The Link

Parish News from Hanslope & Castlethorpe



October 2026 £1.20

Diary for October 2026

(Also visit stjameshanslope.org/whats-on)

Worship

Sunday Services

Parish Mass at Castlethorpe, 9.30am (Sunday School 9.15am during term time)
Parish Mass at Hanslope, 11.15am (Sunday School 11.15am during term time)
Evening Prayer at Castlethorpe, 5.00pm (2nd and 4th Sunday)

Weekday Services

Wednesday Mass at Castlethorpe, 5pm
Thursday Mass at Hanslope, 9.30am
Friday Mass at Hanslope, 12noon

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 – 9.30am to 11.30am

Wednesdays
Hanslope Churchyard Team – 9.30am

Thursdays
Choir Rehearsals – Hanslope Church, 6pm

Fridays
Hanslope Church open for refreshments and reflection – 10am to 12 noon
Craftivists and Flower Team – 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, 4pm – 6pm

Cover Photo The Baptism of Florence Martha Lu Chang Malloy at Ss Simon & Jude, with proud parents Matt and Lu-yao.

October 2026

Sun 4th	**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times as above**
Mon 5th	Teatime treats, Lincoln Court – 2pm to 4pm
Wed7th	A Survival Guide to The Bible, Castlethorpe Church – 7.30pm
Thurs 8th	Explorer Course, Hanslope Church – 7.30pm
	The Chosen: Series 4, 12 Weavers End – 7.30pm
Sun 11th	**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times as above**
Wed 14th	A Survival Guide to The Bible, Castlethorpe Church – 7.30pm
Thurs 15th	Community Lunch, Hanslope Church – 12.30pm
	Explorer Course, Hanslope Church – 7.30pm
	The Chosen: Series 4, 12 Weavers End – 7.30pm
Sat 17th	Castlethorpe's Monthly Coffee Morning – 10am to 12noon
Sun 18th	**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times as above**
Mon 19th	Cancer Support Group, Hanslope Church – 8pm
Wed 21st	Servicing of Church Heaters, Hanslope Church – 9.30am
	A Survival Guide to The Bible, Castlethorpe Church – 7.30pm
Thurs 22nd	HO Concert rehearsals, Hanslope Church – 7pm to 8.30pm
	Explorer Course, The Vicarage – 7.30pm
	The Chosen: Series 4, 12 Weavers End – 7.30pm
Sun 25th	**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Service times as above (Baptism in Hanslope Church, Lorelai and Kristopher Hughes)**
Tues 27th	Hanslope PCC's Communications Subgroup Meeting, Hanslope Church – 7.30pm
Wed 28th	Carers' Support Group, Hanslope Church – 10.30am
	SS Simon and Jude Patronal Festival Mass, Joint Service, Castlethorpe Church – 7.30pm
Thurs 29th	HO Concert rehearsals, Hanslope Church – 7pm to 8.30pm
Sat 31st	HO Fundraising Pre-Concert rehearsals and set up, Hanslope Church – 12noon to 3pm
	HO Fundraising Concert with Afternoon Tea, Hanslope Church – 3pm to 5.30pm
Sun 1st	**All Saints' Day Sung Mass, Service times as above (Baptism in Hanslope Church, Ivy and Reginald Dooley)**

St James Church Cleaning (not every week or at exact times)
Monday afternoons. Any queries, please contact Mary Nokes on 01908 337939

Coming Up



Details of these, and other (yet to be announced) events will appear in due course, but please put the dates in your diary!

Monday 2nd November: ALL SOULS' DAY
SUNG MASS & COMMEMORATIONS OF THE DEPARTED at St James the Great, Hanslope at 7.30pm

Saturday 7th November: COFFEE MORNING
Monthly Coffee Morning at Hanslope, 10.00am-12 noon

Saturday 7th November: AUTUMN FAYRE
Autumn Fayre at Castlethorpe from 12noon-3.00pm

Sunday 8th November: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Castlethorpe: 9.15am at the War Memorial and 9.30am in Church
Hanslope: 11.00am in Church

Saturday 21st November: COFFEE MORNING
Monthly Coffee Morning at Castlethorpe, 10.00am-12 noon

Saturday 21st November: PRE-CHRISTMAS GIFT FAYRE
Pre-Christmas Gift Fayre at St James the Great, Hanslope 11.00-3.00pm

