



# CROSSROADS

*The Family Magazine of St Hilda's, Ashford, Middlesex*

No. 702 September 2019

*Free - but donations welcome!*



The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed - it is the smallest of seeds, but when it grows, it is big enough for the wild birds to come and build nests in its branches.

Matthew 13:31-32

The Parish of **St Hilda, Ashford** in the Diocese of London

Charity Reg. No. 1134119

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crossroads\_ashford@hotmail.com

*An item submitted after the deadline  
may be accepted for inclusion IF the  
Editor has been informed by the dead-  
line that the item is on its way.*

**When is the Vicar not available  
in September?**

Every Saturday: day off  
2nd - 11th: study leave



At the end of the 19th century, a group of local people, led by the Vicar of Ashford, from St Matthew's, embarked on what looked like an impossible journey towards building a new Anglican church in Ashford. This was no small undertaking, as it was not a wealthy area. But what people lacked in financial resources, they abounded in ingenuity. Public fundraising played a crucial role in seeing the project through, and the building of St Hilda's church started in earnest, only to be interrupted by the outset of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Rather than give up, the original plans were adjusted, and the bell tower was scrapped. There was a strong belief the church had a role to play in the local community, and this was the driving engine towards the completion of the project in 1928. We are the inheritors of our forebears' vision, determination, and commitment, and they beckon us from the past. They were looking ahead, and so must we. St Hilda's is not only for those who attend church, but for the local community. Despite big socio-cultural shifts, particularly the increasing secularisation, the Church of England has a powerful voice in the public square and can be an agent for social action, through the parochial system.

As a churchgoer, or a resident in Ashford, you have got used to the sight of St Hilda's over the years, but you might not be fully aware of the costs involved in maintaining this beautiful building, which is both a gift and a burden, but one which cannot be neglected. The church is rich in people and talents, but not in funds, and it relies mainly on the generosity and faithful giving of churchgoers, and hiring the church hall, at competitive rates, in order to make it accessible to all locally.

Currently there are a couple of repairs which need urgent attention, namely the baptistry, in the region of £12k, which has water infiltration, and the car park, in the region of £30k, which is showing advanced signs of wear and tear. Also, we need to consider some improvements within the church, such as a kitchen area, for which we also need to raise funds.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to enter into his thinking about wealth and its place in our life and actions both individually and corporately, continually looking to see if it is producing the fruit of the Spirit and the signs of the Kingdom. There is also a sense of gratitude to God for the resources entrusted to us and applying wisdom in being good stewards of all resources. This can only be achieved through deepening our sense of trust in God's ability to provide for our needs rather than depending upon our own sense of financial security, and by being faithful in using our resources in ways that release new possibilities, caring for those who minister on our behalf.

This is why, just like those who dreamed dreams of building St Hilda's, we need to pull our resources together to ensure we can experience physical, spiritual and financial growth. It means finding ways to move forward, thinking big and small, but with boldness, in the months ahead. Regular giving through the parish giving scheme, fundraising initiatives, applying for available grants, making St Hilda's a beneficiary in a will: it all helps, and can make a big difference.

“With man this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible”.

*Fr. Joseph Fernandes*

Nine members of St Hilda's Branch travelled by coach with other members from the Deanery to St Paul's Cathedral on the evening of June 13th.

The Eucharist was conducted by the Dean assisted by cathedral clergy. The singing was led by the Mothers' Union Choir.

The Rev Jim Linthicum, the Senior Chaplain at Great Ormond Street Hospital, delivered the sermon and repeated what Archbishop Welby said at a recent service at Southwark Cathedral - that the Mothers' Union is the heart and soul of the church. He acknowledged the valuable work carried out by the Mothers' Union at Great Ormond Street alongside the hospital chaplaincy. They offer "the three Cs support" of conversation, coffee and home made cake to vulnerable relatives and perform a wonderful service. Pat Kitto was herself a part of this team in its early days. He also mentioned the work that is carried out in prisons and that includes Bronzefield.

