

BRINGING TOGETHER ANGLICAN AND METHODIST NEWS FROM
HANSLOPE AND CASTLETHORPE CHURCHES



THE LINK



February 2025

£1.20 per issue
10 copies annual subscription

Diary for February 2025

(Also visit stjameshanslope.org/whats-on)

Worship

Sunday Services

Parish Mass at Castlethorpe 9.30am (Sunday School 9.15am)

Parish Mass at Hanslope 11.15am (Sunday School 11.15am)

Weekday Services

Wednesday Mass at Castlethorpe 5.00pm

Thursday Mass at Hanslope 9.30am

Rosary Group

Every 1st Saturday of the month at The Vicarage 4.30pm

Following the Silence Prayer Group on Mondays

11 Weavers End, Hanslope 5.30pm

Shrine Live Stream @walsinghamanglican.org.uk

Sunday Mass 8.30am

Weekly Events

Mondays

Little Angels – 9am to 11am

Wednesdays

Choir Practice – Hanslope Church 6pm

Fridays

Hanslope Church open for refreshments and reflection – 10am to 12 noon

Fridays during term time

Little Lambs - Castlethorpe Church 2pm – 3pm babies and pre-school age

Little Lambs - Castlethorpe Church 3.30pm – 4.30pm school age children

Inspire Youth Group - Hanslope Church 3.30pm – 5.30pm

February

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sun 2nd | Candlemass, Presentation of the Lord, Service times above |
| Mon 3 rd | Teatime Treats at Lincoln Court – 2pm to 4pm |
| Wed 5 th | Games Night, Castlethorpe Church – 7pm to 9.30pm
Hanslope Fundraising Meeting, 11 Weavers End – 7.30pm to 9pm |
| Thurs 6 th | Soup and a roll, Castlethorpe Church – 12:30pm |
| Sun 9th | 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above |
| Sat 15 th | Castlethorpe's Monthly Coffee Morning – 10am to 12noon |
| Sun 16th | 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above |

Mon 17th Cancer Support Group, 12 Weavers End – 8pm
 Thur 20th Community Lunch, Hanslope Church – 12.30pm
Sun 23rd **7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above**
 Tues 25th Hanslope's Standing Committee Meeting – 7.30pm
 Wed 26th Carers' Support Group, 71 Western Drive – 10.30am

March

Sat 1st Hanslope's Monthly Coffee Morning – 10am to 12noon
Sun 2nd **8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above**
 Tues 4th Parish Pancake Party, Hanslope Church – 6.30pm
Wed 5th **Ash Wednesday Sung Mass & Ashing Castlethorpe Church 7pm**

Sunday & Festival Mass Readings

February 9th **5th Week in Ordinary Time** **green**
 Isa 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 16th **6th Sunday (Septuagesima)** **green**
 Jeremiah 17:5-8; Ps 1; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17,20-26

February 23rd **7th Sunday (Sexagesima)** **green**
 1 Sam 26:2,7-9,12--23; Ps102;1 Cor 15:15-19; Luke 6:27-38

March 2nd **8th Sunday (Quinquagesima)** **green**
 Ecclesiasticus 22;4-27; Ps 92; 1Cor 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

March 5th **Ash Wednesday** **purple**
Sung Mass with Ashing at Castlethorpe with the Bishop of Oswestry
 Joel 2:1-2 & 12-17; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20b-6:2; Mat 6:1-6,16-21

March 9th **Lent 1** **purple**
 Deut 26:4-10; Ps 9, Rom 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear Friends,

As you may well remember, Fr Adam joined us in the midst of the Pandemic, in July 2020, to serve here for up to five years, or until the funding for my ongoing secondment to work for the Bishop of Oswestry full time, most recently as his Vicar-General, might no longer be available.



Sadly, we have now reached the point, where it has become clear that the external funding for my post will not be renewed after June 23rd. This means that Fr Adam will be redeployed and I will return full time to the Parish during the Summer Term. It is likely that Fr Adam will move during May or June, hopefully elsewhere within the Oswestry area, and

we assure him, Erika and Aayla of our prayers in this time of transition. The timing is far from ideal, with baby Burnham on the way in March, but that is beyond our control, and we trust that the Lord has his hand over this process.

