



Hampton – Fairfield – Thistledown – Eastwick Park – Charity Crescent

## THE HERALD



# Office Email

Please note the email address for the Parish Office:

**office@hamptonchurch.org.uk**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Vicar and Rector   | In Interregnum   |
| Honorary Assistant Priests   | The Revd Patrick Wooster Tel: (01386) 45907  |
| Licensed Lay Ministers<br>(Readers)  | Elaine Major (01386) 40722<br>Laura Hillman (01386) 41574<br>Helen Black 07790 878922  |
| <b>Parish Administrator</b><br><b>Caryl Mills, is working</b><br><b>from home</b><br><b>She will be in Church on</b><br><b>Friday mornings</b> | <b>The Parish Office has closed. See details on Page 6</b><br><b>(01386) 446381 not in use at the moment</b><br><b>To contact: email: office@hamptonchurch.org.uk</b><br><b>Tel: 07846 281 759</b> |
| Church Wardens   |  |
| St Andrew's,<br>Hampton  | Margaret Thomson (01386) 47541 (Lead)<br>Jane Wisniewski (01386) 48186   |
|  |  |

The Herald is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month prior to the publication date. Items for inclusion should be received by 5th of the month prior to the publication date or by special agreement.

Articles are submitted on the understanding that they may be edited to fit the available space.

**Articles can be submitted by email to: editor@hamptonchurch.org.uk**

or sent to the editor at The Parish Office, c/o St Andrew's Church, Pershore Road, WR11 2PQ  
Large Print editions of the magazine are available on request.



## An article from Bishop Mark on Epiphany hope

January brings us into the season of Epiphany, a time when we reflect on the journey of the Magi and the light that guided them. Their story speaks profoundly to us as we begin a new year. The Magi travelled with hope rather than certainty, following a sign they only partly understood, yet trusting that the light would lead them to something – or someone – worth seeking.

In their long and patient journey we find encouragement for our own discipleship. The start of a new year often brings a mixture of anticipation and uncertainty, and few of us feel entirely prepared for whatever lies ahead. Yet Epiphany invites us to be people who are willing to look for Christ's presence in unexpected places, confident that God is already out ahead of us.

As the Magi followed the light, so we look for God's guiding light as we step into a new year. This year, that light shines particularly through the arrival of Bishop Hugh, whose ministry we look forward to welcoming and supporting. A new bishop brings with them not only leadership but fresh perspective, renewed energy, and a

reminder that God continues to call and equip people for service in the life of the Church. As Bishop Hugh begins his ministry among us, may we hold him and his family in our prayers, and remain open to the ways his presence will help us discern God's purposes for our diocese in the months and years ahead.



Epiphany also reminds us that the light of Christ is not for us alone. Like the star that guided the Magi, we are called to shine with hope for those around us. In a season when many feel weary or isolated after the intensity of Christmas, even small acts of kindness, hospitality, and prayer can

illuminate someone's path.

As we step into the year before us, may our congregations be attentive to the quiet signs of God at work, eager to reflect Christ's light, and ready to walk alongside Bishop Hugh as we continue our shared mission.

*With prayers and blessings,*

***Bishop Mark Badger***

# **Ministers' Blog – New Year 2026**

## **Re-grouping the Churches**

2026 promises to stir up an exciting new beginning in the life of our local parishes, not least at Hampton, Sedgeberrow and Hinton-on-the-Green.

Since Rev'ds. Mark Binney and Andrew Spurr retired, there has been a pause for some careful and imaginative thinking about how the churches can be grouped together and staffed in the best way for the future. In summary, the plan is as follows:

- The church of Norton & Lenchwick is to be grouped with Harvington and the ARCH benefice, overseen by their new rector, Rev'd Glenn Redding;
- Sedgeberrow and Hinton churches are joining the Broadway and Childswickham group, under the leadership of Rev'd Shellie Ward;
- All Saints' Evesham and St. Andrew's Hampton will join forces as one benefice, sharing resources and the oversight of a new priest. It has recently been announced that Rev'd Mike Edwards (currently Curate at Bengeworth) will be Curate-in-Charge of these two churches from September 2026.
- As you may know, St. Peter's Bengeworth continues to go forward as a separate renewal project, but is also part of the ongoing informal 'Group' of churches known as Asum.