During the service the Trustees including Beryl Rickson were commissioned and the new President, Sue Johnson, was welcomed. Sally Goulden in her role as Kensington and Chelsea Area Vice President took part in the Intercessions.

At the end of the service Beryl and one other member were presented with Long Service Certificates and an impressive procession of Branch banners moved down the length of the cathedral. Jane Dobbie carried the banner for St Hilda's and as ever it looked very beautiful. Thank you Alison Garner for your exquisite work.

At the beginning of July we welcomed Hayley Lewis, Karen Smith and Christine Taylor as new members within the 9.30 Family Service. Father Joseph and Sally Goulden conducted the M.U. Service of Membership and there were fifteen members of the branch in the congregation. The new members received a card and a Mothers' Union badge.

At the end of July St Hilda's Church hosted the Deanery Quiet Evening that took the form of a reflective service "Be still and know that I am God". It was thoughtfully put together and led by Father Joseph and included some Taize music. It was attended by thirty-one members from churches across the Deanery and it was very well received.

*Joyce Rouse*

*Post script:*

Please could you pass on to all concerned at St Hilda's our thanks for such a lovely Quiet Evening. We all found it very peaceful and fulfilling and was definitely a real highlight in the Deanery programme.

Thanks,

Avis

(Deanery Chair)

# **Ashford Art Club moves to St Hilda's Church!**

**Celebrating 50 years activity in 2020**

## **Meeting weekly in St Hilda's Church Ashford**

We are pleased to inform everyone that the members of Ashford Art Club are using our Church premises for the weekly club night from 19.15 – 21.15 every Thursday. This club has been running since 1970 and will be celebrating 50 years in 2020. One of the founder members, Edwin Cripps (Artist of the Obscure) is currently the club chairman, and there are two other members still attending from the original pioneers.

It has been a struggle to get to this momentous fiftieth anniversary because as with most nonprofit making organizations funding venues and events has been difficult. The committee had been trying to establish a move from the Fordbridge Centre for some time when one of the committee members chanced to meet the Vicar and his wife whilst walking her dog! She invited them to the Spring Exhibition, and it was at that event that the offer was made for the Club to use the Church premises at St Hilda's.

This friendly local community Art Club offers local residents the opportunity to learn new skills and techniques in the company of experienced local Artists. Everyone is made very welcome, complete novice, shy beginner, professional artists and renowned experts! Should you choose to come along and see what goes on your first visit is completely free. Membership is still only £30.00 a year with a weekly contribution of just £1 for tea, coffee and cakes or biscuits.

The Club hold two, two-day public exhibitions a year, regular workshops, tutorials, club outings and one to one coaching, advice and critique by senior club members on regular club nights. Many of the newest members are developing into quite competent artists because of the helpful and friendly approach of the more established members.

### **For more information please contact:**

Chairperson: Edwin Cripps 0208 8904419

Club Secretary: Jose Cook [ashfordart66@gmail.com](mailto:ashfordart66@gmail.com)

Web Admin: Ricky Fry [ashfordart99@yahoo.com](mailto:ashfordart99@yahoo.com)