Sunday 22nd November: CHRIST THE KING
Bishop Paul joins us for a Joint Parish ***Mass of Baptism & Confirmation*** at Castlethorpe at 10.30am

Sunday 29th November: ADVENT SUNDAY

Saturday 5th December: COFFEE MORNING
Monthly Coffee Morning at Hanslope, 10.00am-12 noon

Saturday 12th December: MK BRASS CONCERT
The annual MK Brass Christmas celebration at St James at 7.30pm

Sunday 20th December: CAROL SERVICE
Annual Christmas Carol Service at 6.00pm at Ss Simon & Jude, Castlethorpe

Sunday & Feast Day Readings in October

October 4th 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (green)
Isaiah 5:1-7; Ps 80; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-46

October 11th 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (green)
Isaiah 25:6-10a; Ps 23; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-10

October 18th 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (green)
Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21

October 25th 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (green)
Exodus 22;20-26; Ps 18; 1 Thess 1:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40

October 28th Ss SIMON & JUDE (red)
Wednesday 28th October at Ss Simon & Jude, Castlethorpe at 7.30pm
Isaiah 28:14-16; Ps19, Ephesians 2:19-22, John 15:17-27

From the Registers



From The Vicarage October 2026

Dear Friends,

September is very much a month of re-groupings. After the lengthy late Spring and Summer holiday seasons, the new school academic year brings people back together, and much of the activity that has taken a break over the main Summer period reopens for the autumn. It is always a nervous time for clergy, "Will they come back?!", I need not have worried.

And we have reopened really well. The first September weekend saw a Coffee Morning, a bride arriving by Horse and Carriage for a wonderful Castlethorpe wedding, and the best part of fifty people gathering for our Families Picnic. Both churches are experiencing sustained periods of gentle numerical growth. I estimate between 15 and 20 people have joined the two churches this year, possibly more, new people almost every month in fact, from babes in arms to the retired, and every decade in between. The difference is palpable, especially at Castlethorpe, where on a typical Sunday morning there are seldom more than three people who were regular worshippers with us when I came in 2003, and where a large part of the congregation has joined since the Pandemic started in 2020. There's a real sense of renewal, and it is very invigorating.

One fruit of this is the need for not one, but two Confirmation Masses this year. We had six candidates as recently as June, and the Bishop will be back again on Sunday 22nd November to baptise and confirm even more candidates. Only once have we needed two Confirmations in a year, and that was in 2006. More interesting still is the fact that most of these candidates are adults, of all ages, including a number of younger adults too.

Another fruit of this are the numbers signing up for our courses in our *Learning & Teaching* programme. During September around two dozen people have been participating in Explorer Course and our first short "Survival Guide" course. During October we will have three courses running simultaneously with thirty or so people involved. This is only possible because of the commitment and generosity of our L&T team. Anne Adams joined the team earlier in the year alongside John Sorrell, Prester Coleman and Diane Gordon. Anne is a semi-retired University Professor, and she loves to learn and to teach, and has been a great addition to the team. Anne & John will be heading up a fourth series of The Chosen using snippets from the TV series to prompt discussion, and Prester will be offering a three week "Survival Guide to the

Bible" from October 7th, so if you are anxious about opening your Bible and not sure how to read it, then do come along to these three sessions.

We have been busy refreshing our offering to children and young people too. This remains a work in progress, but the arrival of new children in both churches, and new faces at our Inspire! Youth Group has been most encouraging. Equally there are no shortage of new faces at Little Angels on Mondays and Little Lambs on Fridays too. Please pray for this work and for its leaders.

Our celebration of Harvest was a great success, in its new earlier date in September. Not only did we have the largest Sunday morning attendance since before the Pandemic, but the afternoon fundraising Tea & Auction, saw excellent numbers and great generosity, both in terms of the donation of produce and gift items, but also in terms of willingness to buy things too. The event raised just a whisker under £1,600 for our charity FARM Africa, I think the best ever, and 45% more than last year! Somehow we even managed to auction off no fewer than 20 marrows!

As this month's Link is put together Castlethorpe's PCC organised a hugely successful Tutored Wine Tasting, and St James' annual Oktoberfest is almost upon us. Both churches' Coffee Mornings continue to gather people together in good number on the first and third Saturdays, and anyone and everyone is welcome to come along, or indeed to volunteer to help. Soup & A Roll at Castlethorpe is now back for the autumn and winter too on first Thursday lunchtimes.

