

Parish Church of St Catherine & St Paul, Paul's Lane, Hoddesdon, EN11 8TR

www.hoddlesdonparishchurch.com

Registered Charity No: 1129941

A MEMBER OF THE NEW RIVER GROUP MINISTRY

CHURCH MATTERS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2026

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PARISH DIARY for OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

OCTOBER

Th/01 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome Space; Coffee
Morning CH
15:30 Doughnut Club YR
F/02 19:00 Ladies Pudding and
Prosecco Evening CH
19:30 Choir BR

SUNDAY 4th CAFÉ CHURCH 10:00 HARVEST FESTIVAL 18:30 BCP Holy Communion

M/05 09:15 Morning Prayer CH
Tu/06 10:00 Early Birds HR
12:15 Luncheon Club BH
W/07 10:00 Midweek HC CH
10:00 Early Birds HR
Th/08 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome Space; Coffee
Morning CH
15:30 Doughnut Club YR
18:00 Chips Chaps and Chat
Men's Group AR
F/09 19:30 Choir CH

SUNDAY 11th

10:00 Holy Communion
18:30 Read the Bible in a Year
Q and A CH
M/12 09:15 Morning Prayer CH
Tu/13 10:00 Early Birds HR
13:30 MU HR
W/14 10:00 Midweek HC CH
10:00 Early Birds HR

Th/15 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome Space; Coffee
Morning CH
15:30 Doughnut Club YR
19:30 Choir CH

S/17 19:00 B-A-P QUIZ BH

SUNDAY 18th

10:00 Sung Communion
M/19 10:00 Early Birds HR
09:15 Morning Prayer CH
Tu/20 10:00 Early Birds HR
W/21 10:00 Midweek HC CH
10:00 Early Birds HR
Th/22 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome Space;
Coffee Morning CH
14:00 MU Craft Group HR
15:30 Doughnut Club YR
18:00 Chips Chaps and Chat
Men's Group AR
F/23 Choir CH

SUNDAY 25th

10:00 Holy Communion CH
M/26 9:15 Morning Prayer CH
Tu/27 10:00 Early Birds HR
W/28 10:00 Midweek HC CH
10:00 Early Birds HR
Th/29 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome Space;
Coffee Morning; CH
15:30 Doughnut Club YR
F/30 19:30 Choir CH

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 1st ALL SAINTS

10:00 Café Church
18:30 BCP Holy Communion
M/02 09:15 Morning Prayer CH
Tu/03 12:15 Luncheon Club BH
W/04 10:00 Midweek HC CH
10:00 Early Birds HR
Th/05 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome Space; Coffee
Morning CH
F/06 19:00 Pudding and
Prosecco Ladies Evening CH
19:30 Choir BR

SUN 8th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10:45 Service of
Remembrance at Hoddesdon
War Memorial followed by
11:15 Holy Communion in
Hoddesdon Parish Church
18:30 Read the Bible in a Year
Q and A
M/09 09:15 Morning Prayer CH
19:45 PCC AR
Tu/10 10:00 Early Birds HR
13:30 MU HR
W/11 10:00 Midweek HC CH
10:00 Early Birds HR
Th/12 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome Space; Coffee
Morning CH
18:00 Chips Chaps and Chat

Men's Group AR

F/13 19:30 Choir BR/CH

SUNDAY 15th

10:00 Sung Communion CH
M/16 09:15 Morning Prayer CH
Tu/17 10:00 Early Birds HR
W/18 10:00 Midweek HC CH
10:00 Early Birds HR
Th/19 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome Space; Coffee
Morning CH
F/20 19:30 Choir BR/CH

SUNDAY 22nd

10:00 Holy Communion
M/23 09:15 Morning Prayer CH
Tu/24 10:00 Early Birds HR
W/25 10:00 Midweek HC CH
10:00 Early Birds HR
Th/26 09:00 Foodbank Hub;
Warm Welcome; Coffee
Morning CH
14:00 MU Craft Group HR
18:00 Chips Chaps and Chat
Men's Group AR
F/27 19:30 Choir BR/CH

SUN 29th ADVENT SUNDAY

10:00 Joint Service - St
Cuthbert's, Rye Park
M/30 09:15 Morning Prayer CH
Please check with the Weekly
Notices for any changes