# WHAT'S ON in SEPTEMBER 2019

<b>SUNDAY</b>			
	8am	Said Eucharist (BCP)	Trinity 11
1st	9.30am	Family Service: Back to School Sunday	
	11:30	Holy Baptism	
8th	}		Trinity 12
15th	} 8am	Said Eucharist	Trinity 13
22nd	} 9.30am	Eucharist and Junior Church	Trinity 14
29th	}		St Michael & All Angels
29th	11.30 pm	Holy Baptism Taize Service (see church notices for more details)	
<b>MONDAY:</b>			
Every Monday 7.30pm <b>Prayer Meeting</b> in St. Hilda's Lady Chapel			
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
Every Tuesday 9.45am <b>Eucharist</b> ; 3rd is MU Corporate Communion			
10th	12.45	<b>Mothers' Union Lunch</b> in Small Hall: <i>My Life as a Vet</i> (Sally Goulden)	
24th	7:30pm	PCC Meeting in church	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
Every Wednesday 8pm <b>Bible Study</b> at 6 Seaton Drive			
4th, 18th	7.30pm	<b>Ladies' Homegroup</b> at 148 Feltham Hill Road	
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
5th	2.30pm	<b>Feed My Sheep</b> in church: <i>Travels with Paul</i>	
19th	7.30pm	An evening with Mr Adrian Plass - see page 7	
<b>FRIDAY</b>			
Every Friday 7pm <b>Choir Practice</b> in church			
13th, 27th	8pm	<b>Community Singing</b> in church	
<b>SATURDAY</b>			
Every Saturday 9.30am-noon <b>Church Open</b> , refreshments available;			
		Knitting Project for the Upper Room	
7th	evening	'By Invitation' Concert - see page 8 for more details	
14th	10am- noon	<b>MacMillan Coffee Morning</b> in church	
21st	7.30pm	<b>Cheese and Wine Evening</b> : see church notices for details	





1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in the Month  
2.30 – 4 pm in the Church  
Tea/coffee, cake and a donation of £1  
All Welcome

5<sup>th</sup> September Travels with St Paul  
3<sup>rd</sup> October Jargon Busting revisited  
7<sup>th</sup> November The Bible and how we should read it  
5<sup>th</sup> December The Christmas Stories

By Invitation...

Fundraising concert for Paula's trek to Nepal in aid of Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Saturday evening 7th September, time tba, St Hilda's Church. Cash bar.

A collection of music of many genres and styles performed by my amazingly talented friends. All proceeds to TVAA.



## HATTON MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY: CURTAINS

Yes, the next Hatton Musical Theatre Society show is called *Curtains*, and No, it isn't about the comings and goings in a draper's shop. This *Curtains* is a whodunit, set on the opening night of a musical theatre show, during which not one, but two, murders take place and need to be solved by the local police.

Hatton very much look forward to performing this comparatively new show, first performed on Broadway in 2007. All the looked-for ingredients to make an enjoyable musical show are there – plenty of singing, dancing, romance and humour, plus the twists and turns of a murder mystery.

Performances are at the Magna Carta Arts Centre, Thorpe Road, Staines, TW18 3HJ (just over Staines Bridge) from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets are £15 (concessions £14). Booking forms are available at the back of Church. The Box Office number is 07591 600666, but if you prefer the personal touch, Chris or Mike Davenport would be very happy to take your ticket orders, pass them on to the box office, and hand your tickets to you.

Hatton also look forward to seeing you out there in the audience when the curtain goes up on *Curtains*.

*Mike Davenport*

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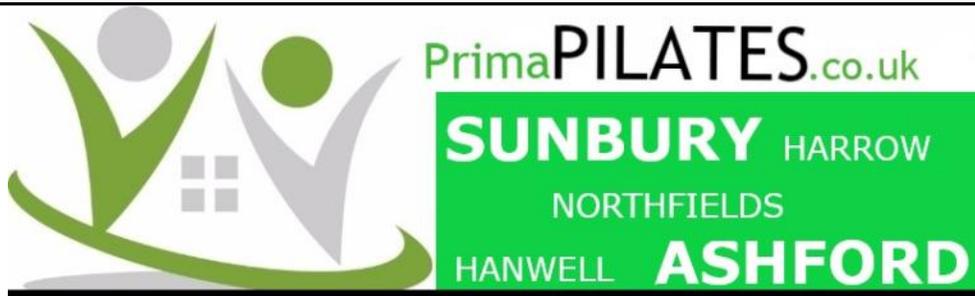


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## Mark Gilson contact details

Tel 07961 247550

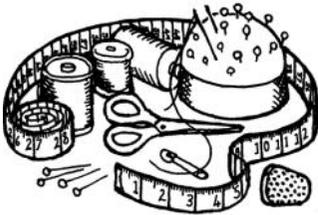
[markgilson@ovenwizards.com](mailto:markgilson@ovenwizards.com)

## COMING SOON - ST. HILDA'S AUTUMN FAYRE

Would you believe the Autumn Fayre is just around the corner ?

