly; the next block will be **Wednesday** from Wednesday 15th January 2025 - Wednesday 12th February 2025 10am-12pm £35.00 per child (5 weeks) Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please meet outside the Nature Discovery Centre and come suitably dressed for the weather as we will be outside for the whole session. There will be access to toilet facilities if required.

We are trialing a 10% discount on all sibling tickets for both age groups and have a limited number of places available for families in receipt of universal credit. We may be able to offer free taster sessions and shorter blocks of sessions priced at £8 per week

To find out more please email our Wilder Learning Officer at

[learning@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:learning@essexwt.org.uk)

**Ingrebourne Festive Family Forest Fun Saturday 7th December 2024**

1:30pm - 3:30pm meet Outside Ingrebourne Nature Discovery Centre. Explore the magic of Christmas through festive crafts and activities. Then warm up around the cosy campfire with a magical story. We hope to be outside for at least some (if not all!) of the session, Suitable for children aged 3-9. Advance booking is advisable as spaces are limited. £7.69 Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Breakfast with Santa on either the 20th, 21st, or 22nd of December** at 8.30 to 9.45. A chance for a photograph with Santa, a colouring activity and an early present. Call 01708 520364 to pay for and secure your space. Fee £15

**Wednesday 1st January 2025 10:30am - 12:30pm Wildlife Walk** All welcome. No need to book. No charge Accessible but hard surface paths suitable for adults and accompanied older children. We hope to see wildfowl, waders and other winter visitors.

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

**Prayer for December 2024**

Father, the days are short; darkness deepens in December and this year it seems to reflect the darkness in so many parts of the world. We think especially of the land You came to, all those years ago, and other nearby lands where so many are suffering.

Father, thank You that Jesus came into the world as Your Light; that He shines today as brightly and powerfully as He did then, and will do forever.

Help us to open our hearts and minds to allow His light to fill us with the assurance that, no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him.

Thank You that, in Jesus, You have conquered death and darkness; that one day, everyone will bow before Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Whose Kingdom shall never end.

Help us, in thankfulness and love, to share Your Christmas Light and Hope and Joy. Hallelujah! In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Daphne Kitching**



**Table Top Fun**

**Every Friday 15.15 to 17.15**  
**St Matthew's Church Chelmsford Drive RM14 2PH**

Welcome to our free and fun gathering for all ages. Enjoy crafts, Warhammer, board games, tasty food and drinks. Come make new friends and create memories with your family.



All children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Contact Revd Mark Smeed for more information.

**At Messy Church**

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

**Dates for your Diary**

**Sunday 1st December:** Advent and Campfire Christingle. 2.30 to 4pm main hall and outdoors in St Andrew's Church grounds

**Sunday 5th January 2025:** Epiphany Explorers. 3.30 to 5pm main hall and outdoors in St Andrew's Church grounds

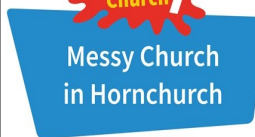
All ages are welcome. Please wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear for the outdoor sessions

Book via Eventbright.

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

Or [www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk](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.



**VIOLET**  
 PLUMBING & HEATING

**INSTALL | SERVICE | REPAIR**

**CALL TERRY: 07545 852555**



**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/>

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

*Many thanks to all who have sponsored the floodlighting during December 2024:*

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

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

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

**Maureen Pudney** ~ In Loving Memory of **Bob**, a loving husband and Dad, **Maureen, Andrea and Stephen**;

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

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

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

**The McCarren and Ruso family** ~ In memory of **Thomas McCarren** and **Huseyin Ruso** from their parents;

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



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



## Christmas Past ~ Recollections of Christmas in the Parish post war.

The William of Wykeham Guild was founded in 1951 by Revd. Michael Wall for 18 to 30 year olds. Part of their outreach was the adoption of old folk with individual members forming a friendship with the O.A.P. visited throughout the year.

It became the custom for Guild members to meet on Christmas morning and set off in a fleet of cars to visit most of them in turn as well as the Sunrise Lodge retirement home.

There are happy memories of those visits which included the Whitely Circus Family of clowns and their mother who had been a bare back horse rider in her working days. Elsewhere there was an elderly gentleman who had an ancient organ in his sitting room, which accompanied the carol singing, another had a small gauge railway track laid out in his back garden (!) and there was lady who had a much-loved cat who was the centre of attention! Characters all.

