



THE LINK



Castlethorpe Open Gardens 28th – 29th June 2025



July & August 2025

£1.20

Diary for July and August 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)

Evening Prayer at Castlethorpe 5.00pm (2nd and 4th Sunday)

Weekday Services

Wednesday Mass at Castlethorpe 5pm

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 during term time

Little Angels – 9am to 11am

Wednesdays

Choir Practice – either Castlethorpe or 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

July

Sun 6th

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above

Mon 7th

Teatime Treats at Lincoln Court – 2pm to 4pm

Tues 8th

Hanslope Standing Committee, Hanslope Church – 4.30pm

Thurs 10th

Explorer Group, Hanslope Church – 7.30pm

Sat 12th

Hanslope's Open Weekend – 11am to 4pm

Sun 13th

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above

Hanslope's Open Weekend – 2pm to 5pm

Tues 15th

Castlethorpe PCC Meeting, Castlethorpe Church – 7.30pm

Thurs 17th

Explorer Group, Hanslope Church – 7.30pm

Sat 19th

Vicarage Barbecue from 7.30pm

Sun 20th

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above

Mon 21 st	Cancer Support Group, Hanslope Church – 8pm
Tues 22 nd	Hanslope PCC Meeting, Hanslope Church – 7.30pm
Wed 23 rd	Carers' Support Group, Hanslope – 10.30am Explorer Group, Hanslope Church – 7.30pm
Thurs 24 th	Mass of Confirmation, eve of St James' Day with the Bishop of Oswestry, Joint Parish Mass, St James the Great – 7pm
Sun 27th	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above
Mon 28 th	NEW Summer Club – Stay n Play, Hanslope Church – 10am to 12noon
Wedn 30 th	Wholeness & Healing Mass, Hanslope Church – 7.30pm
Thurs 31 st	Credo: We believe in One God – Study Group, 12 Weavers End – 7.30pm
August	
Sun 3rd	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above
Mon 4 th	Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage – until Friday 8 th August Summer Club – Stay n Play, Hanslope Church – 10am to 12noon Teatime Treats at Lincoln Court – 2pm to 4pm
Wed 6 th	Games Night, Castlethorpe Church – 7pm to 9.30pm
Sun 10th	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above Summer Sunday Strawberry Afternoon Teas – fundraiser for HO – 12 Weavers End, Hanslope – 2.45pm to 5pm
Mon 11 th	Summer Club – Stay n Play, Hanslope Church – 10am to 12noon
Fri 15 th	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sung Mass, Castlethorpe Church – 7pm
Sat 16 th	Hanslope's Monthly Coffee Morning – 10am to 12noon
Sun 17th	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above
Mon 18 th	Summer Club – Stay n Play, Hanslope Church – 10am to 12noon Cancer Support Group, Hanslope Church – 8pm
Sun 24th	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above
Mon 25th	Walsingham's Pilgrimage for Healing and Renewal 2025
Wed 27 th	Carers' Support Group, Hanslope – 10.30am
Sun 31st	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times above



CONFIRMATION

THURSDAY 24TH

JULY

Bishop Paul is with us once again to confirm several adult candidates on the eve of St James' Day, Hanslope's Patronal Festival. Mass at 7.00pm

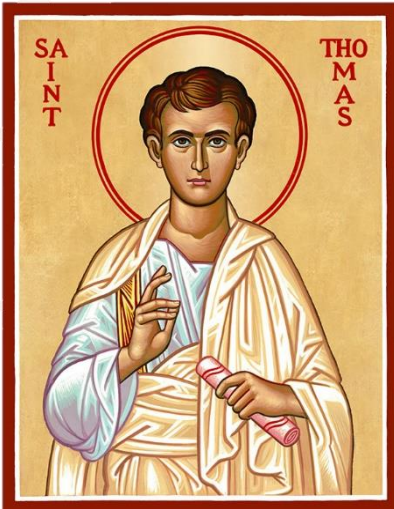
Sunday & Feast Day Mass Readings

Readings are usually posted on Church Facebook pages on Saturdays

July 6th	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Isaiah 66:10-14c; Ps 66; Galatians 6:14-18; Luke 10:1-9		
July 13th	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Ps 69; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37		
July 20th	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Genesis 18:1-10a; Ps 25; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42		
Thursday July 24th	Eve of St JAMES THE GREAT	Red
<i>St James the Great, Hanslope with The Bishop of Oswestry 7.00pm</i>		
Acts 11:27-12:2; Ps 24 ; 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28		
July 27th	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Genesis 18:20-32; Ps 138; Col 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13		
August 3rd	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21		
August 10th	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Wisdom 18:6-9; Ps 33; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48		
Friday August 15th	The ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM	White
<i>at Ss Simon & Jude, Castlethorpe at 7.30pm</i>		
Revelation 11:19. 12:1-6&10; Ps 45; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 Luke 1:39-56		
August 17th	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Ps 40; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53		
August 24th	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Isa 66:18-21; Ps 117; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30		
August 31st	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Green
Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 3:17-20; Ps 68; Heb 12; 18-24; Luke 14:1&7-14		

Saint of the Month

3rd of July 2025



St Thomas O.P.N

○ Glorious St. Thomas, your grief for Jesus was such that it would not let you believe he had risen unless you actually saw him and touched his wounds.