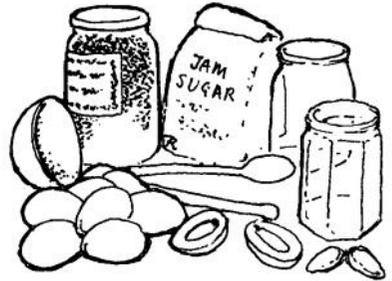
The Summer Fayre raised over £1300. THANK YOU ! However we face some massive costs repairing the Baptistry window and the car park so our fund raising cannot stand still, and our Autumn Fayre will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be raffle tickets to sell and you can help us in other ways as well.

We will be having a bottle stall again so if you can donate a bottle of whatever -brown sauce to beer - we would be very appreciative.



If you are at all crafty would you make something we could sell on the craft and gift stall? I've been knitting but anything would be acceptable.

We are also having a preserves stall so if you can donate a jar or two of homemade jam, chutney or pickle it would be brilliant.



We will also have a Bric-a-brac stall, Toys and Jigsaws stalls so if you're having a turn-out remember us.

Last but not least there will be a Cake stall.



BUT above all do come along between 11am and 3pm to support us. There will be things to do as well as all the above. Come for lunch and help us raise money.

Thank you.

*Christine Taylor*

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to these couples who celebrated their anniversaries in August:

Nick and Paula Gething: 26 years

Darran and Denise Buttigieg: also 26 years

Jon and Elizabeth Bate: 40 years

John and Betty Hunt: 60 years



Nick and I got married on 31 July 1993, so this year we celebrated 26 wonderful years of adventures together. As with most things in our lives we didn't do things the easy way - although we were determined it would be traditional so yes he promised to cherish and I promised to obey!

We had organised the whole thing for ourselves, the only problem being neither of us had much in the way of local family to finish the organisation once the celebrations were in progress, so the key players all had written instructions of what was due to happen when, location of cars, flat keys, money etc.

The wedding was scheduled for 11am and the car and photographer due to arrive at my flat at 10am. The car needed to do two journeys to the church, first with my attendants, then me and my brother. I was being supported by my mother and one of my twin brothers, due to arrive at 9.30, my bridesmaids aged 6 and 26 and my hairdresser, who at 10am had just finished getting me ready. My flat was 10' by 14' so once I was in my dress complete with big shoulders and 3' train, there wasn't much space for the others.

The photographer also arrived at 10am as planned, but by 10.20 there was no sign of the car. I wondered if my hairdresser could take some people - she had an old style mini - alas my bridesmaids also had dresses with big shoulders and skirts so that might be difficult.

My chief bridesmaid called the car company to discover that our 1923 Rolls Royce Phantom 1 Sedanca had been filled with unleaded fuel and was being pumped out and they hoped it would be with me by 11am.

On the day it felt like a disaster, I was so determined to get to the church that I was prepared to squash into my hairdresser's mini without mother and bridesmaids if necessary.

In the end, said hairdresser took my mum to the church, they sent back my friend's dad who had a Saab (deemed more appropriate for the bridesmaids to travel in). My vintage car arrived at 11am and my wedding went ahead, fashionably late at 11.20, with the verger mumbling about it being too late for the choir who needed their lunch... *Paula*



Jonathan and I met at my friends house who was celebrating her 18th birthday in Stanwell Road, Ashford in July 1978.

We were married at St Mary's Church, Stanwell on 11th August 1979 and had our reception at Stanwell Village Hall.

About 80 people attended and as there were a high number of relatives travelling from Cornwall where Jonathan's family lived, my parents arranged for several to stay with various friends. I was a little alarmed to find 3 families were towing caravans and concerned they might bring these to the Church, but thankfully they had booked into a Caravan Club site near Windsor, parking up before they came across to the village.