### Dicky Bird

#### Two carol singing memories:

In the 1970's a group of us (late teens and early twenties) from the Sunday night discussion group (run by curate Colin Travers) went carol singing around the Dury Falls estate and Emerson Park. It was always the folk on Dury Falls who gave the most to our collections.

Later, in the 1990's a group from St Matthew's went carol singing in the surrounding roads. We did not collect for anything, but put leaflets through doors with a Christmas message and Service details. Sometimes people would come out of their homes and offer us money, and it always made an impression when we said we were not asking for money, but just wanted to wish them a happy Christmas and invite them to the local Church.

### Carole and Richard Sherratt

Also from St Matthew's **Win Bulmer** recalled, with some amusement, a nativity where the narrator declared "and a host of Angels appeared in the sky . . ." and one child walked forward.

### Karen Speller

As a child, my mum would always buy a Toy for me to take to The Nativity Service, as the toy would be given to the local Women's Refuge for children who had had to flee from Domestic Violence. It taught me the value of sharing and I loved to think, as a child, that

somebody was opening a present on Christmas Day that I had given him or her and hoped they liked it. Baby Fellowship had a Christmas Party. Auntie Cath would do the story and Auntie Dorothy would play the piano. Auntie Sarah and Auntie Barbara would give us all sweets, my mum would help with games, and Father Christmas would come and give us all a present. One Christmas our son, Christopher, at Baby Fellowship was going around saying Happy Christmas to everyone and Arthur Dines had come to pick up Auntie Dorothy and Christopher said "Happy Christmas" to him and he said it was the most sincere and meant greeting he had been given so he gave him a pound.

Christmas Day Service was where you could take your toy to church and show what you had been given, Bikes, prams, toys, dolls and cars were taken to church to show to the clergy and even blessed as well.

### It's a Panto – Oh no it isn't!

On the suggestion of Mike and Jane Harder, the Escape Mens' group and Ladies' Time Out group decided to perform Christmas Pantomimes at the Sunday school party, the congregation panto parties, the uniformed groups, HOPWA house and a few care homes in Hornchurch. The performances took place mainly at St Matthew's church. Various bits of scenery, costumes and props were begged and borrowed...but not stolen.

The first panto performed was Cinderella in January 1995, which I believe was written by the Harders (it

was a long time ago). This was followed by Aladdin – in which I had two hours to learn the part of Widow Twankey as the original Widow fell ill and Kev Wilding and Alan Ruyten performed admirably as Chop and Suey – and Dick Whittington, in which Terry Keens played Dick. By this time, Alan and Kev were writing the scripts, which worked on two levels: the children laughing at the slapstick and the adults hopefully understanding the double entendres; 'That's a nice pear' etc...

Over the years the ensemble, which included guest appearances from, among others, Rev. Tara Franklin and Chris Speller as Harry Potter, must have performed every pantomime in the book. The last pantomime was performed in 2013. It was The Emperor's New Clothes. I was the Emperor, parading around in my long Johns. By which time we had exhausted the supply of pantos and were all getting a bit old to be prancing about as women or in our underwear.



We all enjoyed performing the pantos, and especially the post-performance party. I would like to think that we gave the children and adults a fun time after the exertions of Christmas.

### John Speller

**St George's** had a Christmas Bazaar and it was a really big one for many years. It was held in the church with trestle tables being brought down from the loft and loaded with items. It was very well attended and people were queueing from early on. For a number of years, Joan Spicknell had about 4 "normal" tables of jewellery *Continued on P13*

*Photograph left, a Nativity from the late 1960s. Do you recognize these children?*

*From the Baby Fellowship album held by Little Fishes. See also P13*







*Continued from P12* that she had collected during the year - once unpicking a bead curtain to make necklaces for children. We provided light lunches, a raffle and even Father Christmas. We also had a midnight service for a long time. However, the one thing that people will remember is our Christingle, held on Christmas Eve at 4pm. We crammed almost 200 parents and children into the church and presented them with Christingles (while plenty of stewards stood around with wet tea towels in case of accident). It followed the same pattern for many years with Phaedra conducting the service dressed up as a fairy. A change of format proved not so popular and then we had COVID!

**Pat Bramhall**

Another photograph of Christmas Past. Undated, but on the back it says Mrs Maud Prudden, Mrs Betty Mould, Mrs Sarah Price, George Mould try to stop Paul (Oliver) Jones from taking a cake at the Dickensian Fayre, North Street Hornchurch.

The editor remembers Sarah Price and Barbara Price, and knows that Mr and Mrs Mould are commemorated at St Matthew's. Does anybody know Mrs Prudden and Paul Jones or remembers the Dickensian Fayre?

