



St Hilda's
Ashford

Weekly Newsletter

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We are looking for more contributions from the St Hilda's community, if you would like to contribute, please either call, email or send an article to the Parish Office.

If you would like help or to speak to a member of the ministry team please contact:

- Parish Office Tel - 01784 253525
 Email - office@sthilda.org
- Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237

Fr. Joseph is currently on holiday with his family enjoying a well deserved break, so if you require anything please call the Parish Office in the first instance during this time.

Thank you!

Church firms struggle to stay afloat

Pandemic has forced some to fold, but others are adapting



Mander Organs Ltd profoundly regrets to announce that, owing to cashflow difficulties and the inability to secure sufficient work, the company has ceased trading as of Monday 27.vii.2020. The management and staff would like to express their gratitude to our clients and friends for the loyalty and support they have given over the years, and particularly in the last few difficult months. Our affairs have been placed in the hands of an independent insolvency practitioner, Insolve Plus Ltd, to whom all enquiries should be addressed from now onwards (www.insolveplus.com).

A screenshot from the website of Mander Organs, which ceased trading on Monday of last week

CHURCH-focused businesses have spoken of adapting to the challenges posed by the coronavirus. Most say that they feel “optimistic” about the future; but one well-known firm, Mander Organs, has gone into liquidation.

Sales within the retail sector picked up by 13.9 per cent in June compared with May, the Office for National Statistics has reported. Consumer confidence remains weak, however, despite businesses’ hoping for a return to pre-pandemic levels. The UK is still predicted to be on course for a recession since GDP growth fell by 2.2 per cent in the period between January and March.

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) criticised plans, announced last week by the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, to introduce an online sales tax to protect high-street shops from competition. The BRC said that it would raise prices for consumers.

Businesses such as Wippell & Co., who supply clerical and graduation wear, have struggled to recover after sales dropped by 90 per cent in the period from March. Its director, Robin Richardson, said that niche businesses were struggling to benefit from the rise in consumer confidence: “We have tried to diversify, but we’re a niche market. Retail can only pick up if a product is bought by the general public — but we don’t sell to the general public. We can only sell a clerical shirt to clerics, so, until churches reopen, it’s hard for things to pick up.

“We are the largest producer of clerical robes in the country. Two-thirds of our business comes from university graduations, while one third is from the Church. There are no graduations at the moment, and no deliveries to the Lambeth Conference, the Church of Scotland General Assembly, and no orders to US theological colleges. Between March and June, only one week’s worth of work was created via our website. We employ 50 people,

and the Government furlough scheme has helped, but we haven't really been able to adapt. The only way we could diversify in the future is through providing other kinds of specialist clothing."

He continued: "You have to be positive. The last couple of days have been quite good for business, but all we can do is try and hang on with the government support."

Priory Automotive, which sells cars to members of the clergy, managed to reopen in June, after closing for two months. The company's director, Steve Frost, said this week: "With zero sales for two months, financially everything was difficult, especially as we do not work to great margins with our sales. But we 'cut our cloth' accordingly and got through to our reopening in June.

"Being quite a small business, everyone was kept on, and we only came into work for safety and security checks. Priory have always offered a free nationwide delivery, and this was actually a bonus, as it was not too difficult to make it now contactless, for the safety of everyone involved. We are finding sales are down on where they should be, month on month, but in these difficult times, it is understandable."

Anne Wray Independent Financial Adviser, which provides independent financial advice to clergy, has also adapted. The company's founder, Anne Wray, said: "We have maintained 'business as usual' as far as possible, but we recognised very early on before lockdown that we would need to be prepared for us all working remotely.

"We now work far more efficiently than ever, regularly using Zoom for our weekly and ad-hoc staff meetings, and we have been able to persuade our clients that this new IT was not so difficult at all. Travel was no longer necessary, and we are mindful of the benefit to the environment. Our client portal has been up and running since last year, and enables us to provide information to our clients securely and quickly without the need for 'wet' signatures."