But your love for Jesus was equally great and it led you to give up your life for him. Pray for us that we may grieve for our sins which were the cause of

Christ's sufferings.

Help us to spend ourselves in his service and so earn the title of "blessed" which Jesus applied to those who would believe in him without seeing him.

Amen.

St Thomas the Apostle

Known as the twin, or more commonly "Doubting Thomas", he was an Apostle, one of the twelve. Famed for his boldness in following Jesus, when the other Apostles warned of violence if Christ returned to Judea, St Thomas said "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

So distraught by Jesus' death upon the cross he didn't believe the other apostles' report of the resurrection unless he could touch the wounds himself, when Jesus saw him and offered to let him do so, he proclaimed "My Lord and my God!" becoming the first to explicitly recognise his divinity. Like many of us St Thomas suffered from an occasion of doubt, yet after encountering the risen Lord he became the furthest travelling apostle – as far as India where he was martyred.

May we also, when we encounter Christ in the sacrifice of the mass boldly proclaim, "My Lord and my God!"

Patronage: Architects, Indian Christians

Symbols: Lotus flower, carpenters square

From the Vicarage – July 2025

Dear Friends,

Asked, as I was recently, to list ten of your most favourite songs is an almost impossible task. One of mine is a reflection on urban homelessness and human vulnerability, a song first released on an album 56 years ago last month, which went on to become a huge hit in 1974 and the artist's signature tune, since covered by more than 200 artists. I am talking of course about Ralph McTell, and *The Streets of London*.



My excellent colleague Fr Oliver Coss is Rector of All Saints in the centre of the Northampton, incidentally he will be coming on July 3rd to preach at my Silver Jubilee Mass. It is one of the more deprived parishes in England and there's been a major issue around homelessness and addiction. Fr Oliver is a remarkable man and has done great work bringing other agencies together, necessarily upsetting a few local politicians, and knocking heads together along the way, in order to bring about change, for the good of Northampton's homeless. So effective has he been that he even managed to upset The Sun newspaper a few years ago, an undoubted feather in his cap.

The novelist George Orwell once wrote an autobiographical memoir about sharing the life of tramps, 'Down and Out in Paris and London'. It does beg the question, does this mean that Jesus, the Son of Man was 'Down and Out in Galilee and Jerusalem'?

I think that there is probably more to it than this. For as with everything in the Gospels, it is highly significant that the Son of Man belongs, apparently, to no place in particular. The Son of Man is 'unplaceable'. He is fundamentally placeless in terms of the geography of this world. And the reason, I think, is that the only location where he can be truly at home, is the one identified in another Gospel -- the Gospel according to St John. There we read that the Son is 'in the bosom of the Father', a location not even Google maps can identify.

And because that is *where* he is at -- as the only begotten Son he never leaves the Father's side, it also shows us *what* he is at too. He is

altogether taken up with the mission the Father has given him, which sends him out wherever the proclamation of the Kingdom will take him.

And in an odd sort of way this enables us actually to predict where he will be in the Father's creation. He will be where the needs of the world's redemption require him to be, above all, it is where things are at their most challenging, that we can expect to see him most, including the homeless in the churchyard at All Saints' Northampton.

And of course with the unborn child, and with the terminally ill and those nearing the end of their earthly lives; I can only echo the words of our Bishop and with deep sadness note the vote in the House of Commons on Friday 20th June in favour of what I believe to be profoundly flawed and destructive legislation, the Assisted Suicide Bill.

Its passing will forever change the medical profession as well as society's attitudes to the ill and vulnerable. It will contribute to the Culture of Death, not the Culture of Life for which the Church labours and longs.

The Bishop wholly associates himself with all who stand for the sacredness of human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death, and with the Church's continuous witness to the revealed truth that human life is a gift from God not a possession; as something to be honoured and revered, not exploited, manipulated, or deleted.

And this helps make sense, retrospectively, of Luke's Gospel where we twice hear of how Jesus had set his face to go up to Jerusalem. The time was at hand to unmask the false theologies, or ideologies, or political stratagem, which, at Jerusalem, the very heart of the people's life, were obscuring the Father's loving plan: the plan to show his mercy and justice through Israel to all the nations.

For the prophets, it was in Jerusalem that the throne of David was to be established, the true worship celebrated, and the OT Scriptures taught in its fullness, so as to prepare the people for another prophet like Moses. So Jerusalem was that place which must be Jesus's until all things were accomplished.

Beyond the city wall, on Golgotha, the throne of David was established, when Christ reigned from the cross. There the true

worship was celebrated in his perfect offering which glorified the Father and won peace and pardon for the world. There he taught the Scriptures in its completeness. The Easter Mystery, which is always 'topical', at any time in the Church's year, gives us the resolution of the paradox, the riddle of today's Gospel: the one who had no place on earth had to be at one place in particular.