## **Working Together**

Meanwhile, as these changes take place in the coming months, we are very glad to have a team of lay and ordained volunteer ministers who are generously committing themselves to sustain and develop the worship and outreach of our local churches. In the Hampton network, this team has been strengthened in recent months by the licensing of Helen Black as a LLM (Reader) together with Guy Barnard, who has been a Reader for many years, now offering to serve amongst, once he has received his 'Permission to Officiate (PTO)'.

## **A New Coffee Club**

As part of the re-shaping and new collaboration outlined above, various possible developments have been emerging. One of these has already begun – a Coffee Club in Hampton ....

This has been started in partnership with Rev'd Shellie Ward and takes place at Hampton Farm Shop every Tuesday from 2pm to 3pm (and often over-runs!). It's an informal time where anyone is welcome to join in a chat and meet people over a cup of coffee. The Coffee Club has held an open air Harvest Service with St. Andrew's School within the grounds and a Carol Service at Hampton Farm Shop before Christmas. More events are to be organised in the future.

# In our Thoughts and Prayers

## A Prayer for Bishop Hugh as he starts his ministry

Gracious and loving God,  
through your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,  
you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church:  
we thank you for calling your servant Hugh to be Bishop of Worcester;  
sustain him by your love, strengthen him in faith, encourage him in hope  
and grant him the needful gifts of grace; that through his ministry among us  
we may live and grow as Kingdom People  
sharing faith, hope and love in Jesus' name. **Amen**

## A Prayer for Plough Sunday – 11 January

We pray for all who work on the land, for farmers facing the uncertainties of  
weather and market forces, and for those striving to preserve God's creation. May  
their labour be blessed and may we all recognise our role in caring for this beautiful  
world God has entrusted to us. **Amen**

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### For all those who are sick, in special need or house- bound:

Gary Andrews; Mary Andrews; Sue Burdett; Michael Collings; Harry Edwards;  
Caroline Evans; Ann Fletcher; Claire Lording; Amanda Palmer; Joan Parry; Keith  
Payne; Caroline Rusher; Steven Rhodes; Marguerite Smith; Carol Thould; David  
Warrington; Jennifer and Tony Waters; Sharon and Shirley

### For those who have died, and all who mourn them:

Rev'd Julian Bomyer

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### From the Registers – November 2025

| Wedding         |                                       |             |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 22 November     | Richard Betteridge and Amanda Boulton | Sedgeberrow |
| Burial of Ashes |                                       |             |
| 4 November      | Hazel Townley                         | Sedgeberrow |
| 8 November      | Richard Bayliss                       | Hampton     |
| 14 November     | Patricia McNally                      | Hampton     |
| Funerals        |                                       |             |
| 24 November     | Patricia Nettell                      | Hampton     |

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## Hampton

### Benefice Office and Vestry

#### "What is happening at the Church?"

At last, don't hold your breath or uncross your legs yet, but the long-awaited vestry project at St. Andrew's Hampton is coming to fruition. The new floor is down, and the WC and kitchen are taking shape. Watch this space for news of when these much-needed facilities are to be dedicated!

**Nick Wright, Elaine Major and Helen Black**

**Margaret Thomson - Hampton PCC**

As you can imagine this is a very expensive project, so your support for our fundraising events is very welcome,

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Until the Vestry upgrade has been completed, the Parish Administrator, Caryl Mills will be working from home.

To get in touch, please email her on [office@hamptonchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@hamptonchurch.org.uk) or telephone on 07946 281 759. It is hoped that the former number (01386) 446381 will be available again once the transfer can be made. Caryl will be available at the church on Friday mornings, and a post box is available at the church for messages.

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### Safeguarding Information

We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at: <http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding>.

Our Safeguarding Officer: Margaret Thomson 07917 726411.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Hilary Highton, can be contacted on 07495 060 869.

If you have concerns about the immediate safety of someone, please don't delay, dial 999 and ask for the police.