It turned out to be the hottest day so far that summer and by 3pm as the service started we were all feeling the heat.

As part of the reception entertainment the 21 piece dance band I played in performed a 45 minute slot with lots of people dancing to Glenn Miller. I have photographs of playing in my wedding dress which completely took Jonathan's relatives by surprise.

The wedding went off without any hitches but when we were travelling to stay in Norfolk the car broke down. It was a few hours before the AA arrived by which time thunderstorms had broken and after getting a temporary repair we were very hungry and advised of a 24 hour transport café. In our going away outfits we sat and ate sausage, egg and chips at 1am. At 4.30 we were getting close to our site but were halted by a police car who were surprised to see a car decorated in wedding paraphernalia at this time of the morning driving slowly looking for the site entrance. They were able to give some improved directions to finally park up at 5am.

For our second week we went to Cornwall so that I was able to meet friends and family who had been unable to travel up to us.

*Elizabeth*



I was so nervous I couldn't eat any breakfast: after getting my hair done, I had a slice of toast and that's all I could manage all day. The photographer arrived at 3.30pm to take photos at home before I left for the church. "Smile" he said, but I couldn't because I was so nervous, so he said to my mum: "Give her a glass of sherry". Mum being a little heavy handed poured me a large one. I drank it down and we tried the smile again. It didn't happen, so the photographer said "Give her another one". Well, that worked. Everyone said: "Doesn't she look confident!" as I walked down the aisle. No, that was the sherry working: I was tipsy.

After the ceremony as we got into the wedding car, I asked the driver to take me to the maternity hospital. His face was a picture, but I only wanted to give my bouquet to my sister as she had just had a baby and wasn't allowed to come to the wedding.

We had a buffet reception and every time we went to eat something we were pulled away to some long lost relative. We left the reception at 9.00pm to go on honeymoon. We arrived at West London Air Terminal to check in for our flight to Majorca. We were so hungry we had omelette and chips and that was our wedding breakfast.

*Bobbie*

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at St Hilda's Hall

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
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Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 7.00pm

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
at 7.45pm

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
at 2.30pm and 7.00pm

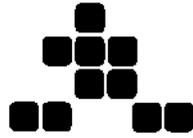
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A teacher was finishing up a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. "Where would we be today," she asked, "if no one had ever been curious?"  
There was a pause, and then one child ventured: "In the garden of Eden?"

# lockwood

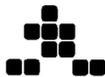
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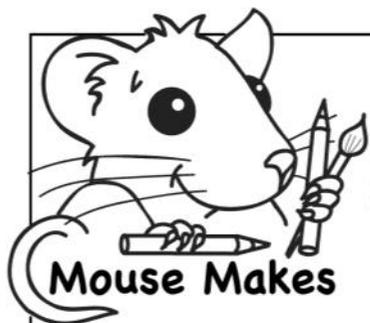
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### What is your most valuable treasure?

The Bible tells us that the most valuable thing you can ever have is something that can **NEVER** be lost, broken or stolen.

The most **valuable** thing you can have is to be **friends with God** through Jesus.

*Read: Matthew 6:19-21*

The **LOVE** of money is at the root of all sorts of what?

\_\_\_\_\_ *1 Timothy 6:9-10*

What should you be on your guard against?

\_\_\_\_\_ *Luke 12:15*

What did Jesus ask the rich man to do?

*Read: Luke 18:22-26*

What is it good to be rich in?

\_\_\_\_\_ *1 Timothy 6:18-19*

What two things can't you serve at the same time?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 6:24*

What is better than gold?

\_\_\_\_\_ *Proverbs 6:16*

Who supplies all your needs?

\_\_\_\_\_ *Philippians 4:19*

What is like a hidden treasure?

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ *Matthew 13:4*

Who has all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?

\_\_\_\_\_ *Colossians 2:2-3*

How many other words can you make from...