There will be ample opportunity to give thanks for all that Fr Adam has given to us at a later date, but I simply wanted to share this news at the earliest opportunity, so that everyone knows what is happening. He will leave a particularly shaped hole among us, and we will miss him, Erika and Aayla very much indeed.

Much as I did when I was previously Area Dean, I will continue to serve as Bishop Paul's Vicar-General, but with a very much reduced workload,

You will, I know keep them, and us all, in your prayers.

Fr Gary

“Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of his goodness to give you safe deliverance, and hath preserved you in the great danger of child-birth: You shall therefore give hearty thanks unto God” –The BCP



Dear Friends,

During this issue of The Link, our Christmas festivities will reach their conclusion on the Feast of The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or more simply and beautifully: Candlemass. This is the moment when Our Lady, in accordance with the Law of Moses, made her pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after childbirth to offer sacrifice and undergo the rite of purification.

Interestingly, there was an historical Christian continuation of this practice in what is known as “The Churaching of Women”. It is no longer a part of the wider Roman Catholic practice, but is retained in the Eastern Orthodox Church, as well as for us Anglicans in the Book of Common Prayer. It really is a beautiful practice, and with a child on the way, I’m getting all sorts of ideas about how to make similar prayers for Erika and Baby Burnham in due course!

Unsurprisingly, the rite includes the lifting up of the newborn babe by the priest and the recitation of the Nunc Dimittis, i.e. the canticle/song of praise recited by Simeon in the Temple as he testified that Jesus was the long-promised and hoped for Messiah. The full account is given by St Luke (2.22-40) with glorious detail. Simeon, an aged, righteous, and devout man had it revealed to him “by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah”. What a promise and a blessing! Consequently, we find Simeon spends his life in the Temple, in prayer, and with heart and mind watchful. At the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he comes to the Temple at the right time and is moved by the same Spirit to proclaim the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ. The prophetess, Anna, also came forth at that moment and “gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem”.

How wonderful it is, that these two saints were able, even at such a great age, to boldly proclaim the Gospel message! In a way, it

was the most natural pinnacle to their ministry, for they had given the whole of their lives to drawing near to God, and thus they were able to *hear* and *respond* to the Holy Spirit when he prompted them. My encouragement for us, is that we also learn to cultivate that same closeness to God by prayer and worship, so that we, too, are sensitive to his guidance and responsive to his will in every occasion.

With that in mind, you will read (page 3) a message from Fr Gary which details the forthcoming changes in our parishes. While there had been a period of hopeful expectation that our family could remain in the benefice permanently, it has become clear that The Lord has other plans, and that we are moving into a time of transition. Join us, then, in prayerfully asking the Lord to guide us by his Holy Spirit that we may continue to faithfully serve Him where he wills and with the same joy and fervour that Simeon and Anna showed at the arrival of the Christ Child.

We will, of course, miss you greatly and are sad of the prospect of leaving you, but there will be plenty of time in the coming months to make our goodbyes, and celebrate all we've accomplished in the Lord.

Peace of Christ,



Fr Adam Burnham SSC



**Bishop Visits
for Ash Wednesday
Sung Mass with Ashing
Wednesday 5th March
at Castlethorpe 7.00pm**

SAINT OF THE MONTH



6 February 2025



St Paul Miki O.P.N.

O God, strength of all the Saints,
 who through the Cross were
 pleased to call the Martyrs St Paul
 Miki & Companions to life, grant,
 we pray, that by their intercession
 we may hold with courage even
 until death to the faith that we
 profess. Through our Lord
 Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

