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in a

NUTSHELL

news, views, ideas from your local church 2026 May/June

Whitsun: what's in a name?

Are you looking forward to the Whit weekend – decent weather perhaps, and the chance to get away? But do you know where the name Whitsun (or Whit Sunday) comes from?

It was once a time when people of all ages were baptised. Many churches, especially in the north, arranged 'parades' through the streets, and those to be baptised wore white garments as a sign of purity – hence *White Sunday*. However it's also suggested the word *whit* is a corruption

of the Old English (Saxon) word *witt*, meaning *wisdom* or *understanding*, so it refers to the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples on the Jewish day of Pentecost, 50 days after Passover (Easter), which gave the disciples a new understanding of God's power



and purpose in raising Jesus from the dead. Confused? Well, it means simply that the day most people call *Whit Sunday*, is called by the Church the *Day of Pentecost*!

Do you recognise anyone in this photo from 1960?



This picture was found recently in a poor condition in the vestry at St Andrew's church. It is pencil-dated Pentecost 1960 and shows the vicar, the Revd William Daniel Davies (seated) and 31 members of

the church choir. Do you recognise any of the people? If so please email Martin Hollingsworth (Kirkton in Lindsey Society) at m.hollingsworth205@btinternet.com (See it full-size at the Churches' Festival.)

Watch the birds pS3; Sebastian pS4; Cartoon Bible story pS5; Puzzles pS6 ►

Holy Week in St Andrew's United Church

The seven days leading up to Easter are always busy ones in the life of a church. Saint Andrew's United Church, Kirton, is no exception. What we call Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday, sharing the joy as crowds welcomed Jesus when he entered Jerusalem with his disciples.

Time for reflection

The days after Palm Sunday are a time for reflection, so each morning from Monday to Wednesday there was a short service of prayer and meditation in church, which was also open for two hours in the evening for private prayer.

The Last Supper

Then on Maundy Thursday we had a special evening service to remember how Jesus shared his last supper with his friends just before he was arrested.

Twenty two people and a dog



Jesus's humiliation, trial and crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday. For several years St Andrew's has shared in a walk of witness, sometimes around the town, sometimes joining our friends at Grayingham. This year 22 people (and a dog) walked in the



L: The Cross & symbols in Holy Week
R: The Cross in church on Easter Day

Easter Day, 5 April 2026

On Easter day we had a Sunrise Service to recall the Resurrection. Then, after breakfast in church, at eleven there was a joyful service of thanksgiving and Holy Communion, to celebrate what the Cross and Resurrection mean to the whole world today, and to each one of us.

Maybe you could join us at some point in Holy Week next year?

churchyard, stopping at different points to recall the journey Jesus made from his trial, his sentencing by Pontius Pilate and his journey to the place of crucifixion. The walk ended with a short, moving service in church. **Why not walk with us next year?**



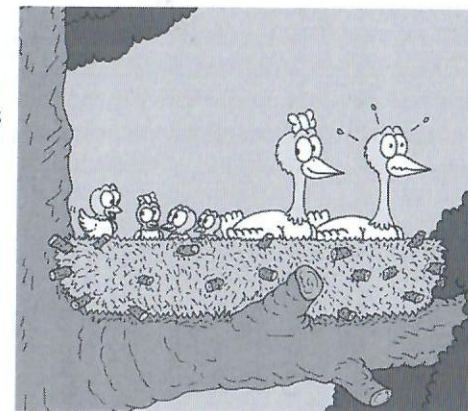
The Revd David Swannack tells us how much we can ...

Learn from the birds!

I saw my first house martin of the spring the other day – or maybe it was a swallow (too far away to be accurate) but definitely a spring arrival. And I was looking out of the window in my study and enjoying the sight of a blue tit, a robin, and a wren perusing the bird boxes and trees in my garden. Late spring is a wonderful time as parent birds pair up and fledglings start to emerge the nest. But what a delight it can be, to watch the parents of young chicks over spring and early summer flying backwards and forwards providing for their young, giving me the 'stare' and 'squawk' if I go too near the nest to have a look at what is going on.

Soon my garden will be full of fledglings and young birds, feeding for themselves and being 'all grown up'. It reminds me of my own children, even though from time to time I am also conscious that I am still their Dad and they come to me for help and advice; well, sporadically (not often enough from my perspective. No doubt you feel the same!).

It also reminds me how God is with us. Two thousand years ago Jesus observed the world around Him and said, 'Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?' (Matthew 6:26-27).



Think about it guys: We're fed and sheltered: why would we ever think about leaving the nest?

