



7th March 2026

Agents of Reconciliation

*The bombing of Iran & the escalating tensions in the region remind us of the fragile nature of peace and the immense cost of war. While nations wrestle with complex political and security concerns, we believe Christ calls us to be agents of **reconciliation, truth and peace.***

(Mennonite Church USA : Cost of War)

We had conflict at our midweek Communion here in Frisby on Wednesday! I noted that a US military Commander urged their troops; "that this was 'all part of God's divine plan' ... numerous citations out of the Book of **Revelation** referring to **Armageddon** and the imminent return of **Jesus Christ**". President Trump was said to have been; "anointed by **Jesus** to light the signal fire in Iran to cause **Armageddon** & mark his return to Earth". Wow! Sounds to me like a whole, new religion, with Donald Trump as Saviour,

Another worshipper brought us back, though, to Iranian **aggression** – the clerical regime long criticised by the European Parliament.



Bishop Guli (Chelmsford)

Brutal **suppression** of its own citizens. Support for Russia's war of **aggression** against Ukraine. Sponsor of **terrorism** on European & American soil through its proxy militias. Calls for the IRGC to be placed on the EU **terrorist** list.

In a letter to *The Telegraph*, our former Bishop of Loughbrough, wrote; "This is a war of choice rather than necessity. The Iranian regime is **odious** and **repugnant**, but it did not pose an imminent threat that justified pre-emptive self-defence. **Diplomacy** might have been **working** frustratingly slowly, but it was **working**. It certainly hadn't been exhausted." Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani fled from Iran as a teenager, her brother Bahram killed by unknown assailants in Tehran.

Bishop Guli believes that without international law, **force** prevails, the **strong** prey on the weak and states routinely act with **impunity** to resolve their disputes with **might**. "It is a world that invites **fear** rather than **hope**."

In our Gospel encounter this Sunday, we see the middle-eastern Jesus choosing to travel TO Samaria, and not just THROUGH it. The **woman's story** is complicated, but it is clear she desires what Jesus offers. She proves to be a theologian & evangelist. The **well's story** is a 'romantic-comedy' location throughout the bible. Jesus is the bridegroom, just not for a wedding here & now! The **writer's story** is to contrast Nicodemus & the Samaritan. Yet whether curious or cautious, the commonality is Jesus' hospitality. Inviting hope.

Comedy. Vulnerability. Hospitality. With +Guli, we pray for the protection of the innocent, and for wisdom & sound mind for the political leaders. May we heed Christ's call to be agents of reconciliation, truth & peace. **rev'd david.**

MARCH Services

SUN 8th : Lent 3

1030 | Contemp'y Communion | Ragdale
Inclusive Church liturgy with 'justice' focus.

Jesus in John's Gospel is full of double-entendre.
If we misunderstand his words, we are in great company! But to spend time with him, to hunger for his person & prose, is to have our own faith & practice questioned. He is not safe... but he is GOOD!

WED 11 @ 1900 | Lent Course | Hoby CHAPEL

SUN 15th : Mothering Sunday

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

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

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 & Colin POTTS (Hoby)

Ann MACHIN : 1400 on Wed 11/3 at Kirby

Roger JAMES : 1030 on Tue 17/3 at Frisby

'Union'

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

'Welcome'

Sophie CUFF (Frisby) : Sun 1st Mar



North East Leicestershire Minster Community : Phase 3 (LIVING)

I am writing to both inform you, & invite you to, the first meeting of the new MC Co-ordinating group on Monday March 9th, 7.00pm at Frisby Chapel.

In his letter to Parishes of the North East Leicester MC (30th January) Bishop Martyn wrote;

I have therefore proposed to the clergy that we proceed with the formation of the Minster Community... slowly & cautiously given the... concern. The proposal will go to the Diocesan Trustees... I am suggesting that a new "Co-ordinating Group" is formed, initially facilitated by Rev'd Ros Harper and Rev'd David Harknett and with any lay ministers, and church officers who wish to participate.

This group will begin to explore the implementation of the proposals for the Minster Community. But we will not have any formal launch / commissioning of the Minster Community until the Co-ordinating Group feel we are ready. If you would like to be part of this Co-ordinating Group, or would like a conversation about its work, please speak to Ros or David.

Ideally we would like a balanced group from across the Minster Community, who are willing to engage with the Bishop's request to begin to explore the implementation of the proposals, and look towards a possible launch later in the year.

If you feel you are able to contribute to this group, & would like to attend the 9th March meeting please let mariam.qassam@leicestercofe.org know.



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

No... you're not seeing double! Or rather, you are seeing the same photo twice because... having been selected to perform their brilliant 'Hoedown Showdown' routine again at the Sky Dance Schools Challenge Final... our local Primary School came... **SECOND!!**



The medley of music (Beyonce to 'Cotton Eye Joe') was toe-tappingly infectious, but it was the pupils who brought it alive, through their **energy, teamwork & sheer enthusiasm**. They really did **smile** all evening, no moreso than when P & E came up to collect the **Award**.

And Finally...

bliss/useful/caring

That is a 'What 3 Words' grid reference for Melton Space, based in the Country Park cafe. It captures perfectly who they are & what they do!

Thinking about your local Church, **what 3 words** would you choose to describe its life & ministry?

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ency:

ul/caring

bliss/useful/caring

Quote this grid ref

bliss/use

Quote this grid ref

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