**TREASURE IN HEAVEN**

# MISCELLANY

*from Parish Pump*

## FIRST TIME AROUND THE WORLD – 500 YEARS AGO

Five hundred years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan led a Spanish expedition to the East Indies that turned into the first circumnavigation of the world in 1522.

Magellan was a minor Portuguese noble serving the crown until King Manuel I refused to support his bid to reach India by a new route, south of America, through what are now known as the Straits of Magellan. So, he switched allegiance to King Charles I of Spain and set off with five vessels to reach the Spice Islands.

But Magellan was killed in a battle with natives in the Philippines in 1521, when he took the side of a local chieftain who had converted to Christianity and was defeated by one who did not. The circumnavigation was completed under the command of the Spaniard Juan Sebastian Elcano, in the only remaining seaworthy ship, the Victoria.

Magellan had encountered many problems, including a mutiny. Of the 270 who left on the expedition, fewer than 20 returned, and most of them – including Elcano – were anti-Magellan, whose reputation suffered as a result. But Antonio Pigafetta, a Venetian survivor who had kept a diary, was eventually able to put that right.

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## WE ARE KILLING OFF THE PLANTS AS WELL

Twice as many plants have been pushed to extinction over the past 250 years than all the birds, mammals and amphibians combined.

571 species have disappeared from the wild since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, according to scientists and experts at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Species are disappearing at 500 times the natural rate.

A 30-year research project has found that many plants have been wiped out through man-made habitat loss. And as one scientist points out, “Every species that becomes extinct is supporting other organisms that also become extinct at the same time.” For example, “If the English oak were to become extinct, there are around 400 species and animals that rely on it, so the implications are far wider than just losing one species.”

A Kew conservation scientist adds: “Plants underpin all life on Earth, they provide the oxygen we breathe and the food we eat, as well as making up the backbone of the world’s ecosystems.” The research was published in the journal *Nature, Ecology and Evolution*.



# BEYOND THE PARISH

*from Parish Pump*

## CHURCH LEADERS WARN JOHNSON ABOUT BREXIT

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has come under pressure from various church leaders concerning Brexit.

The Bishop in Europe, Dr Robert Innes, said that a priority for Mr Johnson should be the ‘forgotten million’ UK citizens living in the EU. “They worry about residency issues, health care, pensions and travelling.”

The Joint Public Issues Team, which includes leaders from the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland, said that a no-deal Brexit would “put at risk the welfare and safety of the poorest communities in the UK.”

But the Conservative MP Sir Gary Streeter, who chairs Christians in Parliament, said that Mr Johnson ‘must focus on Brexit’, and that he would imperil trust in democracy if he did not deliver an exit by 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The Archbishop of Canterbury wrote on Twitter ‘We pray for wisdom and courage at this time of great challenge as we work to build a shared vision for the future of the country and all its people.’

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## C OF E AND METHODISTS INCH CLOSER TO COMMUNION WITH EACH OTHER

The General Synod has recently given its backing to further steps towards bringing the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain into communion with each other.

Members voted in favour of starting work on drafting a series of texts including a formal declaration of a new relationship of communion between the two churches.

The texts would include inaugural services to mark this new relationship and practical guidelines on how ministers from each church could serve in the other.

The Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth, called the Methodist Church “our close historical cousin and covenant partner”.

The Revd Joyce Jones, from the Diocese of Leeds, said: “Our unity is vital for our mission. If people see our two churches separately then they won’t see Christ easily. If they see us loving one another and working together to serve Christ, they are more likely to be drawn to faith.”

## **CHRISTIANS ESCAPE AS BOKO HARAM ATTACKS CAMEROON VILLAGES**

About 200 families escaped with their lives when Boko Haram Islamist militants recently ransacked a mainly-Christian village in the Far North Region of Cameroon.

The armed gang stormed Roum village, in the Tourou area, setting fire to homes, killing livestock and plundering food stores and possessions.

