



28th February 2026

Keep. Hope. Alive.

- 1) *The importance of struggle for the flourishing both of the creation and of humanity.*
- 2) *The mysterious part that those who are poor & marginalized play in the purposes of God...*
(Ann Morisy's theory of mission)

I don't recall ever seeing a vision for mission that begins with **"struggle"**. Yet it seems so obvious, when you start at the very beginning – a world made "good... very good" becomes a world of "curse... enmity... pain". And toil; *"thorns & thistles.. by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread"*. **Sin. Suffering. Struggle.**

Obvious, too, when you listen to this month's General Synod (YouTube) : **'Poverty & the Church'**. The Church Urban Fund sought to mark the 40th Anniversary of the report, *'Faith in the City'*. Most up-to-date figures show that poverty has deepened in that time. For people experiencing poverty; *"It's like walking on **an icy pond**, fearing at any point you might be plunged into cold water."*

As a child, I remember my Dad visiting the Bank Manager on regular occasion. And my father-in-law experienced a prolonged period of unemployment. Yet neither Vicky nor I wanted for anything, and are now richer than our parents. We've not experienced poverty, described by Inclusive Church as **"a lack of**



economic power". I.C. caution against making people living in poverty the object of charity – empowerment, giving agency in their lives, is real charity or Christian love. **'Being with'** rather than 'doing to'. Sadly, even faith communities are guilty of exclusion & stigma. So many barriers stop those living in poverty from taking part at every level of the church.

Ann Morisy relates social action & mission. She is passionate about helping us move closer to the Kingdom of God. Ann describes community **involvement** combined with a structure of **participation** – enabling lay people to embrace a more authentic expression of discipleship. The Catholic theologian Karl Rahner suggests that **"venturesome love"** is at the heart of discipleship – not *"doing tasks in church"*!

No wonder **'John 3:16'** is so popular, often sighted at American sports events. *"For God **so loved** the kosmos (the structure of the universe and human society alienated from God) that **he gave** his one-of-a-kind Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not be lost, separated from God... but **share in God's own life & character** – today & into the future"*.

One in five of the UK population live in poverty. Fourteen million voices cry out for **hope & justice**. Each one a real person with their own story & struggles; *"their own reason to feel **hopeless & abandoned** by society, and maybe even by God"*. **Injustice** in society must be transformed by the Church, for we are ambassadors of our Lord Jesus, who came to bring **good news to the poor**. We have a better story of **resurrection & hope** – not simply to tell, but to see & hear & share in. For it is the **poor & marginalised** who mediate an awareness of Christ to us. rev'd david.

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

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)

Roger JAMES (Frisby)

'Union'

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

'Welcome'

Sophie CUFF (Frisby) : Sun 1st Mar



General Synod : Archbishop of Canterbury's Presidential Address

General Synod took place last month, with new Archbishop Sarah Mullally making her first Presidential address. She describes this ministry with the words, *"calm, consistency & compassion"* – firstly in relation to wind & waves rocking a boat; secondly in relation to being a senior Bishop or Shepherd. **CLICK** on the first link to read the whole Address, or click on the second to watch it on YouTube... but here is one choice extract...

"At my Confirmation of Election, I was deeply moved to be asked, during the Charge which was given to me, to "help the Church love itself more ... believing that its best days are still to come". And I do believe that this is true. Through every challenge, our hope in Christ remains – & our confidence in the Gospel, as good news for our nation & for God's world, is not shaken."

READ :

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speeches/synod-archbishop-canterburys-presidential-address>

WATCH

<https://youtu.be/DJFEoxqwXeE?t=1325> (22 mins)



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

We are absolutely **DELIGHTED** to share the fantastic news that our Sky Dance team has been selected to perform their brilliant **'Hoedown Showdown'** routine once again at the Sky Dance Schools Challenge Final.



"Our pupils **shone** on stage during the initial round, impressing the judges with **energy, teamwork & sheer enthusiasm**. Smiles on faces throughout the evening said everything - they were clearly **loving** every moment!

We are immensely **proud** of every child who took part. To make it to the final is a wonderful **achievement** and testament to their **hard work** and **commitment**. Well done **Team Frisby!**"

And Finally...

Relax... You're on Beach Time

This stopped me in my tracks, as I used the toilet while out Visiting! Immediately & involuntarily, I breathed more deeply & felt more spacious.

What is it that prompts you to pause, and recall something of our unhurried God's love of 'slowing'?



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