



Hampton – Fairfield – Thistledown – Eastwick Park – Charity Crescent

THE HERALD



Mt 4:16-17, Mk 1:10-11, Lk 3:21-22

The magazine of St Andrew's
Church, Hampton,

30p

February 2026
www.hamptonchurch.org.uk

Office Email

Please note the email address for the Parish Office:
office@hamptonchurch.org.uk

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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.



Reflections on 11 years of General Synod

An article from the Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke

February is a short month, and for me it involves a week in London at General Synod, and a week on holiday in Italy. I could regale you with my holiday plans, which include running the Naples Half Marathon and visiting Pompei and Vesuvius, but it's perhaps more appropriate to use this opportunity to reflect on eleven years representing the Diocese on the governing body of the Church of England. I have decided two terms are enough, and it's time to give someone else the opportunity, so I have just two sessions remaining – London this month and York in July.

Being a 'proctor in convocation' as it is formally known, has been demanding, enriching, provided huge learning opportunities, driven me at times to despair and also to rejoice, presented unique opportunities, unparalleled insights and has been an immense privilege overall.

Some of you reading this will have watched occasional debates on the synod live stream, others will glean information from the Church Times summaries, many will only know what appears in national press and TV coverage – usually sensationalised soundbites bearing little relationship to reality! None of these capture the whole experience of being a synod rep. So much happens outside of the debating chamber – conversations over coffee, small group work, membership of various committees,

fringe meetings and chance encounters. In York especially you find yourself sitting next to dressed down bishops at breakfast, or people from other dioceses you have never met, and it is a wonderful place of networking and relationship building across different traditions and contexts. I have found myself reconnecting with friends from the past – someone I led a children's Explorers group with forty years ago – and starting new friendships which will continue long after my time as part of this weird and wonderful institution.

The importance of the synod as a legislative body preparing governing measures for the nation is underlined by the opening of each group of sessions by the monarch. What an honour to have been present when Queen Elizabeth II fulfilled this task for her final time.

I chaired a revision committee which led to some new laws being made, so have made a direct contribution, but every member of synod plays a part, contributing to debates and deciding on often closely contested issues, where every vote is significant.

The Living in Love and Faith process to bring about radical Christian inclusion for our LGBTQI+ sisters and brothers has dominated much of the last two quinquennia. Having played a part and given some much-quoted speeches in the debates about this, I am sad that I

will be stepping down before change has come about, but am acutely aware that the Church of England moves slowly. It took many, many sessions of synod to approve the ordination of women as priests, then bishops, but we got there in the end, and I hold on to hope that this will be the case for same sex marriage in church too – eventually, and that we manage to hold together in our diversity on this and many other issues.

There have also been monumental debates about safeguarding, and detailed work to build a safer church for the future. These have at times been heartbreakingly harrowing, as we have heard from victims and survivors of abuse.

We have heard moving addresses from Anglican Communion visitors about the impact of war and natural disasters, and made bold statements on matters of significance to the nation. We also engage with small changes which make a difference in local churches, and impact congregations and communities for good.

I will miss it, and am thankful for the opportunity to have served on synod and represented the Diocese of Worcester nationally. Please pray for us as we meet these final two times, and for whoever is elected in the future. Synod really matters.

Nikki Groarke, Archdeacon of Dudley

In our Thoughts and Prayers

A Prayer for Candlemas

God our Father,
Whose Son was revealed to Simeon in the Temple
as the light of the nations, and the glory of Israel,
Let our candles be to us a sign of his light and presence,
that, guided by the Holy Spirit,
we may live by the light of faith until we come to the
light of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A Prayer for World Leaders

God our Father,
Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee
and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters".

Amen

Church Building Work - Benefice Office and Vestry

"What is happening at the Church?"

St Andrews Church are so excited to announce that work on the vestry is well under way and after many years of plans, faculties, discussions, and sleepless nights we now have kitchen and toilet facilities in the church!

Although the kitchen and loo are now in use, the building work continues. Once this phase of the building work is complete, we will be inviting you all to a grand opening service so watch this space!