The sales-team leader at the church furnishers Vanpoules, Lisa-Jane Hurst, said that the Government's furlough scheme had been "the saving grace" for the company during the past four months.

"Over the last few weeks, our staff have been returning back to the factory slowly, and orders, although not in the same capacity, have continued to drip into the business," she said.

"We remain optimistic, and, once churches are able to open fully, we hope the orders will increase to a level that is sustainable to avoid the need for redundancies. So far, we have been able to operate with limited staff and keep the business ticking over; however, if localised lockdowns do become a normal routine, then the situation may change."

The suppliers of clerical wear Watts & Co. said that the company was "weathering the current crisis with the same resilience and adaptability that saw it through two World Wars.



“Despite the temporary closure of our Westminster showroom, and the inevitable downturn in sales, the loyalty of our customers has enabled our team to carry on working on orders from home.

“We’ve also taken the opportunity to plan new ranges and explore new marketing avenues. Through a combination of prudent management and staff flexibility, we are confident that we can continue to provide our unique service to the Church in the months and years ahead.”

The charity Hymns Ancient & Modern, which owns the *Church Times*, also runs the Church House Bookshop. The publishing director of Hymns A&M, Christine Smith, said at the end of last week: “Church House Bookshop closed in March and reopened in June with reduced hours. Customers are returning slowly, as public confidence remains fragile, though mail-order and web sales have remained busy. To encourage trade, we introduced free postage and packaging for all UK online orders, and ran this for over three months.

“We offered more regular discounted promotions, such as a ‘Book of the Week’ and ‘Author of the Week’, as well as regular themed promotions featuring titles not only from our own lists, but from the publishers we distribute from the warehouse or stock in the shop. Though all physical events have been cancelled, we have been active at online events and have nurtured partnerships with HeartEdge, *The Tablet*, and Greenbelt, among others.

“Our warehouse has remained open throughout, though with reduced teams working alternate shifts to maintain strict social distancing. The overwhelming response to our summer sale even meant that we had to suspend it for a few days to allow the warehouse teams to catch up with the sheer volume of orders.”

The London-based organ builder Mander Organs, whose instruments include those in St Paul’s, Chelmsford and Rochester Cathedrals, Westminster Abbey, and the Royal Albert Hall, announced last week that it had gone out of business.



The N.P. Mander organ

A statement on its website and Facebook page reads: “Mander Organs Ltd profoundly regrets to announce that, owing to cash-flow difficulties and the inability to secure sufficient work, the company has ceased trading as of Monday 27 July 2020.

“The management and staff would like to express their gratitude to our clients and friends for the loyalty and support they have given over the years,

and particularly in the last few difficult months. Our affairs have been placed in the hands of an independent insolvency practitioner, Insolve Plus Limited, to whom all enquiries should be addressed.”

Coronavirus: Queen missed church to avoid large crowds gathering

It's understood the Queen did not attend church in Scotland on Sunday in order to stop well-wishers gathering.

The head of state, who travelled to Balmoral with the Duke of Edinburgh on Tuesday for her traditional summer break, normally joins the congregation at nearby Crathie Kirk.



But it's been reported she did not take her seat in the place of worship in Aberdeenshire to avoid large groups of people congregating outside.

Lockdown measures have been reintroduced in Aberdeen following the outbreak of a coronavirus cluster in the city.

Face coverings are to be made mandatory in more indoor places across Scotland following the spike in

cases.

The Queen's annual visit to Balmoral Castle was already expected to be different from normal due to the coronavirus restrictions in place.

Crathie Kirk - a regular place of worship for the royal family when they are in residence at the estate - is among the places subject to rules allowing communal prayer for a maximum of 50 people, with two-metre distancing in place.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman previously said arrangements for the Queen's stay in Scotland "will be in line with the relevant guidelines and advice".

Vicar uses chopsticks in holy communion safety measures

A Church of England vicar has tapped in to her Chinese cultural heritage and is using chopsticks to give bread to parishioners during Holy Communion.