October also sees our latest event in support of the Diocese of Ho. Andrew Biggs is leading on this for us, bringing together a crack choir, and presenting a super concert of music, including plenty of well-known tunes from the Shows. This will be at 3.00pm on Saturday 31st October at St James, and will include Tea and Cake. Tickets are now available from Castlethorpe Shop and Hanslope News.

Churches grow numerically where people are growing spiritually, and where, alongside this, churches are fulfilling their vocations to serve the local community. I am not the Chaplain to the congregation, nor do our two Parish Churches exist only for the benefit of those who worship regularly. I am the *Parish* Priest, available to everyone, and we exist to serve as Christ would have us do. We do that through our coffee mornings and lunches, through our children's work, Teatime Treats and our Cancer Support Group and hosting the Carers' Group. Thank you to everyone who makes this all possible.
With my prayers and every blessing, **Fr Gary**

Saints from the Church Calendar

October 2nd - Holy Guardian Angels

This feast originated in Portugal early in the sixteenth century and has figured in the general calendar since the late seventeenth century. It is based on the belief that God assigns everyone an angel to guard body and soul, an expression of God's personal care for each individual. A similar belief is also found in Jewish and other religious thought. The feast associates the human race with the eternal song of praise in heaven (Matthew 18:10).

October 4th - St Francis of Assisi, Religious

Born in Assisi (Italy) in 1181 or 1182; died nearby on 3 October 1226. The carefree son of a wealthy merchant who gave up his inheritance to embrace utter poverty. Under a simple gospel rule, he and his Friars Minor were authorised to be mendicant preachers. His "Canticle of the Sun" captures his lyrical spirit and sense of oneness with all creatures. An outstanding example of the beatitude "Blessed are the poor in spirit." At the end of his life he bore in his flesh the marks of Christ's suffering. Noted for preaching the poor and crucified Christ in both word and deed.

October 15th - St Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church

Born at Avila (Spain) in 1515; died at Alba de Tormes in 1582. Left her aristocratic family for the Carmelite monastery in Avila at the age of twenty, but only after two decades of dryness in prayer felt an inner conversion to Christ. Honoured as a spiritual writer and mystic who experienced and comprehensively described the life of prayer. Honoured as a strong, practical reformer who restored the strict Carmelite observance of poverty, solitude, and prayer.

October 16th - St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

Born in Burgundy (France) in 1647; died on 17 October 1690 at Paray-le-Monial. After an unhappy childhood, entered a Visitation convent where she experienced several visions of Christ's love. Patiently she bore the rejection and contempt of her superiors and others, she is honoured for ardently promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

October 16th - St Hedwig, Religious

Born in Bavaria ca 1174; died at Trebnitz (Poland) on 15 October 1243. Married at a young age to Henry, Duke of Silesia, a mother of seven children. Noted for founding religious houses and hospitals, for charity to the poor, and

efforts at peacemaking. After the death of her husband, she retired to live in a Cistercian convent which she had founded.

October 17th - St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr
Born probably in Syria; died a martyr in Rome about 107. At Antioch, where he was bishop, his death has been commemorated on this day since the fourth century. Noted for seven letters written on his way to execution. They show him to be devoted to Christ and his resurrection; they urge Christians to unity in and through the Eucharist and around their local bishop. Called himself the "God-bearer."

October 18th - St Luke, Evangelist, Missionary
By early Christian tradition, Luke is named as author of the Third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Almost certainly a Gentile and perhaps a companion of Saint Paul (29 June), he wrote to reassure those who had grown uncertain toward the end of the first century. In his gospel, the compassion of Christ is inclusive of all: Gentile and Jew, the poor and the rich, women and men, the outcast and the privileged.

October 19th - St Paul of the Cross, Priest
Born at Ovada (Italy) in 1694; died in Rome on 18 October 1775. After some years of uncertainty, felt called to found a new congregation, the Passionists, who combined a strict penitential discipline with intense devotion to the passion of Christ and whose work was both active and contemplative. Noted for his prophetic preaching in parish missions, for calling sinners to repentance, and for his special gifts of healing.