By his suffering, the One who is without place throws open to us, the only 'place' where ultimately, whether we know it or not, we want to be.

Our nature is set for God. Homing in on God, the best possible news we can have, is that the Son has opened the Father's house, the gates of heaven, for us.

Luke 9:51 includes a telling phrase: "As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem."

It's a road that will often be referred to in this section of ten chapters of Luke's Gospel. It's a real road, leading him to Jerusalem, but it's also a symbol of Jesus' whole life, a road leading him inexorably to suffering and death. It's a road to which he will remain faithful, for the following of that road is the task given him by the Father. Nothing will deflect him from it: it's a road that will reach its climax in his being "taken up to heaven" at the ascension, his life's work complete.

At the beginning of the journey, three potential disciples appear. Their enthusiasm must have been tested, if not dented, as Jesus talks of the cost of discipleship. Luke frequently highlights the gentleness and compassion of Jesus, but, when it comes to the commitment required of would-be disciples, he makes no attempt to soften the facts.

To one who says he'll follow Jesus "wherever you go", Jesus replies that he's in for a pretty rough ride, for he, Jesus, has nowhere to lay his head, he lives a nomad-like existence.

To another who asks if he can bury his father first, Jesus suggests that if he's spiritually alive, maybe he should leave that task to others. Similarly, to the man who seeks permission to say goodbye to his family first, the response is that this is no time for shilly-shallying – he must look to the future, not to the past.

Perhaps Jesus realises that if these men were to return home, they might not come back to him. In any event these startling sayings of Jesus are a dramatic way of telling us that being his follower can be a daunting task.

To be a Christian is to join Jesus on the road. The realisation that he “resolutely took the road to Jerusalem” can serve as an inspiration to us to follow his example. “No one who looks back”, says Jesus, “is fit for the kingdom”, and yet we so easily get distracted, so easily become infected by the standards of the world, or, as Paul puts it, so easily fall under the influence of self-indulgence rather than the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus’ message today encourages us to take stock of our situation and to seek his help. Let us take that to heart and not seek to live in isolation of him, nor forget to seek his help with every aspect of our life.

*“So, how can you tell me you're lonely
And say for you that the sun don't shine?
Let me take you by the hand
and lead you through the streets of London
I'll show you something to make you change your mind”*

Who speaks up for the vulnerable? It must be us.

With every blessing,

Fr Gary

Fr Gary’s new contact details:

PLEASE NOTE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

The Vicarage landline will be closed down in July and old email addresses will be phased out over the next couple of months.

New email address:

parishpriest@handcparish.co.uk

New phone number from July 1st: 07354 369772

Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham

This year will be our 22nd Annual Visit to the Healing & Renewal Pilgrimage at Walsingham, North Norfolk. Join us!

All are welcome and all ages are catered for!



THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

PILGRIMAGE FOR HEALING AND RENEWAL



MONDAY 25TH AUGUST 2025

12.00 NOON SOLEMN MASS

Principal Celebrant: The Rt Revd Glyn Webster



**2.30PM SERMON, SPRINKLING
AND HEALING
MINISTRIES**

Preacher: The Rt Revd Glyn Webster



www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

Departure Points:

07h30 Market Square, Hanslope

**07h50 Seymour House Bus Stop, B526 Newport Road,
Hardingstone, NN4 6HP (Queen Eleanor)**

Executive Coach with onboard WC

Stop en route at the A1M services, Peterborough

**Bring a Packed lunch, or buy from the Services or the Walsingham
Farm Shop on arrival. Drinks and snacks on sale at the Shrine.**

Children's Activities On Offer.

Return home ca 20h30 / 20h50

Cost – £25-£30 per person – reduced rates for children

The more that sign up the cheaper it will become.

Places reserved upon payment on a first come, first served basis.

**We will contact you about payment after you have signed up and
we have the minimum number needed to make the trip viable.**

Sign Up in Church, by email to Fr Gary or via Facebook by JULY 19th

Fr Gary

handc.parish@gmail.com

Church Open Weekend

12 & 13 JULY, 2025

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

11-4PM

2-5PM

CLIMB THE TOWER

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

12.30-3.30PM

2-4.30PM

REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE PRIZES

STALLS & FOOD

**St James the Great
Hanslope**

Monday Holiday Club

@ St James the Great 10am till 12
28th of July till 18th of Aug

Join us this summer for our Church Stay and Play sessions, filled with fun activities, crafts, and games for children of all ages. It's a great way for families to connect, play, and enjoy a welcoming space together during the holidays. Free Session. No need to book.



HANSLOPE AND DISTRICT CANCER WELLBEING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on 3rd Monday of each month at 8pm

Venue— St James the Great, Coffee Area

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— venue:

St James the Great Coffee Area

Contact - 07889181158



**DO
YOU
CARE?**

2025 Hanslope Teatime treats at Lincoln Court

Mondays 2.00pm – 4.00pm

7th July QUIZ

August 4th and September 1st

Transport available on request.

