

14th March 2026

Gender. Equal.

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

Together we can forge gender equality.

(IWD2026 Website)

March echoes November for me. In winter, it is **a season of Remembrance**. All Hallows (or All Saints) merges into All Souls, then Guy Fawkes' and on into Armistice Day. We pause & ponder just as the earth quietens and hibernates.

In spring, it is **a season of Femme-embrace**, just at the earth's rebirth. The World Day of Prayer (previously 'Women's WDP') falls on or near International Women's Day, then onto the moveable feast that is **Mothering Sunday**.



Rev'd Linda Harknett

Technically the 4th Sunday in Lent, this festival echoes the 4th Sunday of Advent. Then, the alter ego is, '**Gaudete Sunday**' or "Rejoice!" from the entrance antiphon of the Catholic Mass; '*Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete!*'. Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!

Now, this weekend, we anglicise the Latin '*laetareor*' to make **Refreshment Sunday** – a day of relief from the rigour of Lent. As the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent, these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of **Mothering Sunday**.

Our church liturgy focuses on **compassion, care, befriending, birthing, gentleness & kindness**. So I was horror-struck by the recent headline; "Woman guilty of keeping slave for 25 years". 'K', an emotionally, psychologically vulnerable, young adult suffered decades of torment, exploitation & control. Made to live in appalling physical & emotional conditions, she was cruelly & persistently held captive.

Escaping the clutches of Mandy Wixon, 'K' lives now with a foster mum, attends college & has been on holidays abroad. While nothing can give 'K' back the 25 years she lost; "*I am now living with a wonderful family who show me kindness, patience and support. Their love is helping me slowly rebuild the life that was taken from me... begin to feel safe again*".

We will honour mothers in our acts of worship. But we will do so honestly. Celebrating maternal virtues, while naming the hurt that is felt also. Broken relationships. Bereavements. Fathers who mother. Wanted-children. Un-wanted children. Abuse. Living out a beautiful phrase from Mothers' Union, we can (together) build loving communities... **"Give the Gift of Belonging"**. rev'd david.

MARCH Services

SUN 15th : Mothering Sunday

0830 | BCP Communion | Rotherby
Simple, traditional language service.

1030 | Creative Church | Frisby St.T's
Worship, conversation, singing & prayer + POSIES

Loving, compassionate Father,
As a mother hen gathers her chicks,
so you draw the whole human family to yourself.
Bring us together now, Lord,
that we may today and forever
be united under your wing
in all our sorrows and joys.

Amen.

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

1100 | Communion Service | GADDESBY

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

APRIL Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY (2nd)

1930 | HC Stripping of Altar | S. Croxton

GOOD FRIDAY (3rd)

1400 | Hour at the Cross | Brooksby

1930 | Hour at the Cross | Rotherby

! SUN 5th : Easter Day !

0600 | Sunrise Service | Kirby C'yard

0830 | Easter HC | Rag or Ro

(0930 Easter Pastries & 1000 Egg Hunt)

1030 | Easter Celebration | Hoby All Saints

SUN 12th : Easter 2

1030 | Contemp'y Communion | Ragdale

Inclusive Church liturgy with 'justice' focus.

SUN 19th : Easter 3

0830 | BCP Communion | Rotherby

Simple, traditional language service.

1030 | Methodist Service | Sandy Lane

Joining with others ecumenically in Melton

SUN 26th : 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.

'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)



Frisby C of E Primary School

Vision

*Growing with hope, serving with compassion,
transforming with humility.*

Frisby C of E Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision & values shape decision making... They create a shared purpose that anchors leaders through change & challenge.
 - ‘Serving with compassion’ is lived consistently in routines and relationships, creating a culture where people are known and included. Consequently, pupils learn well, know they belong and flourish in character. Within this culture, pupils who face particular challenges receive thoughtful, tailored support so that they thrive alongside their peers.
- Collective worship is inclusive & inspires pupils & adults. It provides significant opportunities for personal spiritual growth, reflection & response.
- Partnership with the trust and the church supports leaders and staff to make the vision a living reality. As a result, pupils & adults flourish.

 **Statutory Inspection of
Anglican & Methodist Schools**



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

A month ago, our local Primary School received its whole day SIAMS visit, or Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools.

To the left, you can read the summary findings at the beginning of the Report. In an email, headteacher Charmaine Ainge wrote of her delight with the outcome, inviting parents, Staff, Governors & wider stakeholders to celebrate the many strengths highlighted within it. Adding with energy;

“The Report reflects the commitment of our staff, the character of our pupils, and the strong partnerships that underpin the life of our school.”

Charmaine was quick to emphasise her pride at the outcome, specifically because it helps to shape the direction & ethos of the school. Our role as the PCC and as Foundation Governors is to be ‘critical-friends’ in this area of Christian ethos.

And Finally...

💗 D A D 💗

Farewell to a Father. Something that touches me more as I get ever closer to my own Dad’s age. What do those 3 letters mean to you now? How does that relationship work out in real life? How does it relate to our “father in heaven” or ‘abba’?



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