**Contact us:** St Andrews Church, Pershore Road, Hampton, WR11 2PQ.

[office@hamptonchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@hamptonchurch.org.uk)

07846 281759



**ST ANDREW'S TOTS**  
**HAMPTON GUIDE & SCOUT HALL**  
**Tuesdays in term time 9.00-11.00**

**We return in the New Year on 13 January 2026**

**We look forward to welcoming all our families with children aged 0-5**

## Bishop Hugh's service of welcome

On Saturday 17 January at 2pm we will be welcoming Bishop Hugh to the Diocese as he starts his ministry among us. All are welcome to this special service in the Cathedral.



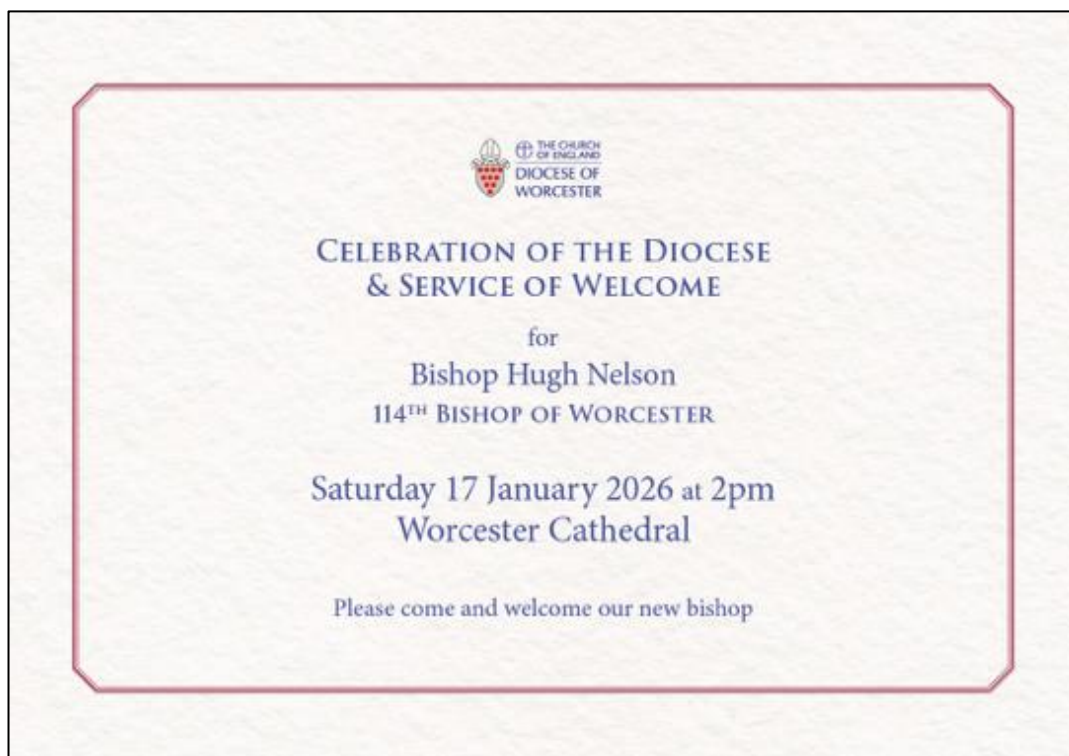
We hope that the service will be a celebration of the life of our diocese, with involvement of people of all ages from different parishes. During the service, Bishop Hugh will be installed into his Cathedral seat and presented with the robes of the Bishop of Worcester. It will also be a chance to pray for Hugh as we worship together.

Do bring a group of people from your parish to come and celebrate the arrival of our new Bishop and the ongoing life of our diocese.

Bishop Hugh said: "I can't wait to meet many of you on 17 January. Do come along for what I hope will be a great celebration of the life of the Church in this glorious diocese over the generations past and into God's hope filled future."

Clergy and Readers are welcome to robe (choir dress) and should email Fleur in the Bishop's Office by Monday 15 December if they would like to do this.

(ffisher@cofe-worcester.org.uk).