October 28th - Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles
Simon "the Less" is also called "the Canaanite" and "the Zealot." Jude "(son) of James" (was traditionally identified as Jude, brother of James and author of the letter of Jude, but may also be the one called "Thaddeus" A tradition has Simon and Jude preaching and being martyred in Persia. Honoured among the twelve apostles, the first followers of Christ.

Sacraments and the Worship of the Church

As Explorer Course participants have been learning recently, for Anglicans, a sacrament is 'an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace' quoting twelfth century theologian Peter Lombard. This means they are physical, tangible actions, instituted by Christ, that serve as effective channels for God's divine grace and work in our lives. They are not just memorials or empty symbols; they are efficacious, meaning they truly effect what they signify.

This understanding is at the heart of Anglican worship, where our relationship with God is nurtured through the inseparable pairing of 'word and sacrament'—the reading of Scripture and the celebration of these holy rites.

This connection between worship and belief is a foundational part of Anglican identity, captured in the ancient Christian principle *lex orandi, lex credendi* (the law of praying is the law of believing). Our doctrine is expressed and preserved in our corporate worship. As a core part of what Anglicans believe, the sacraments are indispensable to our life of faith.

The Two Great Sacraments of the Gospel

We special status to two sacraments: Baptism and The Eucharist (also known as the Mass, Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper). These are often called 'dominical sacraments' because they were directly ordained by Christ in the Gospels. They are understood as 'generally necessary to salvation' for all Christians, forming the foundation of Christian life and mission.

Baptism: Initiation and Unity

Baptism is the foundational sacrament of initiation through which a person becomes a member of God's Church, the Body of Christ. It is far more than a symbolic washing; it is a profound participation in the saving work of Jesus:
Participation in Christ: Through the waters of baptism, the believer is united with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection
Gift of the Spirit: In baptism, God bestows the gift and promise of the Holy Spirit, sealing the believer as Christ's own forever
A Bond of Unity: Our common Baptism is the 'basic bond of unity' that Anglicans share with all Christians across the world.

The Eucharist: **Sustenance and Communion**
If Baptism is the sacrament of our initiation, the Eucharist is the shared 'family meal' of the Church that continually sustains and nourishes us.

Anamnesis (Sacramental Memorial):
The Eucharist is a sacramental memorial where, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the one, unrepeatable sacrifice of Christ on the cross is 'made present and effective'
The Real Presence: Anglicans affirm that Christ is truly and really present in the Eucharist. The bread and wine 'become' the body and blood of Christ in a sacramental sense to sustain and transform the holy people of God.

The Five Other Sacraments
Beyond the two great sacraments, the Anglican tradition celebrates five other sacramental rites. These are true and valuable means of communicating God's grace for specific moments and callings.

Confirmation:
A mature, public affirmation of Baptismal vows, strengthened by the Holy Spirit for a life of discipleship



Ordination:
Also known as Holy Orders; the rite in which God gives grace and authority to bishops, priests, and deacons

Matrimony (Holy Matrimony):
A lifelong, faithful covenant between a man and a woman, serving as a sign of Christ's love for his Church

Reconciliation:
Often called Confession; a rite where a person receives the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution and God's forgiveness.

Anointing of the Sick (Healing):
Commending the sick to God's care, seeking spiritual and physical healing and the grace to endure with faith.

Fr Gary

“Not seven…but seventy-seven times.”

In a sermon on September 13th Fr Gary reflected on forgiveness.

Now you will have to forgive me if I have told you this before, after heading up for 23 years of standing here, not all things can be remembered! In some tropical countries, where monkeys are regarded as pests, people use an ingenious trick to catch the monkeys, which I saw years ago on one of those wonderful David Attenborough programmes.

They hollow out a coconut, leaving just a small hole in one end, into which they place some fruit or nuts. The hole has to be just big enough for a monkey to be able to squeeze its hand inside. Then they leave the coconut on the ground and withdraw. The monkey comes along, investigates the coconut, smells the fruit or nuts inside it, reaches in and closes its hand around the food. But now, grasping the food, the monkey’s hand is too big to come back out of the hole.

As the monkey-catcher approached, the monkey will try to run away, but the coconut acts like a ball and chain, restricting the monkey’s movements and making it impossible for it to climb a tree to escape. All the monkey would have to do, of course, is to let go of the food in its hand, but it seems that that is something that the monkey is either unwilling or simply unable to do. And so it is caught, and its freedom – or no doubt in some cases its life – would be the cost it had to pay.