For more information contact Ann Ellis 01908 511436

SUMMER STRAWBERRY CREAM TEAS FOR HO

in the garden of 12 Weavers End
by kind invitation of Dr John Sorrell

Sunday 10th August

2.45pm – 5.00pm

Everyone very welcome

(nb This replaces our weekly teas traditionally held in August)



ST JAMES THE GREAT COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee – Tea – Cake – Bacon rolls

16th August, 6th September and 4th October

10am–12pm

All are welcome



***Our organist, Justin Lavender,
is Musical Director of Arcadian Opera –
your chance to see their latest production***



Friday 18 July at 4pm
Sunday 20 July at 4pm
with picnic interval
The Roxburgh Hall Theatre
Stowe, Buckinghamshire
MK18 5EH

Puccini's Madame Butterfly

*Sung in English with traditional staging, professional principal
singers, orchestra and chorus*

Tickets and further information from **[www. arcadianopera.com](http://www.arcadianopera.com)**

Ordination Season

We are deep in the main Ordination Season, *Fr Gary writes*, and I had the privilege of being in Exeter on Monday 16th June for Fr Alex Honey's ordination to the Priesthood.

From a traditionalist perspective 12 Deacons and 13 priests are being ordained to serve in parishes under the oversight of Society Bishops, one of the highest numbers ever. Four of these to serve in Oswestry parishes or with Oswestry clergy, in Exeter, Clevedon/Weston-super-Mare, Weston under Penyard (Herefordshire) and Coventry.

Ordination of the Diaconate

Edward Parker-Sunderland at 11am on Saturday 28th June in Wakefield Cathedral by the Bishop of Leeds

Nathan Barrett at 11am on Saturday 28th June in St Andrew's, Holborn by the Bishop of Fulham

Oliver Baldwin at 11am on Saturday 28th June in St Andrew's, Holborn by the Bishop of Fulham

Georges Iskander at 11am on Saturday 28th June in St Andrew's, Holborn by the Bishop of Fulham

John Laverick at 11am on Saturday 28th June in St Andrew's, Holborn by the Bishop of Fulham

Samuel Williams at 11am on Saturday 28th June in St Andrew's, Holborn by the Bishop of Fulham

Antonio Joseph at 11am on Saturday 28th June in Southwark Cathedral by the Bishop of Southwark

Alex Walker at 2pm on Sunday 29th June in Manchester Cathedral by the Bishop of Beverley

Ben Almond at 10.30am on Sunday 29th June in Norwich Cathedral by the Bishop of Norwich

Kevin Coaker at 10:30am on Sunday 29th June in Wells Cathedral by the Bishop of Bath and Wells

Michal Kmet at 7pm on Monday 30th June in Leicester Cathedral by the Bishop of Richborough

Ewan Gillings at 3.30pm on Saturday 5th July in Hereford Cathedral by the Bishop of Hereford

I'm often asked about the supply of future clergy. I'm delighted to say that no fewer than 34 people in the Bishop of Oswestry's parishes are currently in discernment for priestly or diaconal ministry. Again, this is by far the highest number in living memory. Not all will emerge through the national Church's rigorous discernment process, but many, probably most, will. Excitingly two thirds are in their 20s and 30s. There is, as they say, something in the water!

Please pray for them all, and especially for Fr Alex Honey in Exeter, Dcn Ewan Gillings in South Herefordshire, Dcn Kevin Coaker in Clevedon and Dcn Charles Cowper in Coventry, and their families, who are, or are about to be, serving in Bishop Paul's parishes.

One of my tasks for Bishop Paul is to facilitate our Vocations Network and its events, which I do supported by Fr Peter March in Torquay and Fr Andrew Swift in Stoke-on-Trent. It is a real privilege.

Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood

Tim Newton at 3pm on Saturday 14th June in St Nicholas, Arundel by the Bishop of Lewes

Alex Honey at 6.30pm on Monday 16th June in St Michael, Heavitree by the Bishop of Oswestry

Mark Naylor at 3pm on Saturday 21st June in Wakefield Cathedral by the Bishop of Beverley

Simon Fern at 3pm on Saturday 21st June in Wakefield Cathedral by the Bishop of Beverley

Ben Jennings at 2pm on Sunday 29th June in Manchester Cathedral by the Bishop of Beverley

Calum Mullet at 4pm on Sunday 29th June at Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton by the Bishop of Blackburn

Joseph Kochanski at 4pm on Sunday 29th June at Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton by the Bishop of Blackburn

William Allen at 5pm on Sunday 29th June in St Andrew, Holborn by the Bishop of Fulham

Simon Billington at 5pm on Sunday 29th June in St Andrew, Holborn by the Bishop of Fulham

James Bartle at 7pm on Tuesday 1st July in Newcastle Cathedral by the Bishop of Beverley

Graham Hains at 11am on Saturday 19th July in St Michael, Croydon by the Bishop of Fulham

Charles Cowper at [TBC] on Saturday 13th September in St Luke, Holbrooks by the Bishop of Oswestry

Jeff Graham at 2pm on Saturday 27th September in St James, Colchester by the Bishop of Richborough