A Barnabas Fund contact estimated around 1,120 families in the area were now “living in distress”. He said, “The populations have all lost food stocks, clothing, sleeping sets and many other material goods and animals.”

Christian villages in the far north of Cameroon are subject to attacks by Boko Haram militias who are attempting to establish an Islamic caliphate from north-eastern Nigeria all the way to northern Cameroon, which is predominantly Christian. The UN estimates that more than 170,000 Cameroonians, mainly Christians, have been forced to flee.

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## **GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUPPORT FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

The Bishop of Truro has welcomed the Government’s commitment to accepting all of the recent recommendations of the Independent Review into Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Support for Persecuted Christians.

The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, who chaired the review, said he hopes it will now become a significant catalyst for change.

Sir Alan Duncan (who was then the Foreign Office Minister) told the House of Commons that the Government had decided to accept every recommendation in full and outlined how they would take them forward. Sir Alan also said that a bold, whole-government response was needed.

Bishop Philip said he was: “delighted that Sir Alan has formally recognised the need for a response across the rest of Government.

“Our review was restricted to looking at the support from the FCO, but there was a feeling from the outset that this needs a cross-governmental approach, as this crucial issue traverses many boundaries and is not something that can be neatly compartmentalised.”

The Bishop hoped that there was “a recognition at the highest level that Freedom of Religion or Belief is a fundamental human right - and one that is inextricably interconnected with other basic human rights.”

The Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth, said: “The plight of Christians around the world is all too often overlooked. We now expect this important report to provide renewed impetus for the Government to rise to the challenges so clearly identified and for the UK to become, as the report recommends, ‘the global leader in championing Freedom of Religion and Belief for all’.”

## 50,000 PEOPLE NOW ATTEND NON-TRADITIONAL CHURCH GATHERINGS

More than 50,000 people are attending non-traditional church gatherings, thanks to the success of a drive to attract worshippers with no previous contact with the Christian faith, the General Synod heard this summer.

And members of the General Synod gave their backing to an expansion of ‘Fresh Expressions’ churches – new forms of church gatherings, meeting often in venues such as cafes, community centres and pubs.

Fresh Expressions churches now account for 15% of congregations in the Church of England and are estimated to attract more than 50,000 worshippers, the equivalent to the size of two new dioceses, the General Synod was told.

To boost the movement, the Church of England is planning for up to 6,000 ‘pioneer’ ministers within the next decade – both lay and ordained - to serve Fresh Expressions churches. There are also plans to give further support for the growth of new forms of church gatherings in 10 dioceses.

Fresh Expressions was called “the most influential missionary movement of the last 50 years, and a significant means of allowing our church to thrive now and in the future.” Mark Sheard, Chair of the Ministry and Public Affairs Council of the Church of England, leading a debate at the General Synod said: “I am firmly of the belief that ... what we are witnessing here is a real and exceptional movement of the Spirit.”

And so the General Synod voted to approve a new motion celebrating the success of the Fresh Expressions movement, and encouraging every parish and diocese to be part of the movement.

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## CANONISATION OF JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

The Church of England has warmly welcomed the announcement by Pope Francis that John Henry Newman is to be canonised later this year. Newman, a former Anglican priest who became a Roman Catholic in 1845 – mid-way through his life – and eventually a Cardinal, is regarded as one of the most influential figures from his era for both Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism. An important theologian, preacher and pastor in his years as an Anglican priest, he was one of the key leaders of the Oxford Movement that heralded a revival in the life of the Victorian Church of England that spread around the Anglican Communion.

A delegation representing the Anglican Communion and the Church of England will be present at the canonisation in Rome on 13 October 2019.

A family on holiday was visiting a rather dark, very ancient church in rural France.

One of the youngsters whispered: “Does God live in here?”

“Yes, dear,” said her mother.

The youngster looked rather fearfully around. “Well – why doesn’t He move?”

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### **Our Mission Prayer:**

*Bless our Community.  
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And Generous in Love.  
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