# The Seven Deadly Sins: Pride

*Canon Paul Hardingham begins a seven-part series*

Our new series looks at the 7 Deadly Sins, a list compiled by Pope Gregory 1 in AD 590 to describe the nature of sin. This month we consider pride, *'the beginning of all sin'* (Augustine).

**Pride** is preoccupied with self and denies the need for others or God. We see it present in the first sin, when Adam and Eve wanted to become like God.

What does pride look like? Jesus told the story of two men, a Pharisee and a tax collector, who went to pray in the Temple (Luke 18: 9-14). The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: *'God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'* (11,12). He illustrates how pride is essentially putting ourselves in God's place and believing we can run our own lives. It's subtle and self-deceptive and eats away our lives: *'Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.'* (Proverbs 16:18).

So how do we deal with pride? The answer is humility. The tax collector stood at a distance *'he would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'* (13). This man was right with God, because he acknowledged his sin and his need for forgiveness. Humility is being realistic about ourselves, and acknowledging our total dependence on God. We develop it by giving ourselves wholeheartedly to God and repenting of our desire to do things our way.

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## Coffee Club

**Cuppa, Cake and Chat**  
**Hampton Farm Shop**

**Every Tuesday 2pm - 3pm**  
**£2.50 a cup**

This group aims to give those in the local community who are new to the parish, a chance to come together for an informal chat, and make new friends with help from people from the Church community. Or just come along to enjoy the company of others.  
Rev. Shellie Ward and Elaine Major LLM





## What's the Big Idea?

### An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Song of Songs

The title of this book, *'Solomon's Song of Song'* (1:1), claims to be written by Solomon, and while his name is mentioned seven times and several verses speak of the *'king'*, the book may be more about Solomon rather than written by him. However, it is reasonable to assume that Song of Songs was written in the tenth century BC, during Solomon's reign (971-931 BC).

The focus of the Song is God's choicest gifts of love and the voice of this love belongs to a woman, the beloved. It is her experience of love, both as the one who loves and as the one who is loved, that is most clearly expressed. The Song begins with her wish for her lover's kiss and ends with an invitation for intimate love. It describes the intimacies of married love as God intends it to be. She speaks profoundly of love; of its beauty and delight; its exclusiveness (2:16); its spontaneity (2:7) and its overwhelming power: *'Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away.'* (8:6,7)

God created man and woman, and established marriage as His purpose for society (Genesis 1:27; 2:20-24). This Song is part of the wisdom literature and shows us how to receive and live the gift of God's love with thanksgiving and celebration. However, the Song also speaks symbolically of the experience of intimacy to be found in our relationship with Christ: *'My lover is mine and I am his...and his banner over me is love.'* (2:16,4).

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### Sudoku Solutions (from p16)

Easy Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 |

Medium Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 |



## The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18th to 25th January

For 2026, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that

originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

### Events Update – January 2026

|                       |      |                      |                    |
|-----------------------|------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Schools Return        | Tues | 6 January            | Hampton            |
| Coffee Club           | Tues | 6 January 2.00pm     | Farm Shop          |
| Open Church           | Sat  | 10 Jan 10.00 – 12.00 | Hampton            |
| St Andrew's Tots      | Tues | 13 January 9.30am    | Scout & Guide Hall |
| Coffee Club           | Tues | 13 January 2.00pm    | Farm Shop          |
| Bishop Hugh's Welcome | Sat  | 17 Jan 2.00pm        | Worcester          |
| St Andrew's Tots      | Tues | 20 January 9.30am    | Scout & Guide Hall |
| Coffee Club           | Tues | 20 January 2.00pm    | Farm Shop          |
| 2 C's                 | Sun  | 25 January 2.30-4.30 | Scout & Guide Hall |

## Plough Sunday

Plough Sunday, traditionally celebrated on the first Sunday after Epiphany, marks the beginning of the agricultural year. This year it falls on Sunday 11 January.



It is a time when farmers and rural communities gather to seek God's blessing on the land and the tools of their trade, offering prayers for a fruitful season ahead. Historically, ploughs were brought into the church to be blessed, a symbol of dependence on God for the success of the harvest.