Deacon Alex Honey prostrated in prayer before his priestly ordination

Oswestry Regional Festival in Coventry

On June 14th slightly more than 100 people from the Oswestry parishes in Birmingham, Coventry and Milton Keynes gathered in Coventry City Centre to explore the themes of Sin, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, for which Coventry in general, and its Cathedral in particular, are richly associated. *(See phot on back cover).*

Yvonne Smyth writes:

On a very hot Saturday, eight happy pilgrims journeyed to the cool, beautiful, welcoming mediaeval church of St. John's Coventry for the Bishop of Oswestry's Regional Festival. Following a very uplifting Mass and scrummy buffet, Bishop Paul delivered the Catechesis in his usual engaging way on the subject of Reconciliation, 'the coming together' as in the word '*Cilia*' eyelashes in Latin, and the act of them meeting in unity... a perfect analogy.

Leyla Meadowe writes:

It was a great day spending time with my Christian family outside of church formalities. We had time to talk and get to know each other more, Praise God. Coventry was an interesting visit, first time for me in this experience. For me, seeing the family of God with all our diversity, was the highlight of my day. The Bishop's message was about reconciliation, so seeing the House of God filled with people from different experiences and backgrounds was the manifested testimony, of not only the hunger for relationship with God but how much reconciliation is needed in a world where so many are searching. Aside from all the formalities, I was privileged to be amongst hearts yearning to love God and be loved. My heart was filled with joy, it was a beautiful day.

Maria Ecclestone writes:

"Not my first Regional Festival - perks afforded clergy wives (!!) - but extra special as it was my 'Region'. I found comfort in the Mass with the afternoon liturgy reflecting on Light•Life•Love which felt very timely. One of the most profound moments involved a young child replying unexpectedly to words spoken by Bishop Paul during his teaching session (and how he responded!). We were well looked after and I thoroughly enjoyed the day"

The new PCC team at St James



I to r: Joel Sandham; Glyn Hollinshed, Churchwarden & Treasurer; Sue Collett, Secretary; Diane Gordon; Gina Harper; Kathryn Pope; June Paterson; John Sorrell; Mark Edwards; Maria Ecclestone; Wendy Thomson; Fr Gary Ecclestone, Chairman

Baby Sandham Baby Shower



Nineteen of us with Isy enjoyed her baby shower on the 21st June. Just two weeks to go before Baby Sandham arrives! Yvonne made another fabulous cake and Tasha organised a number of suitable baby shower games. We are all very

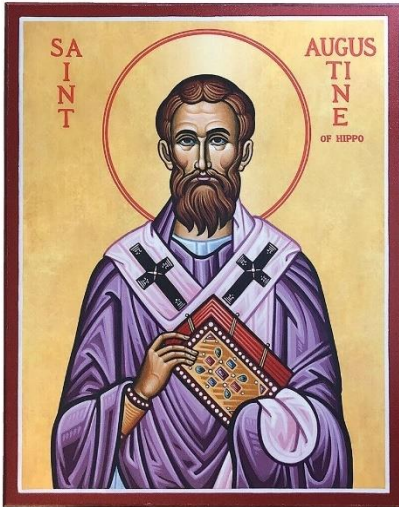


excited and Isy and Joel will have no shortages of babysitters!



Saint of the Month

28th of August



St Augustine O.P.N.

○ LORD my God, most
merciful,
Most secret, most present,
Most constant, yet changing all
things,
Never new, and never old,
Ever in action, yet ever quiet,
Creating, upholding, and
perfecting all,
Who hath anything but of thy
gift?
Or what can any man say
when he speaketh of thee?
Yet have mercy upon us, O
Lord,
that we may speak unto thee,
and praise thy Name.
Amen

St Augustine of Hippo

Originating in what is now Algeria, St Augustine was raised in a prominent roman family by a Christian mother (St Monica) and a prominent pagan father. He is one of the most important church fathers and a doctor of the church.

Despite receiving a Christian upbringing, he fell away from the faith as a young man, living a hedonistic life and settling with a concubine with whom he fathered a son, Adeodatus. For years a Manichean, his ambition, rhetorical talent and contacts from that sect gained him the post of Professor of Rhetoric in Milan. There through his mother's constant prayer and encounters with the bishop (St Ambrose) bought him back to the church. He abandoned his worldly life, founded a monastery, became a priest and finally the Bishop of Hippo. His many theological works, Confessions, City of God, led to his renown as "the most influential person on the theological thought after St Paul".

Patronage: Brewers,
Theologians

Symbols: Crozier, book, flaming heart

STATEMENT BY THE BISHOPS OF FULHAM & OSWESTRY ON THE RECENT AMENDMENT TO THE CRIME & POLICING BILL

Few can imagine the pain and trauma which must be experienced by an expectant mother who terminates her pregnancy by means of abortion. Nevertheless, our concern and compassion for women who have or who might experience this trauma cannot allow us to set aside our very grave concern about the recent amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill, passed in the House of Commons, which effectively decriminalises abortion even at full term.