The Rev Eileen Harrop took an unusual approach to the challenge faced by clergy who are reopening churches for public worship while sticking to Covid-19 safety protocols.

The vicar of St Mary's in Gainford and St Andrew's in Winston, County Durham, decided that the best way to administer the bread at the Eucharist was to use extra-long serving chopsticks.

She has Chinese heritage, grew up in Singapore and has an enduring love of Asian cuisine, so felt confident in using the utensils for the sacred act and has now carried out services using them at both churches she serves.

Rev Harrop said: "Many of my parishioners were quite anxious at the thought of taking communion, even though we are only permitted to do so under strict guidelines to ensure that there is no chance of transmission of the virus.

"I thought 'Why can't I use a long pair of chopsticks, real bread rather than wafers, and drop it into the communicants' hands?'

"Administering the communion in this way ensures that there is no cross-contamination and my parishioners feel reassured and confident to take part.

"It's rather special that the long chopsticks I use are normally used for the festive occasion 'Lo Hei', meaning 'stir the uplifted breath of life'.

"They take on an even greater meaning used in this context.



"This is a first for both churches, and perhaps a first in any parish church in the diocese."

She came to Keele University in 1979 and met her husband of 35 years, Brian. The couple moved to Singapore before relocating to the UK again in 1996, after which she was ordained in 2012.

The current Church of England Covid-19 advice for Holy Communion states that communicants should be offered only bread, not wine as there should be no "common cup".

Out with the pews in with moveable chairs

Hundreds of churches a year are applying to remove their pews, but it is causing dispute among parishes. According to The Times, nearly 250 churches a year are applying for pews to be removed.

However, heritage groups and some parishioners complain the removal is causing unnecessary "destruction and desecration".

Priests have warned that churches with dwindling congregations will close unless they get a new lease of life as community hubs.

Removing fixed pews and replacing them with moveable chairs creates open spaces that can be used for local groups and events, bringing in income and new worshippers.

Over the past decade, there have been about 100 requests a year from Church of England churches to remove four or fewer pews and 140 a year to remove more than four, according to unofficial estimates.

According to an investigation carried out by The Times, there have been about 30 occasions in the past 18 months where disputes over pew-removal have ended up in front of consistory courts, which rule on matters involving church land. In almost all cases, parishes are given the go-ahead by church chancellors.



The Victorian Society, which is consulted over changes to 19th-century heritage, warned that some churches were "throwing the baby out with the bathwater" in removing fine examples of Victorian design.

Most older churches have undergone much remodelling in their history. The Victorians introduced a mass of fixed pews that were free to use, removing most of the enclosed "box pews" fitted in the Georgian era, which could be rented for private use.

Church courts usually insist that changes, including the choice of chairs, are tasteful and fitting. The pews are normally destroyed, recycled or sold. Some churches have come up with innovative ways and uses for the old pews too.