As you can imagine this is a very expensive project ,so your support for our fundraising events is very welcome ***Margaret Thomson - Hampton PCC***

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 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.

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 Higton, can be contacted on [07495 060 869](tel:07495060869).

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 07846 281759



ST ANDREW'S TOTS HAMPTON GUIDE & SCOUT HALL

Tuesdays in term time 9.00-11.00

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

Welcoming Bishop Hugh - Diocese of Worcester

Hundreds of people from across Worcestershire and Dudley gathered in Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 17 January to welcome Hugh Nelson to the Diocese as the 114th Bishop of Worcester.

The service started with Bishop Hugh banging on the West door of the Cathedral to be let in. When the door was opened, the bishop was greeted by students from St Matthias CE Primary and Dyson Perrins CE Academy in Malvern.

The children were chosen to be part of the service having taken part in the consultation process for appointing our new bishop. Other children and young people from Redditch, Pershore, Kidderminster and Kingswinford were involved in presenting Bishop Hugh with the different items of clothing he will wear as Bishop of Worcester and two young people from Claines and St George's Churches in Worcester anointed Bishop Hugh's hand.



Bishop Hugh preached at the service starting with thanks for all those who had welcomed him and his family to the Diocese. He spoke about what it means to be part of the diocesan 'Kingdom People' vision, saying: "Thank you to all of you 'Kingdom People' here in Dudley and Worcestershire who are faithfully serving your communities, walking with those who are

suffering, and pointing to Jesus. To all of you who, walking with Jesus, have discovered that the Kingdom is here, and that we find it best together. It is the greatest of privileges to join you in the unfolding story of this great diocese as your bishop, on our journey together to be and to become God's Kingdom People, for the communities we serve and for this generation."

Prayers were led during the service by the Archdeacons of Worcester and Dudley as well as representatives from our partnership dioceses of Peru, Morogoro in Tanzania and the Evangelische Kirche Mitteldeutschland (Germany).

Music was led by the Cathedral Choir and Youth Choir as well as a worship band comprising of members of St Stephen's Church in Redditch and All Saints' Church in Worcester. There was also a special song led by children and others throughout the Diocese who have been working with iSingPOP. During the service Bishop Hugh was installed into his 'seat' in the Cathedral by the Dean of Worcester and at the end the Bishop returned to the West doors to pray for all in Worcestershire and Dudley at the start of his ministry here.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Greed

Canon Paul Hardingham begins a seven-part series

'How much money is enough? Just a little bit more.' (John D Rockefeller).

In the second of our series on the Seven Deadly Sins, we are looking at greed. It is the overwhelming desire for *more and more* in our lives. In our consumer culture it can be hard to tell the difference between needs and wants - e.g. buying a new laptop or shoes for different occasions. We need to ask the question: *How much is enough?*

Jesus was approached by a man who wanted Him to settle a dispute about family inheritance. He said, '*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.*' (Luke 12:15). Jesus goes on to tell the story of a rich farmer who builds bigger and bigger barns, but whose life is unexpectedly cut short by death. He concludes: '*This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.*' (21).

How do we overcome greed and become '*rich towards God*'? Paul writes: '*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*' (Philippians 4:13). Overcoming greed involves learning to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves, in need or plenty. Paul is not saying that there is anything wrong with having food, money or possessions, but these cannot be the primary source of our contentment. The secret of contentment is found in a transforming relationship with Jesus: '*I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.*' (13). He is the one who enables us to overcome greed and know riches.

'Contentment makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.'

(Benjamin Franklin).

**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: Isaiah

Isaiah is often regarded as the greatest of the prophets. His name means '*The Lord saves*' and he began his 50-year ministry in 740 BC when King Uzziah died (6:1).

Many scholars challenge the claim that Isaiah wrote the entire book, however there are striking verbal parallels between chapters 1–39 and 40–66.

Isaiah spoke during the stormy period marking the expansion of the Assyrian empire and the decline of Israel. The Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom in 721. Judah was left to decide whether they would make alliances with other kingdoms or rely on God to protect them. Isaiah warns Judah that her sin would bring captivity in Babylon, which eventually took place in 586.