St Paul Miki & Co, Martyrs

St Paul Miki was born in c. 1564/66. He joined the Society of Jesus (The Jesuits) and preached the Gospel to the Japanese with great success. During the 16thC, The Faith had reached Japan by the efforts of the Jesuit missionary Saint Francis Xavier. Despite religious tensions, there were ~300,000 native Christians by 1593 as a result of the missionaries' zealous acts of charity and evangelism. When a great persecution arose, Paul Miki was arrested with 25 others and marched 600mi to Nagasaki. Their group consisted of 3 native Jesuits, 6 foreign Franciscans, and several lay Catholics, including some children. On the journey they underwent public torture meant to terrorise other Japanese believers. But all 26 held out courageously, even singing the hymn of praise "Te Deum" when they arrived at the hill where they would be crucified. St Paul Miki's last act of evangelism took place as he hung on his cross, preaching to the crowds: *"The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ,"* he announced. *"I thank God it is for this reason that I die.... After Christ's example, I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, & I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain".* St Paul Miki and his companions were stabbed to death by lance on 6 Feb 1597 at a site now known as "Martyrs' Hill".

Patronage: Japan **Representation:** Jesuit Habit
 Holding the cross & lance of his martyrdom.

Upcoming Events

2025 Hanslope Teatime treats at Lincoln Court

Monday 3rd February 2.00 pm – 4.00pm.



Tea, cakes and Dominoes!



AND Monday 3rd of March a Ukulele sing along

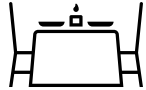
Community Lunch

St James the Great on Thursday 20th February

12:30pm with homemade soup and pudding.



Everyone Welcome!



Lent Lunches at St James

St James the Great on Thursdays at 12:30pm with homemade soup and crusty bread

13th, 20th & 27th March, and the 10th April

Proceeds to the Willen Hospice



Advance Notice

Castlethorpe Charity Fundraisers



Thursdays on the 6th of March and 3rd of April

Charitable organisations and further details to follow

Community Groups



HANSLOPE AND DISTRICT CANCER WELLBEING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on 3rd Monday of each month at 8pm
Winter venue - 12 Weavers End, Hanslope, MK19 7PA
Contact - John Sorrell 07889 181158

HANSLOPE & DISTRICT CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Meets for a tea, coffee, piece of cake
and a chat and support on the
FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF MONTH
1030am to 1230am—winter venue:
71 Western Drive, Hanslope, MK19 7LB
Contact - 07889181158



**DO
YOU
CARE?**

**Teatime
Treats**

First Monday of the month
Lincoln Court, Hanslope, MK19 7PB
2.00pm to 4.00pm

See poster for details

Transport available on request

For more information contact:

Ann Ellis 01908 511435



Every
Monday
5.30pm
To
6pm



11 Weavers
End
Hanslope
MK19 7PA

ST JAMES THE GREAT

COFFEE MORNINGS



10am–12pm

1st February

1st March

3rd May

7th June

Coffee - Tea - Cake - Bacon rolls

All are welcome



Hanslope Entertainments Group presents:

Rumplestiltskin's got talent

by Sheila White

Thursday 20th February 7.30pm

Friday 21st February 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Saturday 22nd February 2.30pm and 7.30pm

@ Hanslope Village Hall

TICKETS

Buy from Hanslope News or

Tel: 07939 473938

ADULT - £10

CHILD - £5

2025



Fundraising at St James

What's Coming Up....

☉ **Monthly coffee mornings** on the 1st of each month – see separate poster for dates – if you'd be keen to help host, please speak with Maria.

☉ **Save the Date – 21st April 2025** – for our next main fundraising event which will be our **Easter Eggstravaganza**

Did you know we have monthly fundraising meetings? These take place at 11 Weavers End on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm – ALL are welcome to come along or contact Maria Ecclestone on mariamadeley@yahoo.co.uk if you'd like to be involved with any upcoming events. We'd welcome any ideas!!

ME



GARDENERS - HELP PLEASE!

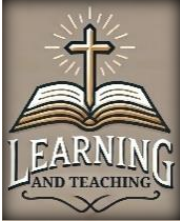
When sowing seeds and/or dividing plants

—

please think of HO!