In today's context, Plough Sunday reminds us of the importance of creation and our responsibility to steward the earth wisely. As we give thanks for the land, we also remember the delicate balance of nature and the need for sustainable practices. Our prayers extend beyond the fields, asking for God's guidance in tackling environmental challenges, promoting food justice, and ensuring that all have access to the fruits of the earth.

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## The Gifts of the Magi - Epiphany for Today

The gifts the Magi offered point us to how Jesus can answer our present days concerns and worries: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The **gift of gold** reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The **gift of frankincense** reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this coming year?

The **gift of myrrh** reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face challenges in the future, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him in everything?

***'Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav'n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.'*** ('We Three Kings').

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# **Bishop's Palace, Worcester**

## **An Evening of Medieval Music**

SATURDAY 17 JANUARY 2026 | 7PM

Join us for a night of enchanting Medieval melodies that will transport you back in time!

Don't miss the chance to experience an unforgettable afternoon of medieval music at Bishop's Palace, Worcester with Marco Cannavo and Ricardo De Noronha! From the love songs of the troubadour to sacred compositions honouring the Virgin Mary, this recital will transport you to another time with the evocative melodies of hurdy gurdies and the timeless rhythms of the percussions. Get ready for an incredible musical journey!

TICKETS FROM: Adults: £13.17

## **Pershore Abbey**

### **Hans Zimmer Candlelight Experience**

An unforgettable evening of music in an enchanting indoor setting

Performances at 1900 and 2100

Pershore Abbey

Tickets: [www.lumos-experiences.com](http://www.lumos-experiences.com)

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## **Evesham Festival of Words**



### **Some Events to look forward to in 2026**

#### **Illustrated Talk: 'AE Housman and A Herefordshire Lad' with Max Hunt**

Monday 23 March 2026 1.00pm

**Holland House, Cropthorne**

Tickets, incl 2-course lunch, via Holland House. ([www.hollandhouse.org](http://www.hollandhouse.org))

*Max is a firm Festival favourite. Always a delight and a great talk.*

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#### **'A Century of Popular Songs: 1860s to 1960s' with Richard Churchley, followed by Afternoon Tea**

Friday 3 April 2026 2.30pm

**Raphaels Restaurant**

Raphaels Good Friday Charity Event. Always an enjoyable afternoon

*Richard is a very talented musician. Audience participation optional!*

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# St Andrew's CE First School

## Successful Learners; Success for Life

It was a real joy to embrace the festive season and welcome parents and families into school. A huge thank you to everyone who supported our PTFA Christmas Fayre and joined us for the many wonderful celebrations, including the Reception and Year 2 Nativities, Nursery and Year 3 & 4 sing-alongs, Year 5's Carol Concert, and Year 1's spectacular Christingle service.

Our final week before Christmas was full of colour, fun and cheer, from festive jumpers to a delicious Christmas lunch enjoyed by all. We were also lucky enough to have a special visit from Father Christmas, spreading excitement across the school. Reception enjoyed a magical trip to Little Owl Farm Park, while Year 5 got into the festive spirit with their wonderful North Pole Breakfast, all of which were truly memorable end to a fantastic term.

A special thank you to everyone who works tirelessly behind the scenes to make these moments possible. It has been a long autumn term, and our children have shown incredible resilience, joy and a true reflection of our school values.

We were delighted to welcome Pudsey Bear to school, who came to personally thank everyone for helping us raise over £4,000 for Children in Need. The children were incredibly excited to see him, and his visit brought lots of smiles and excitement throughout the school.

### Year 5 Carol Concert

Year 5 treated us to a wonderful Carol Concert held in the school hall, which was transformed into a truly magical and very Christmassy space. The Year 5 team worked incredibly hard to create a warm, festive atmosphere, setting the perfect scene for a delightful evening of music and celebration.

The children sang beautifully and performed with confidence and enthusiasm, spreading Christmas cheer to everyone in attendance. It was a lovely opportunity for families and staff to come together and enjoy the festive spirit, and the pupils should be extremely proud of themselves.

A huge thank you to the Year 5 team for all their effort in making the hall look so special, and to everyone who joined us to support the children. It was a memorable celebration to mark the Christmas season. 🧩🎄

*We wish you all a restful, joyful and peaceful Christmas and look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday 6th January 2026.***

Joel Turvey – Headteacher

Tel: 01386 41351

[office@st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk)

[www.st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk)





## New Year Quiz 2026

????????????????????



