

21<sup>st</sup> March 2026

## Fluttering. And dancing.

*“We have long in this nation brought flowers & foliage into the architecture of our churches... examples of creation drawn into our churches to remind us of the little gifts of God.”*

(Rt Rev'd Graham Usher, Lead Bishop for the Environment)

Mothering Sunday posies were the highlight of my week, a colourful crescendo on which to mark Refreshment Sunday. Handmade by Methodists & Anglicans from across the parish, I was reminded of the Sustainable Church Flowers debate at General Synod last month, from which the quote above is taken. Thanks to Pru & Janet for coordinating our worship, and for others including Jane & June who brought 'little gifts'. Hoby DCC made an additional 10 posies, distributing them later that same afternoon to individuals who are bereaved, or ill, or isolated. Huge impact from small tokens. *“May his face shine upon you.”*

Daffodils are not so much fluttering & dancing as exploding all around. We get to enjoy the dedicated, delicate efforts of our



neighbours Margaret & Vic, who beautify this little corner of Frisby. Electric in sunlight; atmospheric in lamplight at 11.30pm. On retreat last week, Vicky captured a meadow of 'dils at the Society of the Sacred Cross. Symbolising new beginnings, rebirth & renewal as they are among the first flowers to bloom in spring. Joy... positivity... good fortune... hope for a cure...

*“Lord, he whom you love is ill.”* So reads the message sent by the sisters Mary & Martha to Jesus, about their brother Lazarus. *“Ill... ill... ill... illness... ill...”* writes St. John. Then; *“asleep... asleep... death... sleep... dead... die...”* We get the picture. In triplicate. Laid on thick. Why? *“It is for God’s glory / so that you may believe”*. The whole purpose of John recording the Jesus’ story : *“These [signs] are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name”* (Jn 20:31).

The story of the resurrection of Lazarus begins in a very human place. Sickness. Hope. Waiting. And love. Lazarus, whom you love. The disciples, whom he loved – to the end (Jn 13:1). Jesus’ love is resurrection love. Is new-life love. Is love that draws out courageous proclamation in the face of grief (Martha). Is love that draws out public tears in a posture of kneeling (Mary). Is love that draws out listening obedience from a tomb of stone (Lazarus). Is love that draws out welcoming work in the unbinding of cloths (Crowd). Resurrected life needs a community.

As I gaze on the gaudy gold glaze that signals new joys, new possibilities, I picture too the grey, ashen rubble that once were homes in the Middle East. *“I am the resurrection and the life.”* Yes, Lord... we believe. **rev'd david.**

# MARCH Services

## SUN 22<sup>nd</sup> : 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.

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*John 11:1-45 is a pivotal chapter in the Gospel of John, detailing the raising of Lazarus from the dead. It serves as the seventh and final "sign" of Jesus' public ministry, demonstrating his power over death and acting as a direct catalyst for the plot to kill him.*

*This event underscores Jesus' identity as "the resurrection and the life".*

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## SUN 29<sup>th</sup> : Palm Sunday

**1100 | Communion Service | GADDESBY**

led by Rev'd Philip & Rev'd David  
With extended Palm-Passion reading replacing the sermon.



A scriptural journey from the cry of "Hosanna!"  
to the shout of "Crucify!"

## WEDNESDAY Activity

**0930 | Alternating Pattern | Frisby CHURCH**

1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> = Communion

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> = Morning Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> = Healing Communion

**1430 | New Life Group | ROTHERBY**

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

contact : [elizabeth.smith255@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.smith255@btinternet.com)

# APRIL Services

## MAUNDY THURSDAY (2<sup>nd</sup>)

**1930 | HC Stripping of Altar | S. Croxton**

## GOOD FRIDAY (3<sup>rd</sup>)

**1400 | Hour at the Cross | Brooksby**

**1930 | Hour at the Cross | Rotherby**

## ! SUN 5<sup>th</sup> : Easter Day !

**0600 | Sunrise Service | Kirby C'yard**

**0830 | Easter HC | Rag or Ro**  
( 1000 Egg Hunt )

**1030 | Easter Celebration | Hoby All Saints**

SUN 12<sup>th</sup> : Easter 2

**1030 | Contemp'y Communion | Ragdale**

Inclusive Church liturgy with 'justice' focus.

SUN 19<sup>th</sup> : Easter 3

**0830 | BCP Communion | Rotherby**

Simple, traditional language service.