CHURCH CONTACTS

VICAR Revd Mark Escott 11 Oxenden Drive, Hoddesdon EN11 8QF T: 07478 331623 E:revmark@hoddiesdonparishchurch.com	<i>Day Off: FRIDAY</i>	PCC SECRETARY Hilary Marsh 01992 465665 E:pccsecretary@hoddiesdonparishchurch.com PASTORAL ENABLER Diana Forrest 07768782389 E: docforrest@hotmail.com BELL-A-PEAL PROJECT Mike Marsh 01992 465665 07793 420479	DOUGHNUT CLUB Rev Mark Escott 07478 331623 EARLY BIRDS Jacqui Gifford 01992 447249 HOUSE GROUPS Church Office 01992 462127	SAFEGUARDING OFFICER PAULA CLARK clark818@btinternet.com 07717 167757
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TREASURER Mike Marsh 01992 45665 E:marsh.hama@btinternet.com				

GOD IN THE SCIENCES

Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future.

Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things - a wonderful way to explore God's creation.

So, the question to ask is this:
If the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods.

Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate

the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on.

But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms - not because they weren't intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.

DEAR FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

I trust you are well.

In my letter to you this week, I want to try to weld together two differing themes. As I do, if I hope to find a tone, it is a tone of encouragement - a tone which may help you ponder and think to yourself: *'Yes, it is because God is good that my desire for the year ahead is to spend more time with the Lord'*.

So, these themes.

First is the rhythm that we keep throughout the Year and the Seasons.

The second is what we can all give to God.

Although these themes are not polar opposites, you may ask: ***'why these themes?' What is it that unifies this thinking?***

The answer is that as the nights draw in, and as our eye is drawn no longer by the sun - which is, perhaps, one of the defining images of the Summer - but instead to the colours of Autumn, we find ourselves reflecting so much on what it is that God has given to us. So what do you have in your life that God has given you, for which you are truly grateful?

But first, to rhythms. I wonder what it is, at the moment that is on your horizon.

In my Sermons at the start of September, I found myself reflecting on what might lie ahead of me as the new year was about to start. The new year, being for me not the 1st of January, but the 1st of September. For all my life, as long as I can remember, it has always been that way.

Both as a student and then for almost twenty years in education, it was the first of September when either hard or soft new year resolutions were made. And when one has engaged a rhythm for over forty years, it is fairly difficult to break the way in which that rhythm moulds who I am.

However, I think this is true, not only of myself, but

of others also. In Church, I have heard parishioners talk of children or grandchildren starting College or changing School. Several members have commented, despite the uncharacteristically warm weather, that Summer is over and Autumn is upon us. And indeed, I have even heard others say - as I have thought - that it is around now that the Church plans towards and moves forward to Christmas.

I mention that now, even though it still seems a little far off, because, unlike last year, now that we have moved to a bi-monthly circulation, this is the final time I will get to send you a message before Advent is upon us.

And so it is that, as a Church family, and indeed, as a wider community, we will move through - very much rhythm-like - the traditional Festivals and holidays of this time of year: first Harvest, then All Saints' Day, normally somewhere in Half-term week, and finally, before we reach Advent - Remembrance Sunday.

And it is at these occasions, which punctuate the Calendar between now and December, that we reflect on our second theme: ***'the things that God has given to us'***.

- **At Harvest** we think about the physical things that God gives to us to sustain us, and precisely the food that we eat.
- **At All Souls**, while many engage with what is perceived to be the jollity of Halloween, the Christian Church instead increasingly uses this occasion to remember loved ones - not that we have lost, but who have gone before us to the glories of Heaven.
- **On Remembrance Sunday**, the Christian Church is at the forefront of remembering those who died for our political freedoms.

And then, as we draw close to Advent, attention turns to the greatest gift the world has ever known: that the Father sent his Son Jesus so that we might all live with God forever.

Continued on P4

DEAR FRIENDS continued

The question for us, then, is this: *as we reflect, in various ways throughout the rhythm of the year, on the good things that God has given to us, what might we, in the year ahead, give back to God?*

As Vicar of St Catherine's and St Paul's Church in Hoddlesdon, I unashamedly say that I will never dodge the thorny issue of Church Giving.

And from Harvest onwards, it is this theme that I wish to address in my weekly Sermons. However, I do not want to focus solely on money. Indeed, research will show that when it comes to giving back to the Church, new Christians will first seek to give in other ways. And indeed, our Church is blessed so much by the energy and time which so many people give - some new to the Church, and others who are simply part of the furniture.