We will never realise how much our Heavenly Father values us. Just as those parent birds were prepared to watch over their chicks and ensure that their young were close to them, were provided for and felt safe, and just as we aspire to do the same for our children, so God is also with us. True, bad things *do* happen to good people, but we can always be secure in the knowledge that God watches over us, is intimately interested in our lives and longs for us to know his care for us.

So next time you see an animal or bird watch over its young, or see a parent with a child who longs to protect and care for their offspring, just remember, that is how God feels about you!

The Revd David Swannack is Rector of the South Manlake Group of Churches, to which St Andrew's United Church, Kirton in Lindsey, belongs. For contact details see page S8.

Fancy a Tower Tour at St Andrew's church? See page S7



Sebastian likes visitors

Hallo friends!

It's May - and lots of exciting things will be happening in my home this month.

The first is **Christian Aid Week**. There's a special service on 10 May. I'm looking forward to hearing all about some families who grow vegetables in the middle of their city, Nairobi (which is in Kenya)!

Then there's the weekend of the **Churches Festival**.* It's always a great time! Last year it was a lovely sunny weekend and over 200 people came to visit my home. I waved to them all as they came in at the door - but not many waved back. Perhaps they didn't see me.

A lot of them also climbed up the church tower to see my Mum. Well - that's what I thought, but my friend Cedric said they really wanted to see the view from the top of the tower. I've never been up there, but people say it's spectacular.

Of course, the best thing about the Churches Festival is the food!! Lots of delicious cakes and biscuits - and the visitors drop crumbs everywhere. I'm kept very busy cleaning up!

Our church Social Team always provides scrumptious food and all my friends are good at welcoming people into our home.

In the Bible, we often read about people welcoming others into their homes (both friends and strangers) and offering them food. I like the story about the



'We greet all visitors with a welcome pack.'

two friends who were walking along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus.** They were very sad because Jesus had been killed. (They didn't know for sure that God had brought him back to life, even though they'd heard that Jesus's body had disappeared from his grave.)

As they walked along, a stranger joined them and talked about all this. As it was evening, they invited him to stay with them and the stranger went in. Later, as they were having supper, they recognised that the 'stranger' was in fact Jesus.

How wonderful! I expect they were very glad that they had welcomed that stranger into their home.

I'd like to welcome you into my home too. Please come and see me.
Your friend,

Sebastian

* The Churches Festival Weekend is 16-17 May. Opening times on page S7.

** Read about this in Luke's gospel, chapter 24, verses 13 to 35



Harmony's giving her hair - for the third time!

The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs **free** to children and young people suffering hair loss through illness. Local youngster, Harmony (10), has given her hair to the trust three times: the latest 'cut' was on 15 April. Each wig costs £700 to make. At the time of writing Harmony had raised £200. Please will you sponsor her? To give, scan the QR code here (right) or contact editor.nutshell@btinternet.com [More in June's Nutshell]



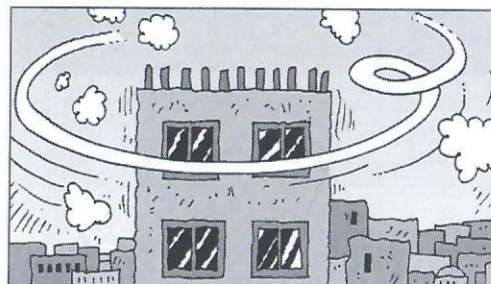
Welcome World!



After Jesus had gone up into heaven, some of his friends gathered in an upstairs room of a house in Jerusalem and waited as Jesus had told them.

The Jewish people of Israel (Judea) at the time of Jesus believed that they were specially favoured by God - his chosen people. They despised all foreigners (Gentiles), and even their close relatives, the Samaritans. But God said that Jesus was his Son*, and Jesus taught that God doesn't have favourites: God's love isn't limited. So, after the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost, they travelled widely and shared the same experience with people of every race, all over the known world.

(* Matthew 3:17, 17:5)



Suddenly they heard a strong wind. It shook the house where they were waiting. It was the Holy Spirit sent from God.



The power of the Holy Spirit filled them all. They saw what looked like flames flickering over their heads and felt that God was right there with them.



They went outside and spoke to people from other places in their own language, telling them that Jesus had risen from the dead and everyone in the crowd understood them!



The Holy Spirit coming into their lives was the beginning of something brand new. Many people of every race from all over the world believed in Jesus and followed him because of that day.

Leaving childhood behind

The attitudes, even 'prejudices', of our upbringing can be hard to shake off in later life. For centuries Jewish children had been taught to despise people of other races, so Jesus's disciples found it difficult to change. Read the wonderful story of Peter and an Italian centurion in the Bible, in the book of Acts, chapters 10 & 11.