We're planning a plant stall in June

The Rosary



Another form of prayer we learnt about in the Advent L&T course was the Rosary. First given by Our Lady to St Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preachers in 1208 to aid his conversion of the heretical Cathars, the Rosary quickly spread throughout Europe by the Dominican Order and is of tantamount importance to Catholic Christians in the Western tradition. The Rosary was deeply rooted in

England before the Reformation (Not that it ever disappeared entirely!). Indeed, the first record of the now standard Rosary format of 5 decades of 10 Hail Marys is in the 13th Century Rule of Anchoresses in England (The Ancrene Wisse).

As Mary always points us towards her Son, so too does the Rosary as a fundamentally Christological prayer, a contemplative meditation on the life of Christ.

To pray the Rosary, one must choose a set of mysteries to pray, Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful or Glorious, alternatively they are assigned to a day(s) of the week. Each set has five episodes of the life of Christ, one for each decade, start by reading the associated scriptural passage then while reciting the Our Father and ten Hail Marys, finishing each decade with a Glory Be.

While typically associated with prayer beads, which are often beautifully adorned, they are simply an aid to keeping track of prayer and not essential to the Rosary, indeed 5 sets of 10 prayers lends itself well to counting on one's fingers.

In Hanslope & Castlethorpe we have our own Rosary group at the Vicarage on the first Saturday of the Month at 4:30pm. During Lent the Rosary group goes on Tour and is hosted at a different venue every week – the same time, Saturdays at 4:30pm. Please do attend if you would like to learn more about this powerful form of prayer.



Advance Notice

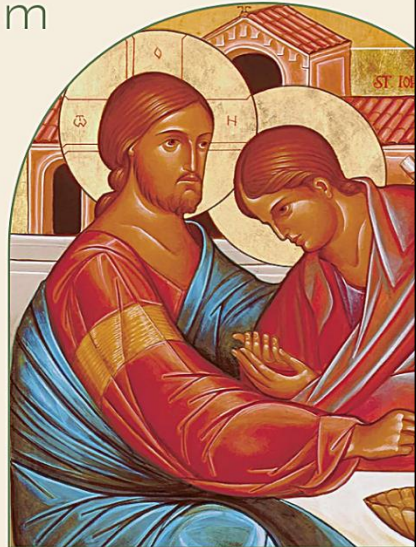
HANSLOPE & CASTLETHORPE



LENT COURSE

Thursdays 7.30-9pm
from 6TH March

LENT WITH THE
BELOVED
DISCIPLE



ALL WELCOME!

Christmastide at Hanslope and Castlethorpe

Celebrating the birth of our Lord up to Candlemas

Our nativity this year was spear headed by Gillian Glanville and her pop-up idea was a resounding success. Children dressed up on the day and joined in with our simple story of Festive Fred.



Our Sunday school children were amazing and brought the true meaning of Christmas alive in front of a packed St James on Christmas Eve.



Our joint Sunday school post-Christmas party with Castlethorpe was a lovely occasion with games, a delicious tea and cheese and wine for the adults. Fr Adam taught us all a new grace to say before tea with superman vibes!!!! The young helpers added their usual magic, and everyone had a fun social time

Our Celebration of the feast of the Epiphany saw the return of Father Adam and the distribution of the blessed chalk for doorway adornment.





Fundraising at St James

We held our regular coffee morning in January and raised just under £270!

Thank you to those who are supporting us, whether by coming along, by donating a cake (or two) or raffle prizes and/or by hosting these mornings too.



With great sadness, on 24th January: Bishop Matthias lost a second brother in a traffic accident – Lawrence (Timber) Medadueş a professional photographer. Ten years ago, their brother, Isaac died on the bishop's birthday, 14th February. Matthias was staying in Hanslope with Andrea and Tim.

If you would like to send a message of condolence to me it will be forwarded.

Mary Nokes
m.nokes@easykey.com

HO News

Thanks to some very generous private donations, at the end of 2024 we were able to send £3,000 to the Diocese of Ho. This is now providing much needed support for clergy incomes.

However, for the first time since before Covid, Bishop Matthias was able to pass £1,000 to St Paul's Anglican Church, Agbozume. We first supported our friends there in 2012. They still continue with their long-standing project to build a house suitable for the clergy.*

Fr Redeemer, the new priest-in-charge, is thrilled. He says they can now install tiles on the concrete floors and do some much-needed electrical work. He is living with his family in three dusty rooms but 2025 will mean a big step forward for them.