Isaiah sees the Messiah coming from the line of David. He speaks of a new temple being established (ch2); a child born with a new kingdom (ch9) and judging differently to other kings (ch11) as well as the nature of His suffering (ch53). The '*suffering servant*' (chapters 42–53) also applies to Israel as a nation, who are called to be a '*light for the Gentiles*' (42:6). Not surprisingly Jesus applies Isaiah's words to His own life and ministry. e.g. Is 61:1 quoted in Luke 4:18. Throughout his book Isaiah presents the full dimensions of God's judgment and salvation as '*the Holy One of Israel*' (6:1), as well as the '*Sovereign Lord*' far above all nations (40:15–24).

Isaiah looks forward to the promise of a new city of Zion (chapters 60–66), in which the people offer praise to the Holy One of Israel. '*Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.*' (65:17).

Sudoku Solutions (from p17)

Easy Sudoku

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

Medium Sudoku

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

Events Update – February 2026

Candlemas	Mon	2 February	
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	3 February 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Club	Tues	3 February 2.00pm	Farm Shop
Open Church	Sat	8 Feb 10.00 – 12.00	Hampton
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	10 February 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Club	Tues	10 February 2.00pm	Farm Shop
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	17 February 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Club	Tues	17 February 2.00pm	Farm Shop
Communion/Ashing	Wed	18 February 10.00am	Hampton
2 C's	Sun	22 February 2.30-4.30	Scout & Guide Hall
St Andrew's Tots	Tues	24 February 9.30am	Scout & Guide Hall
Coffee Club	Tues	24 February 2.00pm	Farm Shop

In our Thoughts and Prayers

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

Gary Andrews; Mary Andrews; Harry Edwards; Phil Hammond; Jenny Lamb; Claire Lording; Amanda Palmer; Joan Parry; Steven Rhodes; Carol Thould; Sheila Thould; Jennifer, Tony and Paul Waters; Shirley and Andrew

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

Norman Kyte

What Money Can't Buy

It can buy a house, but not a home.

It can buy a bed, but not sleep.

It can buy a clock, but not time.

It can buy you a book, but not knowledge.

It can buy you a position, but not respect.

It can buy you medicine, but not health.

It can buy you blood, but not life.

So you see, money isn't everything. And it often causes pain and suffering.

Source Unknown

from Bursting at the Seams by Killy John and Alie Stibbe

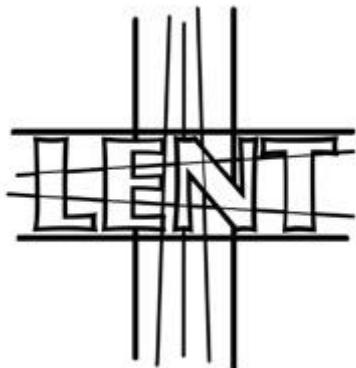
Winnie the Pooh and Lent 2026

By the Revd. Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

Remember the Winnie the Pooh stories? And Kanga's insistence on Baby Roo's taking his Strengthening Medicine? It's 'really quite a nice taste when you get used to it', she explained, although I'm not convinced Baby Roo always agreed.

It can be helpful to think of Lent as a sort of medicine; an opportunity to strengthen us in the things that are good, rein in other facets of our personality, and reset the compass to the true North of following Jesus. A Spring-clean of the soul, if you like.

Baby Roo (and Piglet on the one occasion he was subject to it) found Strengthening Medicine not to their liking, and we may groan inwardly at the thought of 'giving up something for Lent'. Think of what lies behind this 'giving up'. It's so that we may be strengthened, our character refined, our prejudices examined, our junk thrown overboard, and we may come to Passontide and Easter more fit to walk the way of the Cross, and rise in new life with Jesus at His Resurrection.