Sebastian Spider's Puzzle Corner for all ages

Churches' Festival Word Search 2026

S K D E B H C R U H C A X W X T O W E R L V B
A V I U P H Y D S Q D Z X H L E E F F O C Y A
Y A I S A R A R P S F L S R E W O L F V T A D
I I F E A A M A E M U S I C X W P L C H A D K
J S X L T O T Y T D G A W E L C O M E M W R N
E L K B U C R H S B E L L R I N G E R S L U V
D E K A L L A C A P S B V S L T S O U P A T T
Z A Y T E O V R V W C Y A D N U S J Z D V A D
C N S I J C E U K R O A G M I I N C S S I S B
T D E B N K L H I Y U C F Z K R A Y E F T B C
O R I N N Q L C Y I T S A O W E V V V B S E F
D E N E O M E P S Z S N S K O G E J I U E X A
H W W D O R R T W I N D O W E D A I H I F A V
P P O R N H S S D I S P L A Y S Q Q C R D I L
H B R A R O O D Z B M K Z R K H G A R C E I M
Z P B G R U R D E M I T R N H B S G A B I Z H

A Word Ladder

Climb from ROAD to MALT changing just one letter at a time, without disturbing the order of the remaining letters. But the clues for the steps are not in the right order.

MALT CLUES

- Tiny fish, may be tinned.
- I a story
- A condiment
- Word seen on 'For Sale' sign
- Sediment at the bottom of pond
- An amphibian

ROAD

TWO HARD PUZZLES

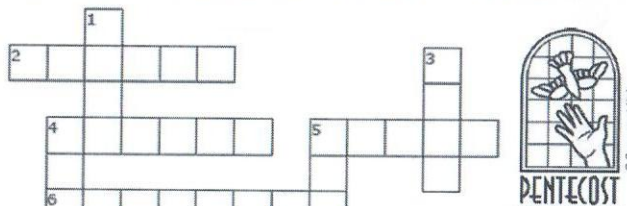
- Complete this sequence: 24, 120, 720, ????
- Using only addition, combine eight 8s to make the number 1,000.

Answers on page p58

Find these words in the box. Words are hidden ↗ ↘ ↙ ↖ and ↵

AISLE	CLOCK	MAY	TABLES
ANDREW	COFFEE	MUSIC	TEA
ARCHIVES	DISPLAY	NAVE	TIME
BELLRINGERS	DOOR	SATURDAY	TOWER
BROWNIES	FESTIVAL	SCOUTS	TRAVELLERS
CAKES	FLOWERS	SOUP	WELCOME
CHURCH	FOOD	STEPS	WINDOW
CHURCHYARD	GARDEN	SUNDAY	

A simple Pentecost Crossword



DOWN

- It burns things
- Name for moving air
- If it's pure and special, it's
- Use words with your voice

ACROSS

- A 'being' you can't see
- Does God live here?
- You hear this
- Verbal communication between peoples

At St Andrew's this May & June



10-16 May ...

Christian Aid Week
see opposite ➤

16 May (from 10am)



Sponsored Bike Ride

15 miles
Christian Aid
Contact
01652 648846

Sponsors
& cyclists
wanted!

16-17 May ...

The Churches Festival
see opposite ➤

23 May ...

Medieval Music,
Songs & Stories by
de Mowbray's Musicke

6.15-6.45pm Pre-concert talk
Concert starts at 7pm

Tickets: £15 (Kirton Society members £10)
Light refreshments in the interval
Tickets and information:
Martin Hollingsworth 01652 648435

2 June 7pm

Music, Monologues,
Merriment



The Alkborough
Singers in concert!
Entry FREE + raffle
Don't miss it

28 June ...

The BIG Lunch
after morning worship
approx 12.15 - ALL WELCOME

Become a beacon of hope

It's a precarious and frightening daily struggle for people like Fridah Moraa in the crowded and noisy settlements of Nairobi. Fridah is a recently widowed grandmother, determined to support her family on what little she earns.



Fridah tends her small city plot, tucked away at the end of an alley by her home in Dagoretti.

Fridah's faith in God, and in her own ability to provide, is unwavering.

With tools, seeds and specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, she is now making the most of a small space in the city to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables.

Will you help this Christian Aid Week (10-16 May)?

£5 could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden

£10 could pay for the pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer

£15 could purchase hand tools for an urban farmer

More information from: Jane Sheard (01652 648846) or the Christian Aid website: caweek.org

Take a peek!!