Far from protecting pregnant women, this change to the law would, if enacted, make women in the later stages of pregnancy more vulnerable to ending their pregnancies prematurely and dangerously, once legal safeguards have been removed. Our concern here is not only for these unborn children, but for women experiencing coercion, abuse, or whose mental health is compromised because of the circumstances in which they find themselves.

Coupled with the draft proposals on assisted dying which will shortly return to the House of Commons for further consideration, we register our profound disquiet at the manner in which respect for the God-given dignity of every human life is being eroded because of the decisions of a majority of our elected representatives. We pray that legislators will continue to uphold the presumption of the sanctity of life and the protection of the vulnerable: values shared not only by all mainstream Christian traditions, but also by all historic world faiths.

As catholic Christians beginning our celebrations of the Feast of Corpus Christi today, we give thanks for our calling to be the Body of Christ in the world and to witness to the dignity of every human life, made in the image and likeness of Almighty God whose divine Son shared our humanity from his conception in the womb of blessed Mary and who gives Himself to us now in the form of Bread and Wine.

The Right Reverend Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham
Chairman of The Society's Council of Bishops
 The Right Reverend Paul Thomas, Bishop of Oswestry
Chairman of Forward in Faith

June 19th 2025



Family-run bakery based in Hanslope, offering:

Cupcakes & Celebration Cakes
 Traybakes
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 Cinnamon Buns (& other flavours)
 Sausage Rolls
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and FREE Fitting**



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Woods, Rollers, Romans,
Perfect Fit, Vertical, Vision,
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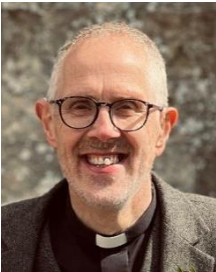
ST JAMES THE GREAT
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FRIDAY OCT 3RD 16.00-22.30
SAT OCT 4TH 17.00-22.30

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From Hanslope Methodist Chapel



Loving the Fab 4 (John, Paul, Peter & Judas)

Big family celebrations don't happen very often, but recently I have had the delight and privilege of two: a Naming Ceremony and a Wedding. And such occasions can be simply the best chance to "waste time" with family, friends, others, long-standing and completely new ones. There have been some difficult things going on for me, so these two

celebrations have been incredibly precious oases, spaces to slow down, pause and to simply be in, and be thankful of, the presence of others, and of God.

The celebrations have also helped me to pause and think about how we mark the best moments that we share, what words to use, and what does it mean to be the best human beings that we, and others, can be? Usually some of the key people in baptisms, weddings, and funerals, etc., will not be able to say with meaning and integrity all the words and theology used in most traditional Church services. So, I am growing in these convictions:

(1) That letting God's Spirit shape us to become and live like Jesus more and more *truly is* what it means for anyone to be the best human being living the best way possible (1 John 4:17);

(2) Some of the short-term consequences and costs of growing in becoming like Jesus and living by his grace, should evoke challenge, humility, fear, hope, passion, and change, in both Jesus' apprentices and others. If not, that probably means that those of us who say we are his followers are getting it very wrong about the character and ways of the Spirit and Kingdom of God.

(3) That those character and ways are best expressed, first by the way Jesus called his followers to love one another as he did, which was to love not only the best but also the worst of his followers, e.g. "the Fab 4": John (to whom he was closest), Paul (who initially persecuted

Christians), Peter (who spoke first and thought later), and Judas (who betrayed Jesus).

(4) That those character and ways are best expressed, second by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 (altered and paraphrased a bit):

*Can you speak the most profound truths? Can you fathom all mysteries? Can you know everything about everything?
Can you do things that no-one else ever has or will? Even supposing that you can, but you do not have love, what are you? Actually, nothing! And what do you achieve? Actually, nothing!*

Do you really want to be the greatest human being that God has given you the gifts to be? Then here is the most excellent way: authentic, extreme, precarious: Love.

*Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered, and even when it is, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not relish what is wrong but rejoices, delights, dances even, with whatever turns out to be true.
It protects whenever it must, trusts whenever it can, hopes always, perseveres always. Love never fails...*

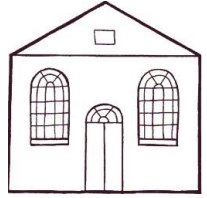
*Out of everything, what really is essential? What is foundational to, and connects with inseparable continuity, everything that there is now, and all that there is to come, and beyond? Ultimately, it is only three things, these three and nothing else:
faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is?
Authentic, extreme, precarious: Love.*

Dave Haseldine, Hanslope Methodist Church.

Note: Sadly, the Chapel will be saying goodbye to their Minister at a farewell service in Hanslope on 6th July.

On behalf of St James and SS Simon & Jude churches, we send prayers and good wishes to Dave and his wife, Sarah, for the future.

NEWS FROM THE METHODISTS



SUNDAY SERVICES

6 July	Revd. Dave Haseldine (Holy Communion)
13 July	Revd. Margaret Goodall
20 July	Deacon Steve Peck
27 July	Revd. Chris Batten

3 August	Revd. Stephanie Hibberd (Holy Communion)
10 August	Mr Richard Adjei
17 August	Mrs Jackie Commey
24 August	No service at Hanslope – see below
31 August	Revd. Stephanie Hibberd

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 celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

Revd. Dave will lead his final service here in Hanslope on Sunday 6 July. We will miss his wisdom, compassion and humour. We wish Dave and his wife, Sarah, good fortune in the future.

