

21st February 2026

Keep. Hope. Alive.

“Our father was a servant leader – not only to our family, but to the oppressed, the voiceless, and the overlooked around the world.”

(The Jackson Family)

I heard of the Rev Jesse Jackson’s death as I was lighting a fire in the barn-conversion we were holidaying in. Precisely two years to the day that we buried Ben, aged just 28, on that family farm. Dust & ash & death were all around – Ash Wednesday had cast it’s shadow.

On the eve of Lent, perhaps like you, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday with butter, eggs, sugar & fat. The last chance to eat them, according to tradition! Ben’s parents Sarah & David came down to the barn as our guests, and we toasted their son with white wine in one hand, pancake with sugar & lemon in the other. Remembering Ben. Sharing lives.

A lemon from a tree in Palestine was handed



Diocese of Norwich

to the King this month, at the première of a new film, *‘Finding Harmony: A King’s Vision’*, at Windsor Castle. It was transported from the occupied West Bank to Windsor Castle by Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich. *“It was a joy to deliver this small gift from Palestinian Christians to His Majesty. These Christians are keeping the light of Christ alive in the land of his birth while living under constant challenges.”*

The Rector of St Philip’s, Nablus, the Revd Jameel Maher Khader picked the lemon & gave it to Bishop Usher – it filled him with *“quiet joy”* to know that the King had received the hand-picked gift. *“I wanted to offer something very ordinary and very Palestinian – something grown with care, from our own land. A lemon felt honest and humble, a small sign of life and generosity from our community in Nablus”.*

The lemon trees beside the church are a reminder that the church is meant to be a place of life. The trees remind Palestinians that faith is; *“rooted in the land & shared with others – they give shade, fruit & hope... Even in difficult times, the trees keep bearing fruit.”*

Restrictions on movement and security concerns are a daily experience for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. The same is true of Ukrainians as the 4th Anniversary of the Russian War arrives.

Perhaps this Lent, with pancakes in mind (and stomach), might the honest, humble lemon be a prayer-prompt for us? To remember, even briefly, the people and the place it came from? And others like them? This year, may lemons & pancakes prompt a thought or a prayer for peace. For the oppressed. The voiceless. And the overlooked.

rev’d david.

FEBRUARY Services

SUN 22nd : Lent 1

1030 | Faith in Nature | Hoby ALL SAINTS

Engaging with God's heart for this planet.

Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness or desert after he is baptised by John at the River Jordan. Though you might be forgiven for confusing those two locations...

Today, the waters of the lower Jordan are murky and sluggish. It's a long way from the cry of the psalmist;
"Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfall; all your waves & breakers have swept over me." (Psalm 42)

Since 1948, both Israel and the state of Jordan have diverted a staggering 96% of the Jordan's water after its outflow from the Sea of Galilee — for irrigation purposes. This has reduced a once mighty, fast-flowing river coursing down the rift valley to little more than a grimy stream. How might we restore our wounded 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...

contact : elizabeth.smith255@btinternet.com

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'

Nick MOORE (Hoby) : Fri 6th Mar

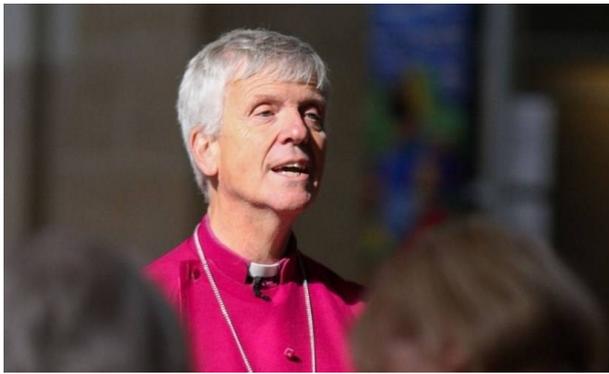
'Union'

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

'Welcome'

Alice & Ada-Grace NADOLSKI (Gadd) : Sun 22 Feb

Sophie CUFF (Frisby) : Sun 1st Mar



Bishop Watson bows out from Guildford immediately after 'sobering' prognosis

THE Bishop of Guildford, Andrew Watson announced earlier this month that he had been diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. Yesterday he wrote to his Diocese to say that he is now in the care of the hospice team, as chemo is likely to do more harm than good. His oncologist told him the "sobering answer" that he would be "doing well" if he was alive in a month's time.

"I don't fear the prospect of dying and find to my relief that my faith in the 'resurrection of the body and the life everlasting' has only grown stronger over the past few weeks," he writes.

He had "grumpy patches", he said, but considered himself "deeply blessed" to have been born into a loving family, to have been "joyfully married" for 40 years and raised four "remarkable" children, and to have had such a fulfilling ministry in the Church of England.

A Day of Prayer for Bishop Watson, at Guildford Cathedral, has been organised for Mon 23rd Feb. In his letter – which, the Bishop acknowledges, is likely to be his last — he expressed thanks for the "tidal wave of love, prayer and goodwill" that had flowed since his diagnosis became public, and said that he & his family were "particularly moved" to hear the news of the vigil.

[Guildford was my sending Diocese 25 years ago. **dh**]



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

In Collective Worship this week, we have been thinking about how adults in the UK are talking about whether children under 16 should be allowed to use social media.

Things you could talk about at home

WONDER

(Look out at the world ... **WINDOW**)

- How can Christian principles (love, respect, kindness) guide the ways families use technology to help all feel safe & protected?

REFLECT

(Look inwards at ourselves ... **MIRROR**)

- What choices can we make online that show Christian values (honesty, compassion)?

DO

(Respond through actions & choices ... **DOOR**)

- How can those choices help us behave differently from others around us?

And Finally...

Gas Safety Certificate

A vicarage comes with the job, enabling us to own & rent-out another property elsewhere.

What assets do you own that allow you to show the loving-care of God in practical ways? Or, perhaps, how do you receive such practical love from others that you are dependent on?

Details of Registered Business		Appliance Details									
Gas Safe Register No.	302205	Location of	Type	Manufacturer	Model	Flue gas	CO Alarm	CO Alarm	SAFE TO USE		
Registered Engineer's Name	S. LINDO	1	Kitchen	Boiler	Worcester	GREENSTAR 12RE	Yes	Yes	R/S		
Gas Safe Register License Number	5331352	2									
Business	T.C.G. LTD	3									
Address	OCTAVIA GWS	4									
	Chandos Rd, Lashleigh										
Postcode	SO53 2PA										
Contact No.	774822424										
Details of Site		Inspection Details									
Engineer's Name	Chandra Divya	Operating pressure at inlet and/or heat input within limits	Operation of safety devices	Ventilation satisfactory	Visual condition of flue and termination	Flue operation checks	Combustion analyser reading (if applicable)	Appliance serviced	CO Alarm fitted	CO Alarm tested (if fitted)	SAFE TO USE
		Pass/Fail/NA	Pass/Fail/NA	Yes/No	Pass/Fail/NA	Pass/Fail/NA	9.3 CO2	Yes/No	Yes/No	Pass/Fail/NA	Yes/No
		20 MP PASS	Yes	Yes	PASS	PASS	1.7 ppm	Yes	Yes	PASS	Yes

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