### Charity of the Month for December Mission Without Borders

About 60 years ago the charity started by smuggling Bibles behind the Iron Curtain so that marginalised people could have access to a Bible after they were challenged by a pastor in the USSR to put a Bible into Eastern European hands and so reach those of faith without access to one. They also gave materials to persecuted Christians. With the collapse of the Iron Curtain and barriers, Mission without Borders' remit changed to bring spiritual, emotional and educational material to those in need regardless of belief. The core values of the charity are to reach impoverished people and communities for Christ and to bring healing, help and hope.

This year sees the Operation Christmas Love campaign which aims to give a box of essential food for the hungry and traumatised children and families facing a Christmas of war. There are children in Ukraine who are not with their families or sheltering in basements of homes. They live under the stress and fear of war. Some families are in refugee buildings but even these have few resources. A donation of £30 would buy an emergency Christmas box. If you would like to donate any amount please either go to their website

<https://www.mwbuk.org/donate>, or alternatively you can write a cheque payable to 'Hornchurch PCC' clearly marked on the back COM Mission without Borders and we will collate donations together and then send to the charity.

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

**Arlene Trump**



**MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS**

## 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)





Sudoku solution from P10



**Wednesday Afternoon Music at Hornchurch Library**

Our Autumn season of music afternoons continues.

**Wed 4th December ~ Focus on Folk** - Mike Beaman and Stephen Raindle share the presentation of a programme that will feature many aspects that folk music plays across the music spectrum which will include traditional and modern folk music plus well known classical and light music that has been influenced by or even based on folk tunes.

**Wed 18th December ~ Christmas Music & Readings** our regular presenters embark on our annual Christmastide feast of music, traditional and modern, mostly with a Christmas theme. There will also be some Yuletide poetry or prose on offer. To enhance the merriment, during the extended interval there will be festive drinks and snacks on offer at no extra charge.

We then take a break but will recommence our programmes on Wednesday 15th January.

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

For further details call Stephen Raindle 01708 470670 or email [sraindle@aol.com](mailto:sraindle@aol.com)

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

**Message from St Andrew’s Choir**

Young voices play a very special part in the traditional church choir sound.

We will be recruiting boys and girls aged 7 and above to come and experience the choir and see if their voice has potential.

Please speak to Bill after any 10.15 service at St Andrew’s or drop him an email to [william.brooks861@gmail.com](mailto:william.brooks861@gmail.com)

**Partner Sought**  
 To enjoy an equal share of the work and produce from 1½ plots here at Grey Towers Allotments  
 Call Chris on – 01708 442707

**RAF HORNCHURCH HERITAGE CENTRE**

**Great Day Out of Family Fun & Education**

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

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

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

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

[www.rafhornchurch.com](http://www.rafhornchurch.com)



**Extra caretaker needed**

Our halls are hired for private functions like birthday parties, baby showers, awards presentations, etc. To facilitate this we need caretakers to do the following;

1. Unlock the hall to let the hirers in
2. Show them where everything is kept, etc
3. Be available by phone during the hire period in case of any queries
4. Return at the end to ensure the hirer has left the hall clean and tidy and secure the building
5. Report any problems with the hall or the hire to the Parish Office

Note, this is an as and when needed role not a set hours job, although a fee will be paid for each caretaking undertaken.

Training will be given for the role so you know where things are and how they work. Interested? Please email the Parish Office at

**office@parishofhornchurch.co.uk** and provide your name and phone number plus your connection to the church or call us with the same information, 01708 441571.

**St Andrew’s Church – Fundraising Event**

For repairs to the gate of the north porch

**Saturday 1st February 2025  
North Street Hall – 11am to 3pm**

**Table Top Sale & Gift Fair**

Tables provided £12.00. Clothes rails charged at £2.00 each (not supplied) payable in advance

A Variety of Tables including Craft, clothes, books and gifts. Refreshments on sale.

Admission Free.

For further details contact:

Graham & Janet Martin on 07922 138172

Or email to **g\_t\_martin@yahoo.co.uk**



**Parenting for Faith Course**

The Parish will be running the Parenting for Faith, 5- week course each **Sunday afternoon from 19th January to 16th February 2025 from 2.30 to 3.45pm in St. Andrew’s Church Hall.**

All Toddler groups and Baptism families will be invited but we would love you to spread the word and bring along your friends to share in this course.

All who have care for children whether as parent, carer, child minder, grandparent or Godparent are welcome to come along as we explore together how to introduce God into our everyday lives and those of our children.

