



Candlemas 2026

DEFIANT Hospitality

“Continue to be the person who exercises the gifts, wisdom, and experience that your life has given you.

(Archbishop of York)

Sarah Mullally. Alex Petti. One male. One female. One Brit. One American. One first half of life. One second half. One an intensive care nurse. One a former Chief Nursing Officer. One a Dame. One a citizen. One on the streets. One in a Palace. One praying. One protesting. One dead. One alive.

On Wednesday, Sarah Mullally was confirmed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury (ABC) in St.Paul's Cathedral. The first woman to hold this position in the 1,400 year history of the office. Four days earlier, Alex Petti was shot multiple times, killed by United States Customs & Border Protection agents in Minneapolis.

What do they, can they, have, in common? “Happy... energetic... helpful... kind... generous... the best of us... a **kindhearted** soul who **cared** deeply for his family & friends” are words used to describe Petti. “How are you doing? What are you up to?” are questions a childhood friend remembers. Alex was other-person centred. “I think he was out there that morning in an act



of service & love to his community.”

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York says; “*The first message of the gospel must be one of loving service. How can we bless people?*” You may recognise ‘loving service’ as the third of the 3 Key Questions asked in this Diocese. These two nurses have ‘care’ in common. Sarah Mullally reflects; “*Washing feet has shaped my Christian vocation: as a nurse, then a priest, then a bishop. / In the apparent chaos which surrounds us, in the midst of such profound global uncertainty, the possibility of healing lies in acts of kindness and love.*”

With God’s help, our new ABC will seek to guide Christ’s flock with; “**calmness, consistency and compassion.** These are times of division and uncertainty for our fractured world.” **Kindness. Love. Compassion.** Recent video showing officers tackling Petti the week before he was shot, slamming him to the ground pretty hard. A witness approaches Petti to ask if he is okay, and Alex responds; “I’m okay. Are we all okay? Are we all **safe**?”

Two thousand years ago, in the temple, Simeon praised God; “*My eyes have seen your salvation*”. Simeon was prepared to die, for God’s light of revelation had appeared. As we remember him holding the Christ-child in his arms, it is clear that marking Candlemas (or The Presentation of the Lord) remains meaningful. For Simeon’s “**salvation**” is the same word & sentiment & reality as Alex’s “**safe**”.

And so Bruce Springsteen sings in ‘Streets of Minneapolis; “*In the dawn’s early light/ Citizens stood for justice/ Their voices ringin’ through the night ... We’ll take our stand for this land/ And the stranger in our midst*”

rev’d david.

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.

WED 25 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL

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

MARCH Services

SUN 1st : Lent 2

0830 | BCP Communion | Hoby

Simple, traditional language service.

1030 | Worship Service | Rotherby

Informal style with some interaction.

WED 4 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL

SUN 8th : Lent 3

1030 | Contemp'y Communion | Ragdale

Inclusive Church liturgy with 'justice' focus.

WED 11 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL

SUN 15th : Mothering Sunday

1030 | Creative Church | Frisby St.T's

Round table worship, discussion, singing & prayer.

WED 18 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL

SUN 22nd : Lent 5

1030 | Faith in Nature | Hoby CHAPEL

Engaging with God's heart for this planet.

1500 | Evening Prayer | Kirby Bellars

Traditional language interspersed with hymns.

SUN 29th : Palm Sunday

1030 | Communion Svc | GADDESBY

Coming together as a group of local churches.

'Farewell'

Richard PRENTICE (Hoby) : Mon 2nd Feb

'Union'

30/5 Adam O'SULLIVAN & Lisa SOUTHWELL (Br)

'Welcome'

Alice NADOLSKI (Gaddesby) : Sun 22nd Feb

Sophie CUFF (Frisby) : Sun 1st Mar



Intergenerational Pioneer Hazel Wragg is part of the team that recently launched a new Messy Church, with support from the congregation of St Mary in Charnwood & the Messy Momentum Pilot Project fund.

Messy Church encourages faith to be shared in new ways, such as conversation and laughter over warm meals. People across different age groups find meaning through creativity, kindness and communion with others. It doesn't matter how 'messy' people feel their lives are, everyone is welcome, even (and perhaps especially) if they don't belong to another form of church.

"We called ours Mossy Church; the name was a bit of a pun because we were doing Messy Church creativity and fellowship but outside, in the woods," says Hazel. "We started eating together last year, we cooked on the campfire as a one off & loved the extra time talking over a shared meal so much, we kept doing it."

Food and fellowship is like the mortar between the bricks of a building.

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/messy-church-cultivating-intergenerational-faith-through-hospitality-in-nature.php>



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

This half term's school value is '**Showing Compassion**' – certificates were awarded to :-

E

We had a visitor in the class and E took them under their wing, played nicely with them and made them feel very welcome.

I

At play and lunch times, they have shown patience and kindness to children with additional needs.

They have played with different children and changed their game to make sure that everyone is included in the activity.

And Finally...

Archive on 4

Paul Verhoeven's American Futures

This hour on BBC Sounds took me back to my teenage years, as commentators analysed pop-culture films; *Robocop* ... *Total Recall* ... *Starship Troopers*.

I was struck by the twin influences on this iconic Director, namely 1) Nazi Germany's occupation of the Netherlands 2) the life, death & resurrection of Jesus.

What are your cultural touchstones, that help you wrestle with, and live out, the Jesus' way?



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