Nor is Lent just a case of giving up chocolate. One year I gave up Facebook for Lent, having spent far too much time scrolling through it each day. It freed me to do other, more constructive things. And instead of giving up, why not take up something you've been meaning to do but never got round to; something life-affirming, something good for God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 18 February. Many Christians go public with their intention to keep a good Lent by being 'ashed' - the sign of the Cross made on the forehead in a mixture of ash and holy oil at a special service that day. The ash is usually the burnt remains of the palm crosses from last year. Having been ashed, the intention of the 40 days of Lent is to maintain a steady course closer to God, symbolised by the giving up of something - like chocolate - which has a hold on us. We walk with Jesus on the way to the Cross, mindful of the 'riches of God's kindness, forbearance and patience' as St Paul has it, and mindful too of Jesus' choice of the Cross as a way for us to enter those riches more fully.

And to face the immensity of that sacrifice, and the immensity of God's riches made available to us in Jesus, we need all the Strengthening Medicine we can get!



St Andrew's CE First School

Successful Learners; Success for Life



The Spring Term began extremely well with everyone returning to school refreshed after their Christmas break. We have lots of interesting work and events planned as usual and will be embarking on lots of exciting topic work, enabling the children to learn through our rich and broad curriculum.

At school, our acts of worship are based around a set of Christian Values which are relevant to everyone of all faiths and none. This half-term's value is 'RESPECT'. As a whole school community, we will be considering:

- How school gives opportunities to feel awe, wonder and mystery.
- How we show respect for each other and adults in the school community.
- How we are encouraged to value and respect our own and other's belongings
- How children are encouraged to show tolerance by accepting feelings, habits or beliefs, racial or ethnic origins that are different from their own

From a Christian perspective, we will be considering:

The nature of God, as revealed in the Bible, presents all people with a choice.

Those whose response is one of respect are acknowledging God's greatness, authority and involvement in the world. This will extend to respect for the created order, including humanity made in the image of God:

- seeking out opportunities to experience feelings of awe, wonder and mystery;
- explore the places and objects we have around school that are "holy or sacred" and which help us reflect and wonder;
- experience how special words, sacramental actions or religious symbols are used to challenge and inform children's understanding of God;
- to encourage children to value and respect their own and other people's belongings.

Year 3 attended St Andrew's Church recently, when Elaine led the collective worship of hymns and passages from the Bible, while the children joined in.

Recently, we welcomed Sarah from STEMWorks, who led the Worcestershire Primary STEM Challenge. This year's 2026 challenge, developed in partnership with West Midlands Safari Park, tasked pupils with designing and building a theme park ride for eight people, inspired by the animals at the park. We are incredibly proud of Year 5 for their innovative, moving designs, all expertly constructed using K'nex.

Apples and Pears are enjoying the indoor and outdoor play, and are making friends with the new children.

Joel Turvey – Headteacher

Tel: 01386 41351

office@st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk www.st-andrews.worcs.sch.uk

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 12.30pm for 1.00pm

Holland House, Crofton

Tickets £24 includes 2-course lunch, available only from Holland House.

(online – www.hollandhouse.org; email: enquiries@hollandhouse.org or Tel: 01386 860330)

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

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

Friday 3 April 2026 2.30pm

Raphael's Restaurant

Tickets £15 Includes Afternoon Tea. Booking essential. Online or Tel. 01386 45460

Raphael's Good Friday Charity Event. Always an enjoyable afternoon

Richard is a very talented musician. Audience participation optional!

'Behind the Scenes at the Movies' with Stuart St Paul

Join us for a humorous and insightful behind the scenes look into the extraordinary and dangerous life of stuntman and fight choreographer, award-winning film director and best-selling author of 9 books, **Stuart St Paul**. And it all started at Wood Norton in 1973!

Wednesday 6 May 2026 7.00pm

Evesham Rowing Club, WR11 4ST

Tickets £12 Come early and treat yourself to a drink at the bar

Booklovers Quiz Night

Friday 26 June 2026 7.30pm

Raphael's Restaurant

Tickets £12 (Includes a Light Supper).

Teams of Four. Booking essential. Online or Tel. 01386 45460

With questions on everything from Poetry and Song Lyrics to Book Titles and the Meaning of Words, our Quiz Night definitely has a wordy slant

The Winter Olympics returns to Europe



If you like snow-sports, you are in for a great month. From 6th to 22nd February, Italy will be hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics, officially known as Milano Cortina 2026. The opening ceremony is at football's famous San Siro stadium. The Paralympic Winter Games follows, from 6th to 15th March.