LAST SHOUT FOR ADVENT HO HO HO Collection Boxes – if you still have one lurking, please return to Hanslope or Castlethorpe churches – or contact me if you'd like it collected.

The U3A comes to St James



The Milton Keynes branch of the University of the Third Age is running a course entitled *Exploring World Faiths* – led by Linda Morris. The group are visiting different faith churches in the area. In January, 14 members came to learn about the history of St James from our local historian, Barbara Hale. Visitors were full of praise for the outstanding quality of the architecture and the way in which the building is cared for.



Concert for Ho An evening of stunning singing from the New English Singers from Bach to boogie – a *Midwinter Musical Celebration* directed by Adrian Boynton. We also enjoyed extraordinary performances by two talented soloists Sean Lau and Yiding Wang. The event raised approximately £260 with a portion going to support Bishop Matthias' family in their tragic loss.



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HALF PAGE

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NB copy can be changed during the year

Further details from Mary Nokes tel 01908 337939
thelink@handcparish.co.uk

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TimberTrollsUK@gmail.com

TimberTrollsUK
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News from Castlethorpe



Business as usual!

The busy schedule of December has given way to a more sedate paced January which has welcomed back all of our regular event days in the Church. Games Night has recommenced on the first Wednesday of the month, with our community lunch Soup and a Roll returning on the first Thursday of the month. Our Coffee Morning, while quieter than usual, we still took £115.60.

We look forward to welcoming you to one of our regular events in the future.

Little Lambs has also reopened to welcome pre-school age children for a 'Stay & Play' session between 2.00 and 3.00, then Lego chaos commences between 3.30 and 4.30. This goes from strength to strength and is very well attended. It is so wonderful to hear the energy, noise, hustle and bustle of the children in the church. While she'll probably turn inside out at me mentioning her name, a big shout out needs to go out to Melissa King has worked passionately (and almost singlehandedly) to create something very special. Little Lambs is enjoyed by the children and is a real asset to the community of Castlethorpe.

Churchyard tidy day

With two dates late in 2024 scuppered due to bad weather, our churchyard is in desperate need of a tidy. We're looking to hold a day soon in the churchyard. We'll advertise this on the village and churches' Facebook pages when a date is set. With the impending visit of Storm Eowyn as we go to print, we're pretty glad that we've avoided this storm!



Happy New Year everyone! Why not make ‘enjoying nature’ one of your resolutions for 2025? From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator.

Further ideas can be found online at arochoa.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/

Castlethorpe dates for your diary

A reminder of when our regular events start...

Games Night **Wednesday 5th February**, 7.00pm – 9.30pm

(Please note March’s Games Evening will be on March 12th)

Our monthly Soup and a Roll **Thursday 6th February** 12.30 – 2.00pm

Our next Coffee Morning **Saturday 15th February**, 10.00 am - 12noon.

We look forward to seeing you!

From our Friends at the Methodist Church



Dear Friends

Lent and Easter are late this year. This means that before then and after Christmas and Epiphany (when the magi, seekers from the rest of the world, encountered God in Jesus), on Sundays we may well hear the teaching and actions of Jesus that are written in early parts of the Gospels. So, when preachers follow this year's lectionary of Bible readings set for Sundays we will be thinking through what Jesus says and does in Luke 3-6 because we are in "Year C" of the three-year lectionary.

As we do this, sometimes we will find Jesus affirms and encouraging us, and sometimes we will find Jesus affronts and challenges us. Which is just what Jesus did with his first followers! They sometimes wrestled with his challenge, and sometimes also with his encouragement. I guess that me, you, and everyone who slows down enough to read and to listen to what Jesus said then, and is saying afresh today, finds this is how Jesus relates to them.