The Farewell Circuit service for Revd. Dave will be held at 4.00pm on Sunday 20 July at Christ the Servant King, Furzton, MK4 1NA.

There will not be a service at Hanslope on Sunday 24 August due to the Circuit Welcome Service for Revd. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah which will be held at 10.30am at Queensway Methodist Church, Bletchley.

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....

MARRIAGE – VICTORIA MORGAN AND LESLIE DAVIDSON



Many congratulations to Vicky and Les, who were married in the Chapel on the afternoon of Friday 13 June.



The ceremony was conducted by Revd. Dave and followed by a reception at The Club Hanslope.

ELLEN ASTRIDGE



We have recently added a new plaque to the memorial wall in the Chapel garden.

As the plaque says Ellen was “a faithful servant to the Chapel for 40 years and a much loved local preacher”.



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

SPRING CLEAN TIME!



During the first two weeks in June several volunteers got together to give the Chapel a spring clean which included shampooing the carpets throughout. This was no mean feat as it meant moving a lot of furniture around!

In addition, six new pairs of curtains were hung and these have made the Chapel look much lighter and brighter.

ORPHEAN SINGERS SUMMER CONCERT - 14 JULY

The Orphean Singers

rehearse at the Chapel every Monday evening and twice a year they hold free concerts for all the village to enjoy. Their Summer Concert is being held on Monday 14 July at 7.30pm. There will be a raffle and refreshments. All are welcome.



KNIT 'N' NATTER

Our newly formed "Knit 'n' Natter" group meets every Thursday afternoon in the tea room of the Chapel between 2.00 – 3.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come along and knit, crochet, natter or just enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

Chapel members, friends and family are busy making a poppy waterfall in preparation for this year's Remembrance Day in November.



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## Bobs Ramblings JULY 2025

Welcome to the Summer edition of The LINK and the particularly hot weather has made our flower garden bloom wonderfully. Unfortunately, some days have been a bit too hot, so some evening watering was required. Our local professional Cricket Team have not started too well in the League, but in the 20/20 Blast, they have won six out of the eight matches sitting top of the table.

This month's rail traffic has been very colourful and interesting, with brand



new locos on test, new traffic flows and a steam locomotive. Newbuild AI Pacific 60163 Tornado on a Southall to Carnforth run on 29<sup>th</sup> May. The



Derby on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The new ROG, Stadler



locomotive 93001 on a trial run Stafford to Wembley on 10<sup>th</sup> June. GBRf 69013 in the ITS OK TO TALK livery on a Northampton to Kettering



Unit run on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. DBf 66099 on the second liner train into the new rail hub at Northampton. This is the Southampton to



Northampton Gateway, running on the 18<sup>th</sup> June. Finally, an unusual triple header with 90015/004 and 66601 on a Theal to Hope diverted train on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Hope you enjoy this month's pictures, with more again in the next Magazine.

Bob

# From the Registers

## Baptism

8<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Ayla **FLOWER**

Aged 9 months

## In Remembrance of

24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Burial of Ashes at St. James the Great

**Thomas Dale ERICKSON**

Died 28<sup>th</sup> December 2023 aged 83 years

28<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Funeral & burial at St. James the Great

**Archie Wakefield MORGAN**

Died 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 aged 26 years

18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Burial of Ashes at St James the Great

Nina **BLADEN**

Died 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 aged 78 years



## Daily Bible Reading Scheme July & August

|                                            |                               |                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Week 13 – Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>             | Genesis 18:16-33              | Matt 8:18-22    |
| Week 13 - Tues                             | Gen 19:15-29                  | Matt 8:23-27    |
| Week 13 - Wed                              | Gen 21:5, 8-20a               | Matt 8:28-34    |
| Week 13 – Thurs<br><b>St Thomas</b>        | Gen 22:1b-19                  | Matt 9:1-8      |
| Week 13 - Fri                              | Gen 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67 | Matt 9:9-13     |
| Week 13 - Sat                              | Gen 27:1-5, 15-29             | Matt 9:14-17    |
| Week 14 – Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>              | Gen 28:10-22a                 | Matt 9:18-26    |
| Week 14 - Tues                             | Gen 32:23-33                  | Matt 9:32-38    |
| Week 14 - Wed                              | Gen 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a | Matt 10:1-7     |
| Week 14 - Thurs                            | Gen 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5  | Matt 10:7-15    |
| Week 14 - Fri                              | Gen 46:1-7, 28-30             | Matt 10:16-23   |
| Week 14 - Sat                              | Gen 49:29-32; 50:15-26a       | Matt 10:24-33   |
| Week 15 – Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>             | Exodus 1:8-14, 22             | Matt 10:34—11:1 |
| Week 15 - Tues                             | Exod 2:1-15a                  | Matt 11:20-24   |
| Week 15 - Wed                              | Exod 3:1-6, 9-12              | Matt 11:25-27   |
| Week 15 - Thurs                            | Exod 3:13-20                  | Matt 11:28-30   |
| Week 15 - Fri                              | Exod 11:10—12:14              | Matt 12:1-8     |
| Week 15 - Sat                              | Exod 12:37-42                 | Matt 12:14-21   |
| Week 16 – Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>             | Exod 14:5-18                  | Matt 12:38-42   |
| Week 16 – Tues<br><b>St Mary Magdalene</b> | Exod 14:21—15:1               | Matt 12:46-50   |
| Week 16 - Wed                              | Exod 16:1-5, 9-15             | Matt 13:1-9     |
| Week 16 - Thurs                            | Exod 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b     | Matt 13:10-17   |
| Week 16 – Fri<br><b>ST JAMES</b>           | Exod 20:1-17                  | Matt 13:18-23   |
| Week 16 - Sat                              | Exod 24:3-8                   | Matt 13:24-30   |
| Week 17 – Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>             | Exod 32:15-24, 30-34          | Matt 13:31-35   |
| Week 17 - Tues                             | Exod 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28     | Matt 13:36-43   |
| Week 17 - Wed                              | Exod 34:29-35                 | Matt 13:44-46   |