THANK YOU - I do not take it for granted.

So let us ask again: *what might we all give? In Sermons following Harvest, I will seek to explore how we might give spiritually, with our skills, and finally then - and only then - the imperative of Financial Giving.*

As I come to an end, let me now explicitly link these

two themes: *how might we, over the course of these festivals of thanksgiving, give more of ourselves to God in the spiritual practices of prayer and devotion to the reading of scripture?*

My prayer, for you and for the whole Church, is that through Harvest, All Saints, Remembrance, and soon Advent - is that each of us, including myself, might, as we reflect on what God has given us, be drawn back to the goodness of God.

These Seasons remind us not only of what God has given, but of how near God remains. And so, as we look ahead, perhaps the most precious gift which we can offer in return is simply ourselves: our attention, our time, our quiet moments of prayer. For in prayer, we give God space to speak, to steady us, and to shape us.

My encouragement to you, then, is this: as the rhythm of the year continues its steady turn, may you find a renewed desire to pause, to pray, and to rest again in the presence of the One who gives so generously.

God bless

Revd Mark Escott

ABERFAN - 60 YEARS ON

On 21 October 1966 the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery slag heap collapsed, releasing a torrent of slurry onto the village. It engulfed a number of houses and Pantglas Junior School, killing 116 children and 28 adults. It was a disaster that shocked the nation. As we reflect on it today, we are left asking the question, 'where was God when this happened?'

At the time there was a mixture of strong emotions: grief and sadness over the loss of those who had died, and anger against the Coal Board in allowing the disaster. However, people gave

their energy to support each other. A local Baptist Minister, Revd Kenneth Hayes, who lost his eldest son at the school, responded in this way: 'For 36 hours he was working non-stop either at the school, or going around comforting bereaved and stricken families and kept open house for many who came seeking news and comfort.'

How should we respond to such an incident? 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?' (Romans 8:35). Paul reminds us that even in our

darkest times of loss, God is with us to bring comfort. 'Christ Jesus who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.' (34). Paul also tells us that Jesus understands our suffering and is praying for us. 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (31). We can let go of bitterness and blame, because God is a God of justice.

King Charles III (then Prince of Wales) on the 50th anniversary summed up the community's response: '

'darkest sorrow, but also the most shining selflessness.'

LUNCHEON CLUB

for the over 50s - meets on
the 1st Tuesday of each month
at 12:15 in the Barclay Hall
Cost: £5 for a 2-Course meal
including Tea/Coffee

Next Lunch:

TUE 06 OCT + 03 NOV

EARLY BIRDS

Baby and Toddler Group meets
in Term-time

Venue: Hunt Room @ 10:00

Tuesday Play Sessions:

OCT 06 13 20 27; NOV 03 10 17 24

Wednesday Play Sessions

OCT 07 14 21 28; NOV 04 11 18 25

Cost: £1.50 for 1hr 30mins

payable on the door each Session

MOTHERS' UNION (MU)

MU is an Anglican worldwide
organisation, founded in 1876
for local mums, by Mary Sumner,
wife of the Vicar of Alford.

In the 21st Century, membership is
open to men and women, single,
married or divorced, parents or not,
from diverse ethnic and cultural
backgrounds: everyone is welcome!

**Hoddesdon MU meets in the
Hunt Room on the**

2nd Tuesday - MU MATTERS

Guest Speakers,

Discussions

TUESDAYS 13 OCT and 10 NOV

4th Thursday - *CRAFT GROUP

THURSDAYS 22 OCT and 26 NOV

***CRAFT GROUP**

*Help with an MU Craft Project or
bring your own Knitting, Crochet,
Sewing, Art, Craft Project*

Everyone is welcome -

you don't need to be an MU Member!

Not a keen Crafter? No problem -

just pop in for a Natter and a Cuppa!