Both our first reading and our Gospel today speak of the danger of being trapped like that monkey. The first reading speaks in very poetic language of “nursing” anger and “cherishing” resentment – almost as if these things are precious, like children who need to be cared for. So precious that – like the monkey with its food – we are unable or unwilling to let go of them.

In the Gospel, Peter thinks that he is being generous in being prepared to forgive up to seven times. It seems that there was a Jewish tradition that God would forgive three times, and that therefore a person was expected to forgive another person no more than three times.
Now Peter wonders if perhaps he should forgive as many as seven times. But he has, once again, got hold of the wrong end of the stick. By asking how many times we should forgive, Peter is trying to quantify how much forgiveness is necessary. It was just the kind of question the Pharisees would ask: How much do I have to do? What is the minimum I can get away with?

Jesus' answer – seventy-seven times (in some translations, seventy times seven) – and his parable about the unforgiving servant show that, for him, what is important is not the number of times we forgive; instead he calls us *always* to be prepared to forgive, to be as generous as we can with forgiveness.

For Jesus, forgiveness is not so much about individual acts as a way of life, a mindset guiding all our relations with others. Because we are forgiven by God, so we are called in turn to be prepared to forgive. Forgiveness is freely given to us – a gift, not something we can earn. And so Jesus teaches us to be ready to give it freely – not grudgingly – to others.

The alternative to forgiveness is to cling on to our hurt, nurse our anger and cherish our resentment. Anger, resentment and revenge may feel the natural, even the right response when someone has seriously wronged or hurt us. But ultimately the only people we punish by refusing to let go of those feelings and attitudes are ourselves. When we refuse to forgive, we are like that monkey – we hold on to our bitterness, our anger, our hurt, and we can't let go, we won't let it drop. But there is a cost to this way of dealing with hurt. It costs us our freedom and it robs us of our life and our peace.

We may feel that by holding on to our anger and resentment, we somehow have a hold over the person who has hurt us, perhaps even that we are punishing that person; but of course the reverse is actually true – we are the ones who are then ensnared. For lack of forgiveness weighs us down and entraps us. "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us," we pray in the Lord's Prayer. In other words, if we do not forgive, then we cannot hope to receive the forgiveness of God. "Remember the last things, and stop hating," the first reading tells us. That is the only way to be free and to be at peace – not just with our neighbour, but, critically, with ourselves and with God.

And here of course are significant messages for those for whom painful memories weigh heavily, and indeed all those whose lives have been turned upside-down by the outcomes of terrorism, warfare or even natural disaster; or any of the myriad challenges which we face across our lives, most especially ill health or bereavement, or the breakdown of a relationship. Ultimately the Christian Faith calls us to leave the past behind and to move on, with hope, with love and with prayer, in little things, as well as in larger things.

This week then find a moment to think about your own capacity to forgive – and offer up to God any areas of your own life where forgiveness has been hard, or, thus far, impossible.

Upcoming events in Hanslope



Teatime Treats (At Lincoln Court from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.)

Monday 5th October with Ukulele Sing along
Monday 2nd November Quiz
Transport available on request contact Ann Ellis on 01908 511435

Community Lunch
Thursday 15th October from 12.30 in Hanslope Church.

Love Changes Everything

An afternoon of songs from the Shows with The Ho Chorus and Friends with a High Tea and Cakes

Saturday 31st October 2026 at 3pm

St James Church, Hanslope



in aid of our Ghana Link



Tickets £15 from
Castlethorpe Shop and Hanslope News
or 07976 267630

Shoe Box CAMPAIGN

Small boxes. Big impact.

Help bring joy, hope and the love of Jesus to children around the world!

Samaritan's Purse — OPERATION Christmas Child



COFFEE MORNING

St James the Great Church, Hanslope

Saturday 7th November 2026

10.00am to 12 noon

Supporting the Shoe Box Campaign

Join us for a warm and friendly morning with:



Bacon Rolls



Homemade Cakes



Tea & Coffee



Raffle

ALL WELCOME

Come along, meet friends old and new, and help support this year's Shoe Box Campaign.

