

## Changes to Church flowers

In common with many other churches, it has been decided that we will no longer place floral arrangements in church during Lent. So, this year from **Ash Wednesday (14th Feb)** to **Easter Sunday (31st March)**, no flowers will be required.

However we hope that on Easter Sunday, we can celebrate this special day with a bumper, bright collection of flowers and Easter decorations!



If you take a moment to look at the splendid carvings of Alpha and Omega symbols, behind the altar, the usual vases of flowers obscure them and can detract from the beautiful brass cross. So, routinely, flowers will no longer be placed there but will be elsewhere in church. Not a hard and fast rule, and special occasions, weddings etc will be catered for.

I would be interested to know your thoughts!

Also please sign up for the remaining weeks on the flower rota in the church porch. We still need your help!

Many thanks

*Barbara*

**National Hug Day**, also known as National Hugging Day, is a heart-warming holiday that encourages people to express their affection and care for one another through the simple act of giving hugs. Hugs are a universal form of physical affection that can convey love, comfort, and support. This day reminds us of the positive impact of a warm embrace and the importance of human connection.

### What is National Hug Day 2024?

National Hug Day 2024 is a day dedicated to celebrating the power of hugs and their ability to bring joy and comfort to both the giver and the receiver. It's a reminder that even a brief hug can create a meaningful and positive connection between individuals.

### When is National Hug Day 2024?

National Hug Day is celebrated annually on January 21st.

### How to Celebrate National Hug Day 2024?

Celebrating National Hug Day is simple and heart-warming. Here are some ways to participate in this special day:

- **Hug Loved Ones:** Embrace family members, friends, and loved ones with warm, heartfelt hugs. Share the love and affection you feel for them.
- **Offer Comfort:** If someone you know is going through a difficult time, offer them a comforting hug to show your support and empathy.
- **Spread Positivity:** Share positive and encouraging messages about the power of hugs on social media. Use the hashtag #NationalHugDay to join the conversation.
- **Volunteer or Donate:** Consider volunteering at a local charity or donating to organizations that provide support to those in need of comfort and care.

**Send Virtual Hugs:** In today's digital age, you can send virtual hugs to friends and loved ones through text messages, emojis, or virtual greeting cards.

### History of National Hug Day

National Hug Day was created by Kevin Zaborney in 1986 in the United States. Zaborney believed that the month of January, with its post-holiday blues, was the perfect time to spread warmth and happiness through the act of hugging. His goal was to encourage people to express their feelings more openly, and the idea of a National Hug Day was born.

# Well, fancy that!

## This week in history.....

### 15th January 1759

Established by an act of Parliament in 1753, the British Museum, opened its doors to the public on this day in 1759. Dedicated to human history, art and culture, the museum has a permanent collection of 8 million works, making it the largest in the world.



### 16th January 1932

Dian Fossey, the American zoologist, known for her research and conservation work in Africa with the Mountain Gorillas, was born in San Francisco.



### 17th January 1929

The cartoon character Popeye, well known for his love of spinach, made his debut, appearing in the newspaper comic strip "Thimble Theatre".



### 18th January 1882

English author A.A. Milne—famous for the immensely popular stories of Christopher Robin and his toy bear, Winnie-the-Pooh—was born in Hampstead. Milne was father to real-life Christopher Robin Milne, on whom the character Christopher Robin is based.



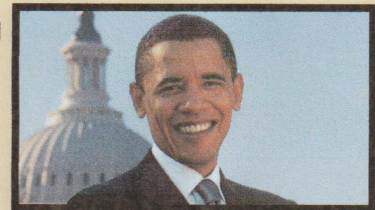
### 19th January 1825

Ezra Daggett and Thomas Kensett obtained the first US patent for a preservation process, using tin cans to store food. By the turn of nineteenth century, scientists discovered that the preserving process used in canning killed micro-organisms which caused food to decay.



### 20th January 2009

On this day in 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, becoming the first African American to hold the office.



### 21st January 1976

Generating a sonic boom as it travelled through the atmosphere at supersonic speed, Concorde, a commercial aircraft built with funding from both the British and French governments, made its first commercial flight on this day in 1976, marking the beginning of a regular "supersonic" service.