MU Branch Leader: Julia Everett

01920 870869

j.everett@ntlworld.com

St Catherine and St Paul Parish Pump

PLEASE NOTE
OUR SERVICE ON
SUNDAY MORNINGS
STARTS AT
10:00



SATURDAY
17 OCTOBER 2026

at 19:00

in BARCLAY HALL

**Parish Church of
St Catherine and St Paul
Pauls Lane Hoddesdon
EN11 8TR**

QUIZ

TABLES OF UP TO 8
£12 per person
Including a hot Supper
Bring your own
Drinks, Glasses and
Nibbles

To book a Table:
Contact the CHURCH OFFICE
T: 01992 462127
M: 07776 659891

BIBLE READINGS - OCTOBER

Sun 04, 10:00; Wed 07, 10:00

TBC

Sun 11, 10:30; Wed 14, 10:00

Exodus 32:1-14; Matthew 22:1-14

Sun 18, 10:00; Wed 21, 10:00

Exodus 33:12-23; Matthew 22:15-22

Sun 25, 10:00; Wed 28, 10:00

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 22:34-46

BIBLE READINGS - NOVEMBER

Sun 01, 10:00; Wed 04, 10:00

TBC

Sun 08, 11:15; Wed 11, 10:00

Joshua 25:1-3a, 14-25; Matthew 25:1-13

Sun 15 10:00; Wed 18, 10:00

Judges 4:1-7; Matthew 25:14-30

Sun 22, 10:00 / Wed 25, 10:00

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:
31-46

Sun 29 November

No Service at this Church

CHIPS CHAPS AND CHAT Men's Social Group



with

Fish and Chip Supper
(£10)

THURSDAYS

08 + 22 OCTOBER

12 + 26 NOVEMBER

18:00-20:00 in the Ark Room
All Gentlemen are welcome!



**PUDDING
AND
PROSECCO
LADIES
EVENING**



FRIDAY 02 OCTOBER
and

FRIDAY 06 NOVEMBER
in the Church
19:00-21:00

All Ladies are welcome!



MESSY CHURCH

For Messy Church in July, we discussed the **Ten Commandments**.



There were 18 children from the School, plus parents, grandparents and younger siblings. They came in excitedly, knowing that there would be some fun activities to get involved with.



Mark explained the Ten Commandments, and he had a poem about them which he gave out to everyone. There was a refrain in the poem, which we all said together.



The Crafts for the day included:

- an edible Mount Sinai made of a cup cake, with two biscuits for the stone tablets on which the ten Commandments were written.
- A paper craft which showed the 10 Commandments in easy language
- Making a stone tablet out of clay. *Explanations were needed to make sure the children understood what they were making; one child thought it was a tombstone.*



Colouring pictures and a Wordsearch about the Ten Commandments were additional activities. We finished with a meal of picnic food - Sausage rolls, Sandwiches, salad, fruit, and cakes kindly provided by Tesco.

There was a good atmosphere, with families enjoying each other's company. **Diana Forrest**

WILD CHURCH



It was a hot day in August for Wild Church, so we put the Craft tables in the shade as much as possible, and had lots of cold drinks available, along with ice pops and ice lollies to cool people down.



The theme this time was **Perseverance**. There was a good turnout, with 21 children along with parents, carers and Grandparents.

Crafts were:

- making a collage picture of a vase of flowers;
- making a little bowl out of clay, and decorating it with gems and mosaic tiles;
- making a spinning top, which required perseverance to colour it in.



There were also colouring pictures and a difficult Wordsearch for them to persevere with.

The Bible verses on the tables read:

*Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1;
The testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:3*



Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:7.

We finished with a meal of picnic food - sandwiches, sausage rolls, salad, fruit, and cakes kindly provided by Tesco.

There was a good atmosphere, with families enjoying each other's company. **Diana Forrest**

A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO ALL THE CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

NEXT MESSY CHURCH

St Catherine's School: MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

NEXT WILD CHURCH (LIGHT PARTY)

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER @ 16:00

If you would like to join the Volunteer Team for Messy and/or Wild Church - or would just like more information, please contact

St Catherine's and St Paul's Church Office:

T: 01992 462127

M: 07776 659891

E: admin@hoddlesdon parishchurch.com

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN: ABIDE WITH ME

This Hymn was written by Henry Francis Lyte (01 June 1793-20 November 1847) who was an Anglican priest, published poet and hymn writer, an accomplished flute-player, competent in Latin and Greek, and fluent in French.

Henry was born in Scotland but grew up in Ireland. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin before training for Anglican ministry, serving his Curacy in a small country Parish in Cornwall. He was Vicar of 3 Churches in Devon where he set up Sunday Schools. What was to be his last Parish was a poor, obscure fishing village. He had suffered from poor health for many years. By the time he was 54, he had tuberculosis, bronchitis and asthma. He, like other TB sufferers, used to spend increasing periods of time in Southern France's warmer climate.