For the first time the Winter Games will have two host cities, Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, with events spread across 15 venues in northern Italy, using existing infrastructure to reduce costs. (Thus, Milan will host indoor events like hockey and figure skating, while Cortina hosts alpine skiing and snowboarding.)

Around 3,500 athletes from more than 90 countries are expected to compete for 195 medals across 16 Olympic disciplines. New this year is ski-mountaineering.

Snow gets an occasional mention in the Bible. Job tells how God "Says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth' ... He stops all people from their labour. The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds. At His direction they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do whatever He commands them."

Let's hope that the snow does a good deep swirl around Italy this month.



The Three Bears

It was a sunny morning in the big forest, and the bear family was just waking up. Baby bear went downstairs and sat in the small chair at the table. He looked into his small bowl. It was empty! "Who's been eating my porridge?" he wailed.

Daddy bear arrived at the table and sat in his big chair. He looked into his big bowl. It was also empty! "Who's been eating my porridge?" he roared.

Mummy bear put her head through the serving hatch from the kitchen and yelled, "For Pete's sake, how many times do we have to go through this? It was mummy bear who got up first. It was mummy bear who woke everyone else in the house up. It was mummy bear who unloaded the dishwasher from last night and put everything away. It was mummy bear who went out into the cold morning air to fetch the newspaper. It was mummy bear who put the cat out, cleaned the litter box and filled the cat's water and food dish. And now that you've decided to come downstairs and grace me with your presence.....listen up, because I'm only going to say this one more time.....*I haven't made the porridge yet!*

Five Good Reasons to eat Greek Yoghurt

Real live Greek yoghurt is seriously good for you. Its protein and live bacteria have been linked to stronger muscles, boosted gut microbiome, and better heart, bone and brain health.

- Greek yoghurt is high in protein, with up to 10g of protein per 100g. That's about double the protein of low-fat yogurt or Greek-style yogurts. What's more, it is a 'complete' source of protein, with all nine of the essential amino acids that our bodies can't make by themselves.
- Greek yoghurt boosts your gut health. Its natural probiotics encourage a wider array of beneficial bugs to live in your gut. That means less inflammation, and probably fewer cancer-causing chemicals.
- Greek yoghurt contains the minerals potassium and magnesium, which can help to both support and regulate blood pressure.
- Greek yoghurt provides calcium. This can contribute to greater bone density and even re-build bone tissue if we are older or have been injured.
- Greek yoghurt includes the B vitamins – thiamine (B1), riboflavin (B2) and cobalamin (B12). These help support memory, critical thinking, and our problem-solving skills.

See recipe overleaf for using Greek yoghurt in a delicious Lemon Cake

Citizens Advice -South Worcestershire

All Saints Foodbank - Evesham

We now have a Citizens Advice adviser available every Friday at All Saints Foodbank, based in Church House.

If you're worried about things like benefits, debt, housing, or anything else, you're very welcome to drop in for a confidential chat.

If you'd like to see the adviser, just ask at the Foodbank when you arrive or ring the doorbell.

Please feel free to share this post so it reaches anyone who may find it helpful



Every Friday 10:00am – 12:00pm



RECIPE - Mary Berry Lemon Yoghurt Cake

Ingredients

- 200g Greek yoghurt
- 200g caster sugar
- 200g self-raising flour
- 100g butter
- 3 large eggs
- Zest of 2 lemons
- Juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt



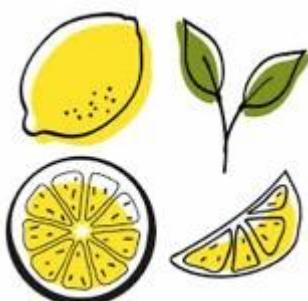
For the lemon glaze:

- 100g icing sugar
- 2–3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Method

- Line a 20cm cake tin with parchment paper and preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/350°
- Combine yoghurt, eggs, melted butter (or oil), sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice, and vanilla, and whisk until smooth.
- Add the self-raising flour and salt, mixing gently until the batter is even and lump-free.
- Transfer the mixture into the prepared cake tin and smooth the top.
- Bake for 30–35 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
- Allow the cake to cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin.
- Mix icing sugar with lemon juice to create a pourable glaze, then drizzle it over the warm cake.