As parents God has given you the wonderful gift of a child/ children and you are best placed as a parent to know your child and understand their needs – the church is there to help support and encourage you in your role.

The course will enable you to meet new people, to share experiences and together discover ways that you can encourage your child to know God. This is not something more to add in to your busy lives but hopefully something which can become a regular part of everyday life.

We will meet at 2.30 for drinks and cake and start promptly at 2.45pm – there will be a chance to watch a short video and share in discussion as we enjoy fellowship together.

You are welcome to bring your child/children who will be provided with toys and activities by some of the leaders of our toddler groups.

Please see flyer on church notice board, pick up a letter in the assembly area or contact the Parish Office 01708 441571, **office@parishofhornchurch.co.uk** by **Sunday 15th December** so we know you wish to attend.

For further details speak to

**Revd Ken Wylie or Christine Withers**

**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.

**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**

parenting for faith



**SUNDAY SERVICES** in the Parish of Hornchurch

**8.30 am:** Morning Worship at St Andrew's Church  
**10.15 am:** Parish Worship at St Andrew's **4th Sunday** Parade Service  
**6.30 pm:** Evening Services at St Andrew's.  
**2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays** at St George's Parish Worship at **10.15 am**  
**3rd Sunday** only at St Matthew's **11.00 am** Holy Communion, **2.45pm** The Well, other churches as above as usual.  
**Thursdays 10.00 am** Mid-week Holy Communion at St Andrew's See **Page 3** for greater detail

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

**Hornchurch Parish Churches** **October 2024**

**Baptisms**  
**October 13th** Evie Samuels  
**20th** William Peter Dowsett  
**27th** Ruby Soraya Harper

**Marriages**  
 None

**In Memoriam** "I am the resurrection and the life" John 11v25  
**October 23rd** Peter John Ringrose 83

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



<p><b>PARISH STAFF</b> (Days off in brackets)</p> <p><b>Vicar</b>                  Revd Ken Wylie (Friday)                  01708 441571</p> <p><b>Associate Vicar</b>                  Revd Lisa Bewick (Monday)</p> <p><b>Associate Priest</b>                  Revd Dr Marianne Hayward</p> <p><b>Curate</b>                  Revd Mark Smeed                  all 01708 441571</p> <p><b>Readers</b>                  Pat Bromhall 01708 441571                  Carole Sherratt 01708 441571</p> <p><b>Authorised Local Preachers</b>                  Anne Jarrett 01708 441571                  Mark Cornish 01708 441571</p> <p><b>Pastoral Care Team</b>                  0789 55 12480</p> <p><b>SAFEGUARDING TEAM</b>                  by e-mail to</p> <p><b>Children</b>                  child.safeguarding@parishofhornchurch.co.uk</p>	<p><b>WHO'S WHO in the Parish of Hornchurch</b></p> <p><b>PARISH OFFICE</b>                  222 High Street, Hornchurch,                  RM12 6QP</p> <p><a href="http://www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk">www.parishofhornchurch.co.uk</a>                  Office hours:                  Monday—Thursday 10.00am - 4.00pm                  Friday 10.00—12 noon.</p> <p>General enquiries about Baptism, Marriages and Hall bookings should be made to St Andrew's Parish Office                  Staff: Arlene Trump and Jackie Bruniges                  Tel: 01708 441571 e-mail:  <a href="mailto:office@parishofhornchurch.co.uk">office@parishofhornchurch.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS</b></p> <p><b>Scouts, Cubs and Beavers:</b>                  Andrew Rice 01277 262702</p> <p><b>Girls' Brigade:</b>                  Karen Speller 01708 442848</p> <p><b>Guides, Brownies and Rainbows:</b>                  Sandra Cox 01708 442625</p>	<p><b>CHURCH WARDENS</b>                  Nigel McCarren 01708 441571                  Jeremy Shearmur 01708 441571</p> <p><b>Choir Master</b> Bill Brooks                  01708 509489</p> <p><b>Organist and Worship Band coordinator</b> Andy Losq</p> <p><b>PRAYER NETWORK</b>                  Jane Harder and                  Jacquie Humphreys 01708 441571</p> <p><b>BULLSEYE</b></p> <p><b>Editor:</b>                  Carol Metcalfe 01708 451535  <a href="mailto:article.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk">article.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Advertising:</b>                  Arlene Trump  <a href="mailto:advert.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk">advert.bullseye@parishofhornchurch.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Distribution:</b> Via the Parish Office</p>
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