1. Where is the festival of Up Helly Aa held on the last Tuesday in January?
2. Which city's name translates as January river?
3. January is named after which Roman god, representing beginnings and transitions?
4. What is the common name for plants of the genus Eranthis, which commonly flower in January?
5. What is January's birthstone?
6. When it's not a leap year, January always starts on the same day of the week as which other month?
7. Which Grand Slam tennis tournament is held mid-January?
8. What is the name of the full moon that takes place in January?
9. National Trivia Day falls on what day in January?
10. What date is Australia Day celebrated on?
11. Which monarch died on January 22, 1901?
12. Via which island did immigrants enter the USA from January 1892 until 1954?
13. The world's first underground railway system open on January 10, 1863, but in which city?
14. Which monarch was crowned on January 13, 1559?
15. The United Kingdom officially joined the European Economic Community on January 1 of which year?
16. On January 30, 1969, where did The Beatles perform an impromptu concert?
17. Who famously started his diary on January 1, 1660?
18. In January of what year was Czechoslovakia divided into Slovakia and the Czech Republic?
19. What became the 49th state of the US on January 3, 1959?
20. Popeye the Sailor Man first appeared in a comic strip in 1929. What was the name of his long-term girlfriend?

Answers p16

# RECIPE – Sticky banana, date & pecan pudding

## Ingredients

- 100g stoned dates, chopped
- 150ml whole milk
- 200g butter, softened
- 150g dark soft brown sugar
- 2 very ripe bananas, unpeeled
- 3 medium eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 200g self-raising flour
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 100g pecans, chopped
- vanilla ice cream to serve



## For the sauce

- 100g dark brown soft sugar
- 100ml double cream
- 25g butter

## Method

- Put the chopped dates and milk in a saucepan and warm over a low-medium heat until the milk is steaming. Cook for a few more minutes until the dates are soft, then remove from the heat and leave to cool a little.
- Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Tip the butter, sugar, whole bananas (including the skin), eggs, vanilla, flour, bicarb, and the date and milk mixture into a blender. Add ½ tsp salt and blend to a smooth cake batter. Pour the batter into a deep ovenproof dish and scatter over half the chopped pecans, then stir them into the batter.
- Bake for 45 mins until golden brown and cooked through.
- While the pudding is baking, bubble the ingredients for the sauce in a small pan over a low heat until combined to a glossy toffee sauce, about 5 mins. Stir in a pinch of salt.
- When the pudding is cooked, pour over half the sauce and scatter with the remaining pecans, then return to the oven for 5 mins until the toffee sauce is bubbling. Serve with the remaining sauce and scoops of vanilla ice cream.

©BBC Good Food

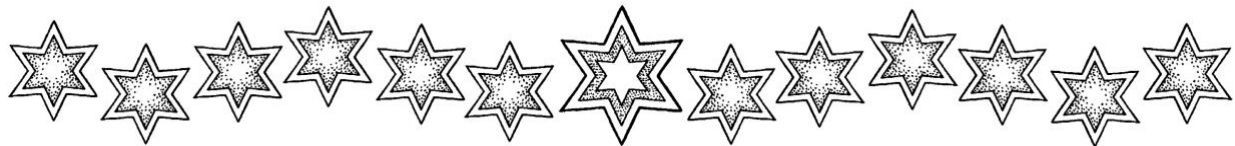
## Christmas Decorations Deadline

No need to panic- apparently, we don't have to worry about rushing to take down our Christmas decorations by Twelfth Night! Indeed, we will not incur bad luck or attract bad spirits even if we leave them up until the beginning of February as, (according to English Heritage), it was just a rule brought in by the Victorians so that business wasn't affected by continuing celebrations. Mill owners were keen to get the workers back to the looms.