© Mary Berry



Initially, lemons were not used for eating. The trees were grown decoratively and the fruits were used for medicinal purposes. It was believed they were an excellent all-rounder to treat pain, constipation, digestive disorders, control weight and reduce risk of infection. Initial high demand by the rich meant lemon trees remained a luxury item in Britain for many years even after Europe began widely cultivating them.

British Yorkshire Pudding Day – 1st February 2026

British Yorkshire Pudding Day, celebrated on the first Sunday of February, is a moment dedicated to one of the most iconic staples of British cuisine: the Yorkshire pudding. This annual observance honours a dish that has been part of the national culinary identity for centuries, cherished for its versatility, simplicity, and comforting presence at the heart of the traditional Sunday roast.

The origins of Yorkshire pudding reach back to the early 18th century, when cooks sought clever ways to make the most of precious ingredients. Before modern ovens, roast beef was cooked on a spit over an open fire, and a pan was placed beneath to catch the drippings. Resourceful cooks began using those rich drippings to flavour a simple batter of eggs, flour, and milk or water, creating what was first known as “dripping pudding”. This early version was served as a first course, particularly in poorer households, where it helped dull the appetite before the more expensive meat was served sparingly.

Over time, the pudding evolved into the airy, crisp-edged, soft-centred delight recognised today. Its association with Yorkshire likely stems from the region’s reputation for producing especially light and well-risen puddings, though the dish was enjoyed throughout England. By the 19th century, the name “Yorkshire pudding” had firmly taken hold, and it became an essential component of the Sunday roast tradition.

British Yorkshire Pudding Day encourages cooks of all levels to celebrate this humble yet beloved dish. Whether served with roast beef and gravy, filled with sausages as toad-in-the-hole, or reinvented in modern wraps and desserts. The day invites everyone to appreciate its history, enjoy and keep the tradition alive.

Funeral Planning Awareness Week

Monday 23 February marks the start of Funeral Planning Awareness Week - a gentle invitation to reflect on the shape of our lives, our hopes, and the legacy we leave behind.

For churches, legacies are more than financial gifts; they are lasting acts of faith, gratitude, and love. Across our diocese, many parishes have been blessed by gifts left in wills - restoring buildings, funding mission and ministry, supporting young disciples, or caring for those in need.

Making a will and considering a legacy to the Church is a way of saying thank you to God for His faithfulness throughout our lives. It is a practical expression of stewardship - ensuring that the work of worship, witness, and service can continue for generations to come.

Find out more about leaving a legacy at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/legacies.php

Sudoku – Easy

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

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Sudoku - Medium

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

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Solutions on page 8

VALE TURF SUPPLIES

- ★ Fresh-cut Turf to order (sq. rolls) ★
- ★ Turf laying supply and fit ★
 - ★ Lawn Care ★
 - ★ Garden Clearance ★
- ★ Tree, Hedge and Shrub Maintenance ★
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SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

1 February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple			
	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
8 February – Second Sunday before Lent			
	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
15 February – Sunday next before Lent			
	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	10am	Morning Praise	Hampton
	3pm	Holy Baptism	Hampton
Exodus 24. 12-end; 2 Peter 1. 16-end; Matthew 17. 1-9			
Wednesday 18	10am	Holy Communion with Ashing	Hampton
22 February – First Sunday of Lent			
	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	10am	Parish Eucharist	Hampton
Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58. 1-12; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6,16-21 or John 8.1-11			
Wednesday 25	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2026

1 March – Second Sunday of Lent			
	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	10am	Morning Praise	Hampton
Genesis 12: 1-4a; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17			
Wednesday 4	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton
8 March – Third Sunday of Lent			
	8am	Holy Communion	Hampton
	10am	Parish Eucharist	Hampton
Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42			
Wednesday 11	10am	Holy Communion	Hampton

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