Never seen inside your local church? Never had a chance for a proper look around?



Many local churches will be open during the Churches Festival Weekend (16-17 May), including St Andrew's United Church, Kirton, and St Radegund's in Grayingham.

Refreshments & displays in both churches; admission FREE

St Andrew's open: Sat. 10am-4.30pm; Sun. 12.30-4pm

Tower tours subject to weather conditions

St Radegund's open: Sat. 9.30am-4.30pm; Sun. 10am-4pm



Your local churches

St Andrew's United Church, Kirton in Lindsey
www.standrewsunitedchurch.org.uk

St Radegund's Church, Grayingham
www.achurchnearyou.com/grayingham-st-radegund



Ministry Contacts: May 2026 - KIRTON

- ☎ 01724 647789 The Revd David Swannack (Anglican Vicar)
- ☎ 07395 453246 The Revd Robert Roberts (Methodist Superintendent)
- ☎ 01472 466824 The Revd Dr John Schofield (Methodist Minister)
- ☎ 01652 649365 Dr Pat Frankish (Baptist Deacon; Anglican Lay Reader)
- ☎ 07855 120896 Mrs Janet Caughley (Baptist Deacon)

Ministry Contact: May 2026 - GRAYINGHAM

- ☎ 07738 356048 The Revd Charles Thody (Anglican Priest in Charge)

Other enquiries

Church Council Secretary, Kirton, 01652 648846
 Church hall bookings, Kirton, 01652 648573
 Church Warden, Kirton, Dr Pat Frankish, 01652 649365
 Church Council Secretary, Grayingham, 01652 640157
 Church Warden, Grayingham, Mr Clive Marshall, 01652 648125

SAFEGUARDING (Kirton) 01652 640740

SAFEGUARDING (Gray'm) 01652 640157

Baptism bookings (Kirton) - 07776 487791
 Wedding bookings (Kirton) - 01652 648846
 Funerals (Kirton) - 01652 648573

Worship in our buildings in May 2026

- St Andrew's United Church, Kirton, 11am Sunday; 9.30 every Wednesday
- St Radegund's, Grayingham, 9.30 1st Sun HC; other Sundays 9am

Please visit our websites/Facebook or phone one of the contact numbers above for other information about our churches and activities.

Join us for Worship on Zoom: every Sunday at 9.30am

* To join - on computer, tablet or phone - contact heather.bunker@btinternet.com

24 May Pentecost Services

St Radegund's Grayingham 9.30

St Andrew's United Church 11am

PUZZLE ANSWERS (p.55)

Word Ladder: ROAD, TOAD, TOLD, SOLD, SILD, SILT, SALT, MALT

Pentecost Crossword:

DOWN: 1. FIRE 3. WIND 4. HOLY 5. SPEAK

ACROSS: 2. SPIRIT 4. HEAVEN 5. SOUND 6. LANGUAGE

Two Hard Maths Puzzles:

(1) 5040

24 is 4! (i.e. 2 x 3 x 4); 120 is 5! (i.e. 2 x 3 x 4 x 5); 720 is 6!; 5040 is 7!

(2) 8 + 8 + 8 + 88 + 888 = 1000

'Love in a Cup' Community Café

Every Thursday, 2-5pm:
 St Andrew's United Church Halls

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 Local pics, cartoons, puzzles, What's On, town history - and more.

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Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the editorial group

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editor.nutshell@btinternet.com

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CLEATHAM HALL NEWS

Celebrating Life at Cleatham Hall

Celebrating Family and Friends, Birthdays and Anniversaries.

Feel relaxed and enjoy the hospitality we are renowned for while enjoying a relaxing meal. So, if there are just 2 or 52 of you, contact us by email or phone to book your own personal celebration.

Dine and Stay packages available for both groups or couples to enjoy a special occasion of get together.

The Restaurant is open daily from Wednesday to Sunday subject to availability. Watch out for our current menus as they will be updated quarterly this year.

Try our Sunday Lunch, or weekday Lunch menu, our celebrated Afternoon teas, using homemade seasonal jams and chutneys, available to buy, and of course Dinner menu.

Brunch served from 9 - 11am, Lunch served from 12 to 3pm, Afternoon Teas from 1 to 4pm
 Dinners from 6 to 8.30 pm

See our website at www.cleathamhall.com/events for our menus and pricing

To book call: 01652 649402 or email: enquiry@cleathamhall.com



Cleatham Hall, Cleatham, North Lincolnshire, DN21 4JS

www.cleathamhall.com

Tel: 01652 649402

Email: enquiry@cleathamhall.com