In September 1847, Henry was preparing to travel to the South of France. Shortly before he left, he read the account in Luke's Gospel, of the 2 Disciples on the road to Emmaus. They met Jesus on the day of His Resurrection and invited Him to stay with them because of the late hour.

'Abide with us' they said, **"for it is towards evening."**

These words struck a chord with Henry: he knew that he was approaching the evening of his life. So he sat down and wrote these words as a Prayer to God.

Shortly after this, Henry preached his final Sermon. He was so ill that he almost crawled into the Pulpit. A few weeks later, he returned to Nice in France, where he died. And so, he never knew that his hastily scribed Prayer-Poem would become a Hymn which would be so greatly loved the world over.

The Hymn is a Prayer to God to remain present with the Speaker throughout Life, through Trials and through Death.

The opening line refers to Luke Chapter 24:29 -
***'Abide with us: it is toward Evening
the Day is far spent.'***

'ABIDE WITH ME' has been sung by Church and secular Choirs, Congregations, the Military, Sports Teams and Spectators, at Parades, Concerts, Funerals, and other events for almost 200 years.

The hymn became a favourite of Kings George V and VI and was sung at the former's funeral. The hymn also inspired Field Marshal Herbert Kitchener and General Charles "Chinese" Gordon, and it was said to have been on the lips of Edith Cavell as she faced a German firing squad in 1915

It was sung during the Marriage Service of Prince Philip to Princess Elizabeth, and the 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Henry Lyte also penned the hymn "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven".

EVENTIDE Hymn Tune for ABIDE WITH ME

It was 14 years after Henry Lyte's death that a Hymn tune - **Eventide** - was composed to accompany Henry Lyte's words.

William Henry Monk was an eminent Organist and Composer of Organ music. He was Organist at 3 Churches in London AND was also the Music Editor for *'Hymns Ancient and Modern'* - its First Edition was published in 1861.

ABIDE WITH ME

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord
with me abide.
When other helpers fail and
comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Come not in terror, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in
Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus
abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth
didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse
meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's
pow'r?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can
be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord,
abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness
Where is death's sting?
Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to
the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's
vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord,
abide with me.

PRE-REFORMATION LIFE

Evensong developed from the monastic Offices (= Services), chanted in Latin, which were all key to a monk's monastic life of Bible study, contemplation and prayer.

In Catholic England of the Middle Ages, before the 16th Century Reformation, in the Middle Ages, Monks living in Monasteries observed the Canonical Hours of devotions throughout 24 hours. As daylight faded, the monks sang Vespers (*vesper* = *evening*, Latin), with Canticles: it was the most solemn Office of all.

In England at that time, the Catholic Church dominated the lives of local people and attending the Sunday Service was obligatory. But, the Service was in Latin, so it was unintelligible to those who were uneducated; they just listened Every adult was required to pay a tax to the Church.

People also feared what would happen to them after death, so they paid the local priest to say special prayers for their soul so that their time in Purgatory would be shortened. People believed the Priests because they communicated the Church's doctrine - which couldn't be challenged,

CHORAL EVENSONG

ARCHBISHOP CRANMER'S LEGACY

Cranmer was adamant that the BCP liturgy should be 'user friendly' so that the 'common man' would be able to read and understand it. The BCP liturgy was as written in English - the first version appeared in 1549.

The Liturgy for Evensong has not changed in almost nearly 599 years

The music was agreed over 50 years later, composed by Thomas Tallis and William Byrd who developed beautiful Choral music specifically for this 'new' Service'.

Subsequent generations followed suit, with new Composers continuing to add Classical Choral music to Evensong's growing repertoire over the last 500 years. Archbishop Cranmer created the BCP with 'user friendly' liturgy in English for ordinary people, which included the Evensong liturgy.

100 years of Choral Evensong

On 07 October 2026, BBC Radio 3 will celebrate a milestone: 100 years ago, on 07 October 1926, Choral Evensong was broadcast from Westminster Abbey.

The programme has become the BBC's - and the world's - longest-running outside broadcast, which is widely acknowledged as such.

