

24th January 2026



DEFIANT Hospitality

For Christians, to share in the Eucharist, the Holy Communion, means to live as people who know that they are always guests – that they have been welcomed & that they are wanted. It is, perhaps, the most simple thing that we can say about Holy Communion, yet it is still supremely worth saying. In Holy Communion, Jesus Christ tells us that he wants our company.

(Rowan Williams)

Jesus desires our company. What gift. What grace. Words related to 'gratitude' & 'grateful'. Themselves synonyms for 'thanks'. And the word Eucharist is Greek for '**give thanks**'. Wow! As we commemorate or remember the Last Supper, we **grace** God for his **grace** to us. Consecrating & consuming bread & wine... body & blood... self-giving love...

More than that, Jesus desires our company SO THAT his **joy** may be made complete in or among us (John 17). Grace upon grace. Or gift upon gift. No wonder St.John goes on to say in



his epistle; "*See what great love God has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*" Extravagant, immense, overflowing, limitless, divine love!

So, rather than begin this year with a reactive "NO" to what I am troubled by or stand against, I'm offering a proactive "YES" to God's good news and kingdom invitation. Or as Archbishop Stephen Cottrell puts it; "*The first message of the gospel must be one of loving service. How can we bless people?*"

Which is why Vicky & I opened our home and our selves to PCC Members in Upper Wreake on 11th January and repeated same with South Croxton Benefice last weekend. This Sunday, we will relax over drinks & food with contributors to Thrussington, Rearsby & Queniborough churches.

In his book, '**The Practice of Joy**' (based on CS Lewis' writings), Andy Swinford suggests that we are at war. That we should think more intentionally of our mealtimes with friends as, "*acts of battle in the struggle against evil & despair in the world*". Or the glad gatherings of our fellowships as; "*celebrations of Christ's conquest over death and darkness*".

I like that theology. Particularly as it arises from the ordinary & everyday, such as Mr & Mrs Beaver in '**The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe**'; "*kettle singing, frying pan hissing, marmalade roll steaming, pot of tea at the ready*".

The bread that Jesus gives for the life of the world is his flesh. To that end, mine & Vicky's hospitality is "an act of defiance", one more bridge across the gulf between God & humanity. "*With thanks to you and Vicky for your hospitality yesterday evening. Enjoyable evening with friends & colleagues.*" rev'd david.

JANUARY Services

SUN 25th : Epiphany 3

1030 | Worship Service | Hoby CHAPEL

Engaging with God's heart for this planet.

1500 | Evening Prayer | Kirby Bellars

Traditional language interspersed with hymns.

After the birth narrative, Matthew's story of Jesus skips to the adult Jesus coming to the Judean desert to be baptized by John. When John the Baptizer is handed over and eventually executed, Jesus returns to Galilee. Then he moves from his hometown, Nazareth, to Capernaum, a fishing village on the north side of the Sea of Galilee. "A great light ... has dawned". The gospel is expanding beyond the house of Israel, ultimately to all the Gentiles.

WEDNESDAY Activity

0930 | Alternating Pattern | Frisby CHURCH

1st & 5th = Communion

2nd & 4th = Morning Prayer

3rd = Healing Communion

1430 | New Life Group | ROTHERBY

Bible... Prayer... Life... Care...

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LENT COURSE 2026

LIVING THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

'The Year of Matthew'

7pm in Hoby Chapel

18th & 25th February

4th & 11th & 18th March

See below for further details.

FEBRUARY Services

SUN 1st : Candlemas

0830 | BCP Communion | Hoby

Simple, traditional language service.

1030 | Worship Service | Rotherby

Informal style with some interaction.

SUN 8th : Epiphany 5

1030 | Contemp'y Communion | Ragdale

Inclusive Church liturgy with 'justice' focus.

SUN 15th : Transfiguration

1030 | Creative Church | Frisby CHAPEL

Round table worship, discussion, singing & prayer.

WED 18th : ASH WEDNESDAY

0930 | Communion w. Ashing | Frisby ST. T

1900 | Course : MATTHEW | Hoby CHAPEL

SUN 22nd : Lent 1

1030 | Faith in Nature | Hoby ALL SAINTS

Engaging with God's heart for this planet.

1500 | Evening Prayer | Kirby Bellars

Traditional language interspersed with hymns.

'Farewell'

Barbara ROBERTS (Gaddesby) : 30th January

'Union'

Saturday 30th May

Adam O'SULLIVAN & Lisa SOUTHWELL (Br)

'Welcome'

22nd February ... Alice NADOLSKI (Gaddesby)

1st March ... Sophie CUFF (Frisby)



HERITAGE LINCOLNSHIRE

The Parish of the Upper Wreake has been awarded a £39,999 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to repair and sustain St Peter's Church in Kirby Bellars.

The much-loved village church has suffered serious damage following the theft of copper from its roof and this funding will support the development of plans for vital repairs and help to secure a sustainable future for the historic building.

**** Three Cheers for Kirby DCC and the Roof Resurrectors ****

The community volunteer group, the Roof Resurrectors, formed pre-Covid to raise money to replace the roof and "save" the church.



~ Growing with Hope ~
~ Serving with
Compassion ~
~ Transforming
with Humility ~
~ enabling children
to flourish & succeed ~

In Collective Worship this week, we have been thinking about how recently, a new award, called the **Jane Goodall Earth Medal**, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world.

The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

Things you could talk about at home :-

- > How do you think the new award reflects our school values?
- > Why do you think it's important, as Christians, to recognise acts of kindness and love?

And Finally...

Chalking the Door

6th January : Whaitshill House (Frisby)

A centuries-old way to celebrate the occasion of the Epiphany ("revealing"), when Magi came from the East. Following a star and bearing gifts, they bowed down before the child who would become king. That revelation continues today.