**1030 | Methodist Service | Sandy Lane**

Joining with others ecumenically in Melton

SUN 26<sup>th</sup> : Easter 4

**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.

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## 'Farewell'

Nick MOORE (Ho) & Ann MACHIN (Fr)

Roger JAMES : 1030 on Tue 17/3 at Frisby

Colin POTTS : 1300 on Mon 30/3 at Hoby

## 'Union'

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

## 'Welcome'

Sophie CUFF (Frisby)



## Sacred Space

A time to be silent and sit with God.

Upper Wreake Methodist Church

**Hoby Centre**

**1 – 4 pm**

**first Monday of the month**

12pm : Lunch & Chat

1pm : Silence

**n.b. April = Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**

*Although we are quiet most of the time, we often have some music and or a reading or two. If someone has a pressing issue or a need to talk then we make space for that, as that too is sacred.*

**Everyone is welcome, be it 4 hours or ½ hour.**

(Bring your own lunch. Tea & milk provided.)

David Parr : [davidparr149@btinternet.com](mailto:davidparr149@btinternet.com)

## Hot Potatoes (Lunch)

Sumptuous food. Stimulating conversation.

Upper Wreake Methodist Church

**Frisby Centre**

**12 for 12.30pm**

**second Thursday of the month**

*No charge but donations made are collected for mission or charity purposes.*

Please ring Dennis Hurst : 01664 840479  
to book your Potato!

## Tea & Cakes

Does what it says... tea & cakes!

Upper Wreake Methodist Church

**Frisby Centre**

**2.30 – 4.30 pm**

**third Thursday of the month**

*All cakes are homemade.*

*This group is friendly to dogs providing that they are on a lead and with their owner.*

## Little Butterflies

For carers & mothers of children (4 & under)

Upper Wreake Methodist Church

**Frisby Centre**

**10.30am – 12.00pm**

**every Friday during term time**

*Each session includes play and craft activities plus refreshments. Seasonal activity days are also held and are advertised locally. There is a charge per child to contribute to the cost of resources at each session.*

[ All leaders & assistants of the Groups are covered by Safeguarding training, food and hygiene qualifications and DBS as applicable. ]



**Kirby St.Peter's**

Easter-themed **BEETLE DRIVE**

*with Fish & Chip supper*

**7pm on Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**Emma : 07866 663 153 / Clair : 07792 473 797**



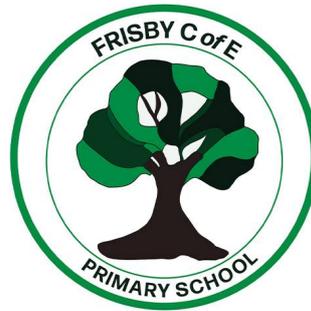
## Lifting Shame, Tackling Poverty

The Bill to remove the two-child limit in Universal Credit was debated on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Lord Bishop of Leicester, addressed the House of Lords with a speech highlighting how the limit deepens both material poverty and the sense of shame experienced by families, reinforcing harmful assumptions about their responsibility and worth. He called for cross-party collaboration on how to end the policy and address the wider structural and emotional impacts of poverty on people's lives.

*"I count myself very fortunate to never have experienced true poverty. But I have spent much of my working life living in communities where poverty was very real – both the absolute poverty of one of the poorest nations in Africa where I worked for several years – and the relative poverty of inner-city Sheffield where I was a Vicar for a decade before becoming Bishop of Leicester. //*

*It is my belief that the two-child limit to Universal Credit has only added to the poverty-shame nexus. The assumption would appear to be that if you are on UC and have more than two children, you are somehow not being responsible... we have a duty to lift the sense of shame from others, not reinforce it."*



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

## Comic Relief

On Friday, our school was bright with red as the children took part in Comic Relief! It was wonderful to see everyone joining in with such enthusiasm, with HUGE thanks to all parents and carers for their support and generous donations. Such kindness helps make a real difference for a brilliant cause.



## And Finally...

🌻 you deserve cake ❤️

This mirror at Melton Country Park cafe SSOO reminds me of 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox & The Horse!

What simple delights lift your spirits & remind you of the good and true and beautiful God?





# CALLING FOR EVERYONE

**How can I live out my faith more fully?**

**What could God be calling me to?**

**What opportunities are there for me to serve?**

this day is open to anyone curious about these questions.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

St Andrew's Church

Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East, LE3 3PF

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

St Wilfrid's Church

Church Road, Kibworth, LE8 0NB

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

venue TBC

*all events from 10am to 3pm*

*with refreshments available from 9.30, bring a packed lunch*



For more information contact:

**[liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org](mailto:liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org)**

To book contact:

**[mmbookings@leicestercofe.org](mailto:mmbookings@leicestercofe.org)**