EHCCA East Hertfordshire Church Choirs Association

Patron: The Bishop of St Albans

CHORAL EVENSONG for HARVEST

**SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026
at 18:30**

Parish Church of
St Catherine and St Paul
Pauls Lane, Hoddesdon EN11 8TR

Hymns for
Congregation participation:
**Come ye thankful people, Come
All Creatures of our God and King
For the beauty of the earth**

EHCCA Conductor: Jane Eldred
EHCCA Organist: Edward Dodge

RETIRING COLLECTION - CHURCH AND EHCCA

BBC RADIO 3 CHORAL EVENSONG 100

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
OF RADIO CHORAL EVENSONG
15:00 WEDNESDAY
07 OCTOBER 2026 at 15:00

★ **CHORAL EVENSONG:** One of England's greatest gifts to the world: an hour
★ of sublime Choral Music and historic liturgy. If you haven't been to Choral
★ Evensong before, do come to our church (details above) - it's a unique
★ experience.
★

REMEMBRANCE 2026

SATURDAY 07 NOVEMBER
21:00 BBC One and IPlayer

Royal British Legion FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Royal Albert Hall, London
The Event concludes with an
Act of Worship,
led by the Reverend Scott
Brown CBE
Chaplain to the
Royal British Legion

DRUMHEAD CEREMONY

The Drumhead Ceremony is a Church Service conducted 'in the field' by the Military Chaplain during armed Conflict, often near to the battlefield. Drums are piled neatly and draped with appropriate Colours, National or Regimental Flags, to create an Altar. The Drumhead Altar is a 'generic' Altar, suited to its Military purpose.

A Drum Altar



THOMAS CRANMER - FATHER OF THE BCP

BCP's Journey:

1549 Archbishop Cranmer's 1st
BCP

1552 2nd Revised BCP

1553 Mary I Catholic Queen
outlaws BCP

1556 Cranmer burnt at the Stake
in Oxford

1558 Elizabeth I ascends to the
throne

1559 3rd BCP is re-instated

1604 BCP Version 4

1644 English Civil War

1645 Parliament abolishes BCP

1645 Cromwell becomes Lord
Protector

1658 Oliver Cromwell dies

1660 Restoration of Charles II

1662 BCP used in Churches



As Archbishop, Cranmer helped to create the first Rules and Worship styles for the new Church in England. He published the first official Book of Common Prayer in English - containing Church Services, Bible Readings throughout the Church Year - Sundays, Weekdays, Festivals, 150 Psalms, Prayers - in 1549.

It is still in use today.

But bigger changes happened when Edward VI became king. Cranmer wrote the first two versions of the Book Of Common Prayer, which became the main Worship book for the English Church.

He also worked with other Reformers to change ideas about the Eucharist (Communion), whether Priests could marry, and the use of images.

After Edward VI's death, Cranmer supported Lady Jane Grey as successor.

Her nine-day reign was followed by the Roman Catholic Mary I, who had Cranmer arrested and tried him for treason. After a long trial and imprisonment, he was forced to proclaim to the public his error in the support of Protestantism, an act designed to discourage followers of the religion. Despite this, Cranmer was sentenced to be burnt to death at the stake in Oxford on 21 March 1556.

He dramatically thrust his right hand, with which he had signed his recantation, into the fire first.

Thomas Cranmer was an important leader during the English Reformation. He became the Archbishop of Canterbury and worked for Henry VIII, Edward VI, and for a short time, Mary I.

Cranmer helped Henry VIII to end his marriage to Catherine of Aragon which was a major reason why the English Church separated from the Pope in Rome.

Cranmer strongly supported the idea that the king, not the Pope, was the highest authority over the Church in England.

100 YEARS OF WINNIE-THE-POOH

One hundred years ago, on 14 October 1926, the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

It was set in the Hundred Acre Wood, an innocent world described as "largely Edenic" but based on Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which the Milne family often explored from their home in nearby Hartfield.

It came about through the encouragement of E.H. Shepard, an artist and book illustrator, who had previously illustrated Kenneth Graham's *'Wind in the Willows'*. He was Milne's colleague on the humorous magazine, *Punch*, and provided the introductory illustrations.

Alan Alexander Milne was firstly a playwright and occasional mystery story writer who, again with Shepard, wrote the book of children's verse *When We Were Very Young*, which contained the seeds of *Winnie the Pooh* and its sequel, *The House on Pooh Corner*, all of which proved extremely popular.