St James the Great Church
Church End, Hanslope

ST JAMES THE GREAT HANSLOPE

Faith in Action for a Brighter Tomorrow


CHRISTMAS
GIFT FAYRE
ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH
HANSLOPE
21ST NOVEMBER 2026
11AM - 3PM
STALLS
REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE
ST JAMES THE GREAT
HANSLOPE

Support groups



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



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The Link
Parish News from Hanslope & Castlethorpe

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RELIABLE GARDEN MAINTENANCE

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Email: winston-83@hotmail.co.uk

Shoe Box Campaign

This year we continue to support this Shoe Box Campaign. Both Ss Simon and Jude and St James are acting as collection hubs. For more information on how you can help.

Castlethorpe Melissa King 07783164240

Hanslope Wendy Thomson Children@stjamesthegreat.co.uk

Or visit **samaritans-purse.org.uk**



News from Ss Simon & Jude Castlethorpe

Heritage Open Day at Castlethorpe



Thank you to those who helped, welcomed and visited our church on Sunday 13th September. Several visitors were from nearly villages, and it's always good to show off the church to those who have not stepped inside before.

Ho Coffee Morning

Coffee mornings made a welcome return at Ss Simon and Jude. In a fund-raising event for Ho we raised £240. Thanks to all who attended. Our next Coffee Morning is on **Saturday 17th October**, 10 am - 12 noon. Will you be a raffle winner this month?



We are holding our **Autumn Fayre** on **Saturday 7th November** at the Village Hall, from 12pm – 3pm. We will have a choice of homemade soups and cakes, plus lots of local craft stalls.



We would love to see you at these events!

Learning & Teaching Term Ahead

Lifelong learning is a critical part of Christian Discipleship and we are richly blessed to have a knowledgeable team to lead us. This term no fewer than five courses will be on offer, over twenty-eight evenings, please do make the most of it!

COMING UP:

The Chosen: Series 4 ***from Thursday 1st October at 12 Weavers End***

An eight-week DVD based series exploring the life of Jesus Christ, and in this series especially, looking at how God uses suffering to bring about good in the life of God's people.

A Survival Guide to the Bible

From Wednesday 7th October at Ss Simon & Jude

This course is for anyone and everyone who would like to learn more about how we begin make sense of The Bible, and how we might get more out of reading it too. There are three sessions beginning at 7.30pm, and taking place at Ss Simon & Jude, Castlethorpe.

Advent News next month about our Advent courses.

LOOKING BACK:

Our first "Survival Guide" series on our Sunday Worship finished on September 24th. It attracted an encouraging 14 participants over three Wednesday evenings. Anne Adams reports:

"Starting this course we all had no idea what a survival guide might be. Having completed the whistle stop tour, I can say that we all now have found something deeply transformative to bring to our weekly worship. From understanding on one hand, the sequence of the components of the Mass, and then appreciating moments where the veil between worlds is lifted. We all had a chance to ask questions that we didn't realise we wanted to ask. From when we sing with angels, to why we look up when the bells ring. Finally, many said that they now felt that this had moved their worship away from any danger of rote performance, to a deeper spiritual connection with the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. We were left in the last session with an excited buzz to put into action at Sunday's worship our deeper understanding"

News from the Methodist Church

Sunday services are usually held at 10.30am and are always followed by tea and coffee. We are a family friendly Church.

Sunday Services

4th October	Revd. Barbara Winner (Harvest Festival) **3.00pm**
11th October	Mr Abrampa Mensah
18th October	Revd. Dr. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah
25th October	Revd. Barbara Winner
1st November	Mr Derek Beaumont

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival is being held on the afternoon of Sunday 4th October and will be followed by Afternoon Tea.

Non-perishable donations for MK Foodbank are most welcome and can be brought to the Church on the day or the previous Tuesday during Coffee Shop hours (10.00am to 12.00 noon).

Find us on Facebook and keep up to date with our news – Hanslope Methodist Church.

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 bright and airy Tea Room….

Looking back to 1950

The Church is decorated in readiness for Harvest Festival.



Hanslope Scarecrow Festival



Hanslope held its 4th Scarecrow Festival over the weekend of 19/20 September. There were 40 magnificent entries, and it was a joy to see so many people, especially families with young children, walking around the village, smiling, laughing and taking photos of the scarecrows.

Our entry was Alex McKay, the (in)famous bare-knuckle fighter. More on him in the December issue of The Link.