So how about taking time to slow down enough to read and to listen to what Jesus said and says afresh? One way is to, every week, read again and pray through and think through the Bible readings you heard on Sunday. Another way is to, every week, prepare for the next Sunday's Bible readings by reading and thinking about them before the Sunday service. The lectionary readings can be found on the "Circuit Plan". This lists the Sunday services held in many MK Churches near the top of each Sunday's column. (The current Plan is the pink one for Dec-Feb). Another way is to follow the readings in the current "Methodist Prayer Handbook". And yet another way is to read 5 chapters of the New Testament every week and so read the whole of it in any (or every!) year, e.g. see www.gracefulsubversives.org.uk/#bible

And in slowing down enough, how about letting Jesus sometimes encourage, and sometimes challenge me, and you, and all of us, even when it is hard to let Jesus do either or both? Lord, help me to walk my talk. And help all of us to help one another to walk our talk. May “our” walk and talk be more and more like yours! (James 2.)

Finally, I write this around the day that Donald Trump was inaugurated as President of the USA. It was the same day as the annual “Martin Luther King Day” in the USA! And because of that ironic and prophetic occurrence I came across the following hymn which begins with the verses below.

Dave Haseldine

Words: Michael Forster.

Tune: same as for “Tell out my soul...”

We have a dream: this nation will arise
and truly live according to its creed,
that all are equal in their maker’s eyes,
and none shall suffer through another’s greed.

We have a dream: that that one day we shall see
a world of justice, truth, and equity,
where sons of slaves and daughters of the free
will share the banquet of community.

We have a dream: of deserts brought to flower
once made infertile by oppressions heat,
when love and truth shall end oppressive power,
and streams of righteousness and justice meet.

We have a dream: our children shall be free
from judgments based on colour or on race,
free to become whatever they may be,
of their own choosing in the light of grace.

Amen

Dave Haseldine www.gracefulsubversives.org.uk
Minister (Presbyter) in the Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit
<https://mkmethodist.org.uk>

NEWS FROM THE METHODIST CHAPEL

SUNDAY SERVICES

2 February	Revd. Dave Haseldine (Holy Communion)
9 February	Revd. Barbara Winner
16 February	Mrs Marian Ballance
23 February	Mr Derek Beaumont
2 March	No service at Hanslope due to Quarterly Circuit Service at Freeman Memorial Methodist Church, Bletchley 10.30am
9 March	Revd. Dave Haseldine (Holy Communion)

Sunday services are usually held at 10.30am and are always followed by tea and coffee. We are a family friendly Church. Holy Communion is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

For anyone unable to come to a Sunday service, there is an online service each Sunday morning via Zoom, Ring Central or on Facebook. An invitation is required to log in and you would be very welcome to join us. Please contact the Circuit Administrator at office.mkmc@yahoo.com

ECO CHURCH

At the Eco Church meeting in September it was agreed that churches in the Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit would be encouraged to take part in four activities in 2025 related to celebrating creation care. These actions were endorsed at the last Circuit Meeting.

The first agreed was for church members to take part in the **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2025** which was held **24th – 26 January 2025**. Members of our congregation compared their survey results during the service on Sunday 26th January.



**Big Garden
Birdwatch**

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

POP-UP CAFÉ PLUS BOOK, JIGSAW and BRIC-A-BRAC SALE

We will be holding a Pop-Up Café along with a book, jigsaw and bric-a-brac sale on



SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY
between 10.00am and midday.



Enjoy a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate and some delicious home-made cakes and savouries whilst browsing our wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children.

You may also find a bargain amongst the bric-a-brac!

There will also be a raffle, so do pop in!

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE SHOP 10.00am - 12.00pm

Pop in for a cuppa and a chat.

Meet up with old friends and make some new friends.

We'd love to welcome you to our warm and cosy Tea Room....



FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR NEWS
– HANSLOPE METHODIST CHURCH



Martin Luther King Jr the American Baptist minister and activist, consistently and effectively advocated peace, love, and equality among all people. A man of great faith, it was the driving force behind his life and speeches, and the backbone of his civil rights movement. Despite his assassination in 1968, his

speeches continue to have an important influence on many people's attitudes today. Here are just a few of his most powerful quotes.