It was apparently during a family visit to London Zoo, where Christopher Robin encountered a tame bear called Winnipeg, that the book was conceived. Winnie's literary friends, such as Piglet and Eeyore, were originally toys of the real Christopher Robin.

Sadly, the book eventually had an adverse effect on the Milne family. The author said that he felt "amazement and disgust" at the fame his son had had thrust upon him: "I do not want C R Milne to ever wish that his name was Charles Robert."

Nevertheless, the son did become estranged from his parents, especially following his marriage to his mother's niece.

The effect of the book on others has been happier. A plaque at Ashdown Forest declares

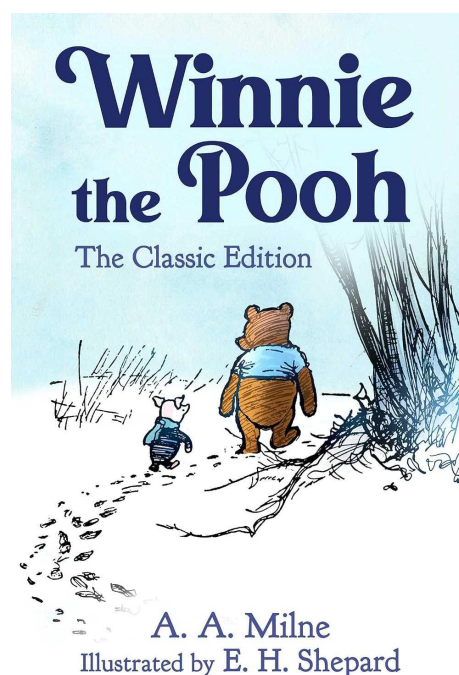
that Milne and Shepard "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world".

Despite creating a kind of Eden, Milne, who was a pacifist, said little about religion. But he did say on joining the Home Guard that "in fighting Hitler we are truly fighting the Devil, the Anti-Christ ... Hitler was a crusader against God".

The four *Winnie-the-Pooh* books went on to sell more than 50 million copies worldwide.

The first book became the first-ever foreign-language book on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

E.H. Shepard's original 1926 illustrated map of the Hundred Acre Wood, which features in the opening pages of *'Winnie-the-Pooh'* (and also appears in the opening animation in the first Disney adaptation in 1966), sold for £430,000 at Sotheby's in London, setting a world record for book illustrating by an English artist and book illustrator.



OCTOBER WORDSEARCH

SAINT LUKE

To St Luke, whose Feast Day is 18 October, we owe a beautifully written Gospel as well as the Book of Acts.

He was a Greek Physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life, Paul noted, '*only Luke is with me*'.

Luke's Gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving Parables, such as the *Good Samaritan* and *Prodigal Son*. Women figure more prominently in Luke's Gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the *Virgin Birth*, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His Gospel also features more poor people, more *lepers*, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ.

In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Find these words in the Grid below

ACTS	GOSPEL	PRODIGAL
CHRISTIANS	GREEK	ROME
COMPASSION	JERUSALEM	SAMARITAN
DAY	LUKE	SINNERS
EARLY	PAGAN	SON
FAITHFUL	PARABLES	TRAVELLING
FEAST	PAUL	WOMEN
GOOD	PHYSICIAN	WRITTEN
	POOR	

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L P F Y A A M P O P G I M Y
P P A R A B L E S O J A A I
N T I G T G O S P E L P N N
C C T S A E F R R L U E H I
C I H S G N O U I E A L E K
L O F R N D S P R R P I E L
E G U E I A A H L P S E U M
E A L G L S O Y O G R K L N
N S A E L R T S G G E O C P
S L M N E T T I R W N A O E
R T N C V C G C A N N A G P
C O M P A S S I O N I P O W
S A M A R I T A N N S H O R
E L C E T L A N E M O W D A
    
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YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON!

At church recently, we stood to sing Charles Wesley's hymn 'Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire'. Except the organist was playing the tune which normally accompanies the Christmas carol 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night'. (No, not 'On Ilkley Moor bar t'aht'- the other one!).

I had never sung Wesley's hymn to this tune before, and it took a bit of believing that it was possible, a bit of getting used to. Some hymn tunes are what I call 'portmanteau tunes'- we can sing a number of hymns to the same tune, and we are usually quite happy about it. But we mess with carols at our peril! Most people know them, and they have become identified with very particular hymn tunes. Give us what we expect, please, organist!