Our Pop-up café was busy both days and we almost sold out of our home-made cakes!

Advent and Christmas Webinar

We're digging out the Christmas jumpers as we prepare for our upcoming Advent and Christmas webinar.

Join us to ask questions, get inspired and join in with 'Don't Be Afraid!'

The event will run on 15th October.



A recording will be available at **methodist.org.uk/christmasresources** after the second event.

Find out more and register today at **http://eventbrite.co.uk/.../dont-be-afraid-advent-and...**



Looking ahead.....

A date for your diary.
Our Christmas Carol service will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 20 December. We are delighted that the Orphean Singers will join us once again this year.

Bob's Ramblings

Hello everyone, I suppose the rain forecast all ran out before it reached us. Although some showers have materialised, I now have lawn that looks like a patched-up grass area. What is surprising, that some of the scorched plants are showing life that I would never have believed. The Northants Cricketers are on their final games with a slim chance of promotion. The MK Dons after an early showing are now finding it difficult and The Cobblers have tumbled down into the bottom three of Div 2. The railway line has produced some very varied liveries this month, so I hope you enjoy the photos. The first one is of 20096/107 with a rake of Carmine and Cream coaches and 20132/118 on the rear on 04/09 with a



Paddington to Crewe Special. An unusual pair of Class 73s, 73962/963 on a Derby to Tonbridge on 10/09. A super preserved Class 50050 with 57302 returning



stock from Southall to Crewe on the 10/09. Another pair of preserved Class 50's, this time Large Logo 50007/50049 heading to Kidderminster after they hauled a special to Edinburgh the previous day on 13/09.



The LSL Blue Pullman returning from a weekend in Cornwall on a Penzance to Lancaster working on



20/09. Finally, the ROG 93001 with 730232 purring through the old station site on the 22/09. I hope you enjoyed the variance from



the original BR Green to the latest interpretation of BR Green on the Rail Operation Group 93001.



Bob.

Daily Bible Reading Scheme

Week 27 – Mon 5th	Gal 1:6-12	Luke 10:25-37
Week 27 - Tues	Gal 1:13-24	Luke 10:38-42
Week 27 - Wed	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14	Luke 11:1-4
Week 27 - Thurs	Gal 3:1-5	Luke 11:5-13
Week 27 - Fri	Gal 3:7-14	Luke 11:15-26
Week 27 - Sat	Gal 3:22-29	Luke 11:27-28
Week 28 – Mon 12th	Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1	Luke 11:29-32
Week 28 – Tues ***St Edward the Confessor***	Gal 5:1-6	Luke 11:37-41
Week 28 - Wed	Gal 5:18-25	Luke 11:42-46
Week 28 – Thurs ***St Teresa of Avila***	Eph 1:1-10	Luke 11:47-54
Week 28 - Fri	Eph 1:11-14	Luke 12:1-7
Week 28 – Sat ***St Ignatius***	Eph 1:15-23	Luke 12:8-12
Week 29 – Mon 19th	Eph 2:1-10	Luke 12:13-21
Week 29 - Tues	Eph 2:12-22	Luke 12:35-38
Week 29 - Wed	Eph 3:2-12	Luke 12:39-48
Week 29 - Thurs	Eph 3:14-21	Luke 12:49-53
Week 29 - Fri	Eph 4:1-6	Luke 12:54-59
Week 29 - Sat	Eph 4:7-16	Luke 13:1-9
Week 30 – Mon 26th	Eph 4:32—5:8	Luke 13:10-17
Week 30 - Tues	Eph 5:21-33	Luke 13:18-21
Week 30 – Wed ***Ss Simon & Jude***	Eph 6:1-9	Luke 13:22-30
Week 30 - Thurs	Eph 6:10-22	Luke 13:31-35
Week 30 - Fri	Phil 1:1-11	Luke 14:1-6
Week 30 - Sat	Phil 1:18b-26	Luke 14:1, 7-11

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Deadline for the November edition
Wednesday 21st October
Covers Sundays 1st, 8th, 15th,22nd, 29th November

Please email your articles to thelink@handcparish.co.uk


The Parish Churches of Hanslope & Castlethorpe
The Feast of
Ss Simon & Jude
Patronal Festival Mass
Wednesday 28th October 7.30pm
at Ss Simon & Jude, Castlethorpe
followed by drinks, all are welcome