In Medieval times, the Christmas Season lasted 40 days until Candlemas on 2 February, which was a Feast Day marking the presentation of Jesus at the Temple and the Purification of the Virgin Mary. Traditionally, this is the date that all the candles for use in church in the coming year are blessed by the priest. For Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. In John 8:12 Jesus said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". In the 16<sup>th</sup> century as a reminder of this, Christians put candles onto Christmas trees, although the risk of fire was considerable. Thankfully, by 1882 the first electrically lit Christmas tree had been developed.

The February date also marks the ending of the darkest quarter of the year. It seems a good idea to me to leave a few festive lights up for a bit longer (until the eve of Candlemas) to keep my spirits up and dispel the gloom!

*Sally Churchus*



### Quiz Answers from p14

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Shetland        | 1. Queen Victoria                    |
| 2. Rio de Janeiro  | 2. Ellis Island                      |
| 3. Janus           | 3. London                            |
| 4. Winter aconites | 4. Queen Elizabeth I                 |
| 5. Garnet          | 5. 1973                              |
| 6. October         | 6. The rooftop of the Apple building |
| 7. Australian Open | 7. Samuel Pepys                      |
| 8. Wolf Moon       | 8. 1993                              |
| 9. January 4       | 9. Alaska                            |
| 10. January 26     | 10. Olive Oyl                        |

## Sudoku – Easy

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 |   | 9 |   | 8 |   |   | 2 |   |
|   | 2 | 6 |   | 7 | 4 |   | 9 |   |
| 7 |   |   | 6 |   |   |   | 8 |   |
|   |   |   | 7 | 2 |   | 5 |   |   |
|   | 8 |   |   | 3 |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 7 |   | 1 | 5 |   |   |   |
|   | 3 |   |   |   | 7 |   |   | 1 |
|   | 7 |   | 1 | 4 |   | 8 | 6 |   |
|   | 1 |   |   | 5 |   | 4 |   | 9 |

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## Sudoku - Medium

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 6 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |
| 1 | 5 |   | 9 | 8 |   |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   | 6 | 5 |   |   |   | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 7 |   |   |   | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 5 |   |   |   | 3 | 2 |   |   | 9 |
|   |   |   |   | 4 | 9 |   | 5 | 6 |
|   | 2 |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   |

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Solutions on page 11

## VALE TURF SUPPLIES

- ★ Fresh-cut Turf to order (sq. rolls) ★
- ★ Turf laying supply and fit ★
- ★ Lawn Care ★
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## SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2026

| <b>4 January – Epiphany</b>                          |      |                  |         |
|--|------|------------------|---------|
|  | 8am  | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
|  | 10am | Morning Praise   | Hampton |
| Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12      |      |                  |         |
| Wednesday 7  | 10am | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
| <b>11 January – First Sunday of Epiphany</b>         |      |                  |         |
|  | 8am  | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
|  | 10am | Parish Eucharist | Hampton |
| Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-end       |      |                  |         |
| Wednesday 14   | 10am | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
| <b>18 January – Second Sunday of Epiphany</b>        |      |                  |         |
|  | 8am  | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
|  | 10am | Morning Praise   | Hampton |
| Isaiah 49.1-7, 1 Corinthians 11.1-9, John 1.29-42    |      |                  |         |
| Wednesday 21   | 10am | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
| <b>25 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany</b>         |      |                  |         |
|  | 8am  | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
|  | 10am | Parish Eucharist | Hampton |
| Isaiah 9.1-4, 1 Corinthians 1.10-18, Matthew 4.12-23 |      |                  |         |
| Wednesday 28   | 10am | Holy Communion   | Hampton |

## SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

| <b>1 February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b> |      |                  |         |
|--|------|------------------|---------|
|  | 8am  | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
|  | 10am | Morning Praise   | Hampton |
| Malachi 3.1-5, Hebrews 2.14-end, Luke 2.22-40            |      |                  |         |
| Wednesday 4  | 10am | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
| <b>8 February – Second Sunday before Lent</b>            |      |                  |         |
|  | 8am  | Holy Communion   | Hampton |
|  | 10am | Parish Eucharist | Hampton |
| Genesis 1.1-2.3, Romans 8.18-25, Matthew 6.25-end        |      |                  |         |
| Wednesday 11   | 10am | Holy Communion   | Hampton |

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