We can all be a bit fixed like this. The Bible is full of examples of 'Who me? You've made a mistake there, God!'. Or it comes down to 'Here I am, Lord, send him!' Perhaps the most well-known example is Jonah, who was so convinced that God had made a mistake in calling him to go and tell the citizens of Nineveh to turn from their wicked ways, that he set off in entirely the opposite direction to Nineveh, and took a ship going west, until he was ambushed by God and ended up in the belly of the great fish. But once Jonah realised God was serious, and that God would be with him, he set off as God had asked him .

Moses is another example. 'Me, tell Pharoah to let my people go? Me? You cannot be serious, Lord!' But again, once Moses was convinced that this was the way God wanted him to go, he submitted to God's plan, and became the great leader of his people, bringing them out of slavery in Egypt to the boundary of the Promised Land.

God's plans for us are always bigger than our horizons can presently accommodate. If you have a niggling feeling God is calling you to a particular task, or to abandon a particular something, it may take time to come round to God's point of view, but it will ultimately turn out to be a better way. When God calls, He does not leave us at that point; He will always resource us for the task, often in surprising ways. **'Who, me, Lord?' Yes, YOU!**

Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active Priest in the Diocese of York, where he is a Spiritual Director

BOOKSHELF

The Lion Book of Five-Minute Parables by Charlotte Ryton
Lion Cub Books, £9.99

This book brings 10 of the most beloved parables to life with warmth, faithfulness, and sincerity, all perfectly paced for just five minutes of reading. From lost coins to lavish feasts, these engaging retellings help children discover what it means to listen, forgive, and use their gifts wisely in ways they can truly understand.

Stories include: The Sower and the Seed, The Rich Fool, The Widow and the Judge, The Great Feast, The Lost Coin, The Prodigal Son, The Unforgiving Steward, The Workers in the Vineyard, The Three Servants, Foolish Bridesmaids.

The Cheerful Giver – a short guide to Gospel-driven giving by Des Smith, 10Publishing, £3.47

A short and accessible guide to the topic of Christian generosity. It begins with why Christians should be generous, and how God's generosity to us in the gospel should enlarge our hearts and make us generous.

The book then tackles the questions of how much people should give, and where that giving should be directed.

Did the devil make me do it? – and other questions about Satan, demons and evil spirits by Mike McKinley, The Good Book Company/10Publishing, £4.22

When Jesus walked the earth, He cast out demons and had powerful encounters with the devil. But who exactly is the devil, and where did he come from? And what is he up to in the world today?

This short, readable book explains clearly and simply what the Bible says about Satan, demons and evil spirits.

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IT WAS

300 years ago - 28 Oct 1726: Jonathan Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels* was published.

125 years ago - 19 Oct 1901: Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March Nos 1 and 2* were performed for the first time, in Liverpool.

100 years ago - 14 Oct 1926: A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* was published.

90 years ago - 05-31 Oct: Jarrow March 200 men marched from Jarrow in NE England to Westminster. Closure of a shipyard caused severe unemployment.

80 years ago - 15 Oct 1946: Hermann Goering, German Nazi leader, died. He was sentenced to death at the Nuremberg Trials but poisoned himself with cyanide on the eve of his execution.

80 years ago - 20 Oct 1946: Muffin the Mule puppet made his first TV appearance on the BBC series *For the Children*.

75 years ago - 18 Oct 1951: Snowdonia National Park was established in Wales.

75 years - 30 Oct 1951: Dartmoor National Park was established in the UK.

75 years ago - 31 Oct 1951: Zebra crossings were introduced in Britain. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire.

70 years ago - 17 Oct 1956: Britain's first Nuclear Power Station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, was opened. It closed in 2003.

60 years ago - 21 Oct 1966: the Aberfan disaster took place in S.Wales. A colliery slag heap collapsed and fell onto the village, killing 116 children at Pantglas Junior School and 28 adults.

50 years ago - 04 Oct 1976: the InterCity 125 High Speed Train service began operating in the UK.

50 years ago - 25 Oct 1976: the National Theatre in London officially opened.

40 years ago - 09 Oct 1986: Andrew Lloyd Webber's Musical *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered in London.

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02 November: ALL SAINTS DAY A time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny (d 1049), decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries, All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

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