Anne Swann marked the doorpost of her home with an inscription signifying the new year, along with the marks C+M+B, which stand for the Latin '***Christus Mansionem Benedictat***' ("May Christ bless this house.") And the traditional names of the Magi; **Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar**.

20 + C + M + B + 26

What blessing do you seek for your household?



Imagine for a moment that you were one of the Gospel writers, aiming to capture the significance of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Matthew paints the portrait of a promised King. His Gospel highlights Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, or 'Christ', the fulfilment of the words spoken through the prophets. Matthew constantly reaches into the treasury of the scriptures, revealing Jesus as the one who was bringing God's kingdom.

In these 5 sessions we'll take in Jesus' birth, his calling of the disciples, his authority as a teacher, his miracles and his upcoming passion.

As we see Jesus fulfil God's promise we'll be encouraged and equipped to live out the mystery of faith.

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

Lent Course 2026



Living the Mystery of Faith

Wednesday Evenings : Feb 18th & 25th / Mar 4th, 11th & 18th

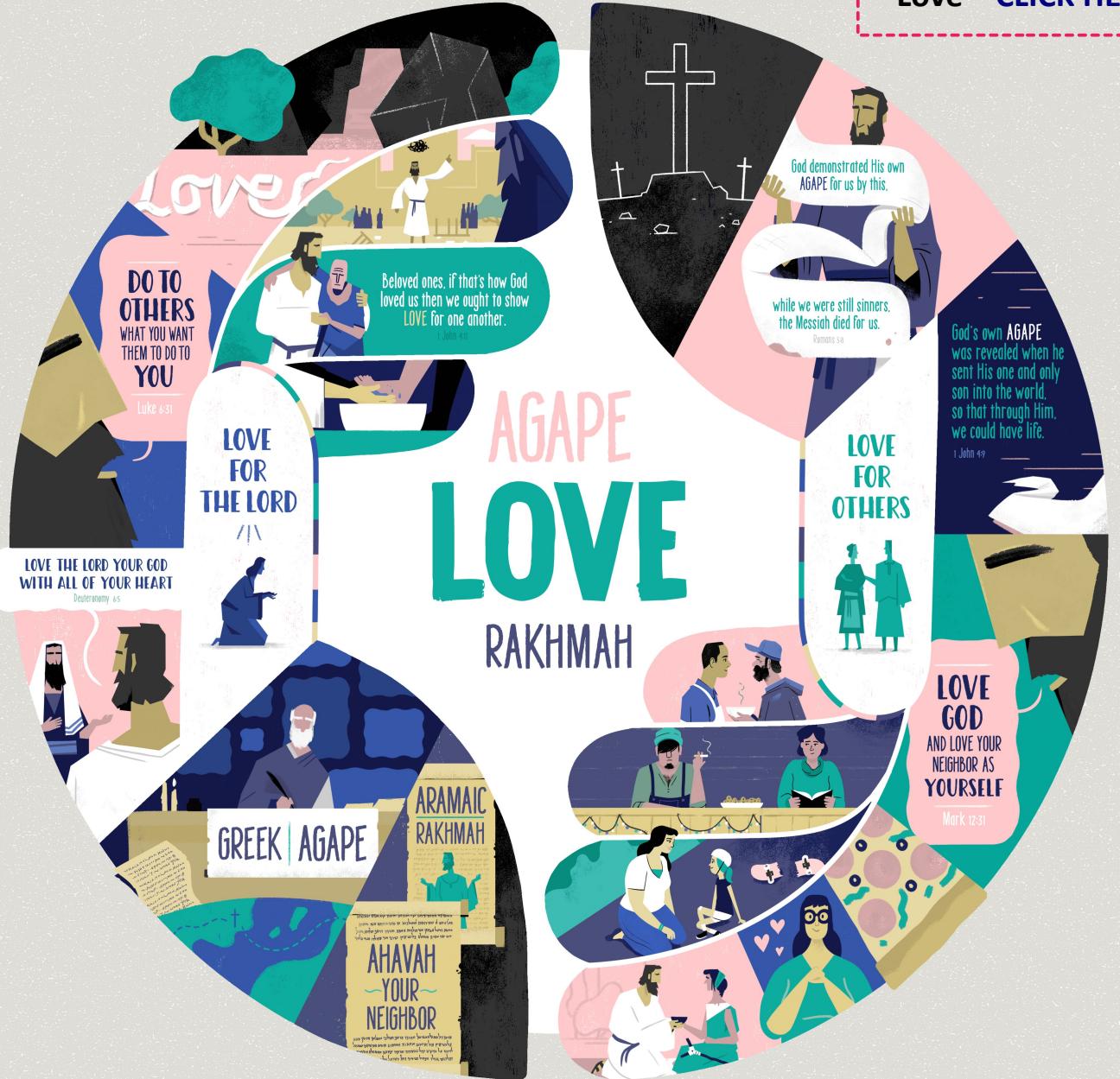
Hoby Methodist Centre at 7.00pm

ADVENT? NEW YEAR?

A time to remember Jesus' birth & anticipate his second coming.
Looking FORWARD by looking BACK to the 4 Advent themes.

WATCH in Advance

'Love' CLICK HERE



6-6.30pm on Mon 26th or 10.45-11.15 on Wed 28th or 7.15-7.45am on Fri 30th

~ Bible Project video ~ Conversation & Reflection ~ Silence & Prayer ~

=> to ground us & to grow us <=

Join Zoom Meeting | Meeting ID : 844 2990 6409 | Passcode : NewYear

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84429906409?pwd=Bj0OW8uimNQa5WMNA4P2EI82T25VT1.1>