Birthday Celebrations

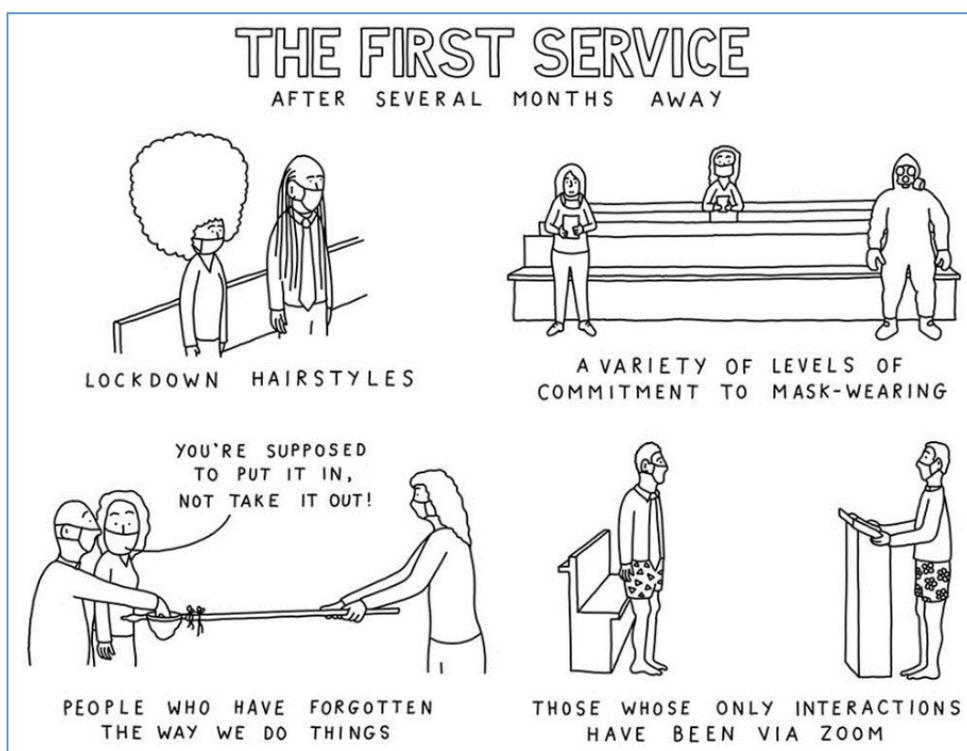


It appears that August 2020 is the time to celebrate special birthdays not only within the St Hilda's Church family but more significantly in the Fernandes family. A week after Rebecca celebrated her 21st, Fr. Joseph turns 50 on Sunday 16 December.

As you are aware Fr. Joseph is currently on holiday with his family enjoying a well deserved rest and I'm sure he will find time to enjoy a glass or two to celebrate.



Happy Birthday Fr. Joseph



STEWARDSHIP/ DONATIONS

As Christians, our financial giving is a form of worship of a god who gives us everything. Due to the current pandemic St Hilda's, like many charities has had a reduced income whilst still having repair and running costs. Even though we are now able to hold services in Church I am conscious that many are still unable to attend and contribute to the usual collections as they had previously. I would like to thank the many of you who are already regular committed givers and to all those who have supported us since the start of lockdown.

If you wish to make a one off or regular donation to the parish, please see below options to do so, alternatively call the Parish Office and Denise will help you. Thank you.

1. Parish Giving Scheme – Regular Giving

The Parish Giving Scheme has a telephone service, designed to enable donors to set up a regular Direct Debit donation over the phone.

- Call 0333 002 1271
- The phone line is open 9am – 5pm Monday-Friday
- An administrator will talk through the process
- The following information will be required:
 - Personal Bank Details
 - Name of the parish – Ashford St Hilda
 - Confirm whether the gift should increase with inflation each year
 - Confirm whether you are eligible for Gift Aid – they collect on our behalf
 - PGS Code for St Hilda's - **230623270**

2. CAF Donate – One off Donations - ONLINE

Click on the DONATIONS button on our website, sthilda.org, then please follow the instructions.

3. Standing Order – Regular Giving

Contact your local bank and set up a Standing Order with them

- Sort Code 60-01-22 (Nat West, Ashford)
- Account No. 36290696
- Account Name St Hilda's Parochial Church Council

4. Cheque donations

If you are unable to use any of the above ways then you can also send a cheque to The Parish Office payable to – St Hilda's Church PCC

Tea and Chat after Sunday Service

We would like to invite you to join us for a virtual Tea and Chat after the service on **Sunday 16 August 2020 at 11.15am**. See below on how to join. Any queries please call the Parish Office.



The meeting is hosted by Zoom.

There are 2 ways in which you can join the Tea and Chat session

1. Join via a computer or tablet, for a video style experience (like Skype)

- Download the Zoom app – www.zoom.us
- Click – Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id – **915 8194 9663**
- Enter password - **858974**

2. Join via telephone – cost of a local call.

- Dial – 0203 051 2874
- Enter Meeting Id – **915 8194 9663** – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
- Password – **858974**

More Tea with The Vicar – Weekday Tea and Chat

The second of the weekly Tea and chat sessions where you are able to 'meet up' over a cuppa. In this weekly session, we have introduced a topic for discussion – this week's topic is **'bring a rock, stone or shell etc. that you have at home'**.