|                                             |                                     |                        |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Week 17 - Thurs                             | Exod 40:16-21, 34-38                | Matt 13:47-53          |
| Week 17 - Fri                               | Lev 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37   | Matt 13:54-58          |
| Week 17 - Sat                               | Lev 25:1, 8-17                      | Matt 14:1-12           |
| Week 18 – Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>               | Numbers 11:4b-15                    | Matt 14:13-21          |
| Week 18 - Tues                              | Num 12:1-13                         | Matt 14:22-36          |
| Week 18 – Wed<br><b>Transfiguration</b>     | Num 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26a-29a, 34-35 | Matt 15:21-28          |
| Week 18 - Thurs                             | Num 20:1-13                         | Matt 16:13-23          |
| Week 18 - Fri                               | Deuteronomy 4:32-40                 | Matt 16:24-28          |
| Week 18 - Sat                               | Deut 6:4-13                         | Matt 17:14-20          |
| Week 19 – Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>              | Deut 10:12-22                       | Matt 17:22-27          |
| Week 19 - Tues                              | Deut 31:1-8                         | Matt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 |
| Week 19 - Wed                               | Deut 34:1-12                        | Matt 18:15-20          |
| Week 19 - Thurs                             | Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17           | Matt 18:21—19:1        |
| Week 19 – Fri<br><b>Assumption BVM</b>      | Josh 24:1-13                        | Matt 19:3-12           |
| Week 19 - Sat                               | Josh 24:14-29                       | Matt 19:13-15          |
| Week 20 – Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>              | Judges 2:11-19                      | Matt 19:16-22          |
| Week 20 - Tues                              | Judg 6:11-24a                       | Matt 19:23-30          |
| Week 20 - Wed                               | Judg 9:6-15                         | Matt 20:1-16           |
| Week 20 - Thurs                             | Judg 11:29-39a                      | Matt 22:1-14           |
| Week 20 - Fri                               | Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22           | Matt 22:34-40          |
| Week 20 - Sat                               | Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17           | Matt 23:1-12           |
| Week 21 – Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>              | 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10        | Matt 23:13-22          |
| Week 21 - Tues                              | 1 Thess 2:1-8                       | Matt 23:23-26          |
| Week 21 - Wed                               | 1 Thess 2:9-13                      | Matt 23:27-32          |
| Week 21 - Thurs                             | 1 Thess 3:7-13                      | Matt 24:42-51          |
| Week 21 – Fri<br><b>St John the Baptist</b> | 1 Thess 4:1-8                       | Matt 25:1-13           |
| Week 21 - Sat                               | 1 Thess 4:9-11                      | Matt 25:14-30          |

## PERSONNEL ANGLICAN

WEBSITES: [www.stjameshanslope.org](http://www.stjameshanslope.org)  
[www.castlethorpechurch.org](http://www.castlethorpechurch.org)

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**New** phone number from July 1<sup>st</sup>: 07354 369772

|                        |                                                                                    |                                                                                    |
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| Baptism Co-ordinator:  | Sue Collett                                                                        | 07734772030                                                                        |
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| Children's Ministry:   | Wendy Thomson                                                                      | <a href="mailto:children@stjamesthegreat.co.uk">children@stjamesthegreat.co.uk</a> |
| Funeral Co-ordinator:  | Glyn Hollinshead                                                                   | 07947478189                                                                        |
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| Castlethorpe | Nick Fearn, 32 The Chequers              | 07790529454  |

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**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
**to our email address [TheLink@handcparish.co.uk](mailto:TheLink@handcparish.co.uk)**



← For Personnel information see page 30

### Photos

*Front cover, Castlethorpe Open Gardens 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June, photos Yvonne Smyth  
Above, pilgrims from St James and SS Simon & Jude at Oswestry Regional Festival  
in Coventry. Details on p15.*