"It does not matter how long you live, but how well you do it."

"Live like Jesus died yesterday, rose this morning, and is coming back tomorrow."

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?"

"All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

"To be great, you have to be willing to be mocked, hated, and misunderstood. Stay strong."

"You will change your mind; You will change your looks; You will change your smile, laugh, and ways but no matter what you change, you will always be you."

"No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they'd die for."

Bobs Ramblings February 2025

I am sure in the near future our Winter will show us all it is really that time of the year. However, it seems that although some cold snaps we are enveloped in this very dull and damp dreary weather.

This certainly has affected our local football teams that are really finding it difficult to win a game. The Northampton Saints however have managed to shine some light with an exceptionally good win against Munster in the European Cup.

The rail traffic has again been noticeably quiet with very few unusual workings. I have again been looking at earlier photos and added them for interest. Let us start with the stored Clayton Hybrid Class 18 shunters stored at Wolverton Works, I believe most of them are now in operation. Then D1013 Western Ranger powering through



the old station with a Tytherington to Northampton aggregate train in old 16ton mineral wagons. Now

this month's offerings with 37611 hauling 378225



from New Cross Gate to Wigan on the 4th Jan.



A brightly coloured Cappagh livered Class 60, 60028 on a Chaddesden to Appleford

working on the 8th Jan. A newly DB Red paint job on 66190 working the Daventry Dirft to Dollands



Moor freight. Finally, RTC Hired in Colas Rail HST with the Rail Measurement Train working Derby-Derby via Euston both on the 21st Jan.



I hope you enjoy the old as well as the recent photos and see you all next month.

Bob.

Daily Bible Reading Scheme

February 2025

Week 4 – Mon 3 rd	Hebrews 11:32-40	Mark 5:1-20
Week 4 - Tues	Heb 12:1-4	Mark 5:21-43
Week 4 - Wed	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15	Mark 6:1-6
Week 4 - Thurs	Heb 12:18-19, 21-24	Mark 6:7-13
Week 4 - Fri	Heb 13:1-8	Mark 6:14-29
Week 4 - Sat	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21	Mark 6:30-34
Week 5 – Mon 10 th	Genesis 1:1-19	Mark 6:53-56
Week 5 - Tues	Gen 1:20—2:4a	Mark 7:1-13
Week 5 - Wed	Gen 2:4b-9, 15-17	Mark 7:14-23
Week 5 - Thurs	Gen 2:18-25	Mark 7:24-30
Week 5 - Fri	Gen 3:1-8	Mark 7:31-37
Week 5 - Sat	Gen 3:9-24	Mark 8:1-10
Week 6 – Mon 17 th	Gen 4:1-15, 25	Mark 8:11-13
Week 6 - Tues	Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10	Mark 8:14-21
Week 6 - Wed	Gen 8:6-13, 20-22	Mark 8:22-26
Week 6 - Thurs	Gen 9:1-13	Mark 8:27-33
Week 6 - Fri	Gen 11:1-9	Mark 8:34—9:1
Week 6 - Sat	Heb 11:1-7	Mark 9:2-13
Week 7 – Mon 24 th	Sirach (Ecclus) 1:1-10	Mark 9:14-29
Week 7 - Tues	Sir 2:1-11	Mark 9:30-37
Week 7 - Wed	Sir 4:11-19	Mark 9:38-40
Week 7 - Thurs	Sir 5:1-8	Mark 9:41-50
Week 7 - Fri	Sir 6:5-17	Mark 10:1-12
Week 7 - Sat	Sir 17:1-15	Mark 10:13-16
Week 8 – Mon 3 rd	Sir 17:20-24	Mark 10:17-27
Week 8 - Tues	Sir 35:1-12	Mark 10:28-31
Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18	Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday	Deut 30:15-20	Luke 9:22-25
Friday	Isa 58:1-9a	Matt 9:14-15

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**PLEASE NOTE all contributions for MARCH-APRIL
(LENT & EASTER) – six weeks
to be received by THURSDAY 27th FEBRUARY
to our email address**



← For Personnel information see page 31

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