If you haven't yet joined one of these sessions – give it a try, you can connect either on-line or via the telephone, we would like to see or hear as many of you as possible and encourage you to join us. We encourage all those who haven't yet joined one of the sessions to do so, and if you have any apprehension in doing so, please call the Parish Office and Denise will guide you through the process – it is quite simple once you've done it once.

This week the Tea and Chat will be held on **Tuesday 18 August @ 10.30am**

The codes are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- Meeting id – **910 4787 6268**
- Password - **396547**

Canaan Ministries have re-opened, and are following the latest government legislation in relation to the current guidelines on social distancing.

Please note, that due to the size of the shop we will only be able to allow a maximum of three customers in at any one time, and would ask that you limit your visit to a maximum of 15 minutes at a time, and of course ask you NOT to visit, if you are showing any of the symptoms of Covid 19. However, we will be open Monday to Saturday 10am – 5pm (closing during lunchtime 1pm – 2pm), so there will be plenty of time to see and serve everyone. **Free local home delivery is also possible.**

We would like to thank you all for your continued support, and we hope, your much needed support in the future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Easy Fundraising

Raise funds for St Hilda's while shopping online at no extra cost to yourself.

Use [easyfundraising.org](https://www.easyfundraising.org) and choose St Hilda's as your cause and a percentage of your purchase will be paid to us. Over 4000+ retailers including John Lewis, Argos, M & S, Amazon and Aviva.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sthildasashford>

Electoral Roll

If you consider St Hilda's to be your regular place of worship, why not complete an application for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll. Forms are available from the Parish Office.

Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The July/August edition is now available on our website.

This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist – 16 August @ 9.30am

This service can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford), and Twitter for those of you who are unable to attend in person

Wednesday Eucharist – 19 August – there is no service as Fr Joseph is on annual leave

To attend either service please book a ticket on Eventbrite (link on the website), or call the Parish Office.

Please remember that face coverings are mandatory in Church.

Please see our website (www.sthilda.org) for updates and the weekly service sheet.

Please hold in your prayers and thoughts this week those who are affected by the Corona Virus as well as the family and friends of those below.

The Sick

James Bedford	Jim Hennessey	Delphine Scrivener	Shirley Warrender
Pamela Claridge	Libby Mills	Riley Shaw	Chick Wilson
Robb Clarke	Raymond Nation	Anne Shenton	Peter Wilson
Rebecca Cohen	Michael O'Hagan	Elsie Stone	Jo Wood
Ann Considine	June Prentice	Roy Stone	Nic
Chris Davenport	John Radford	Sandra Swain	Martyn
Michael Dixon	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Rev. Peter Taylor	

The Recently Departed

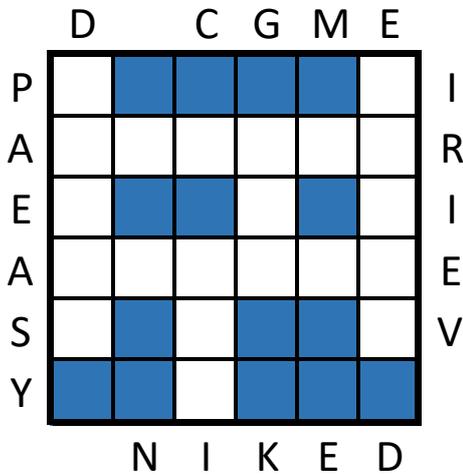
Audrey Cummins

Prayer

Lord, thank you for Summer!
 Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the longer daylight
 Thank you for the beauty I can see around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy your creation
 Thank you for the increased time I have to appreciate the more casual Summer season.
 Draw me closer to You this Summer
 Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing
 Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your word.
 As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and thirst for you.
 Amen

Puzzle Page

Letter Slide

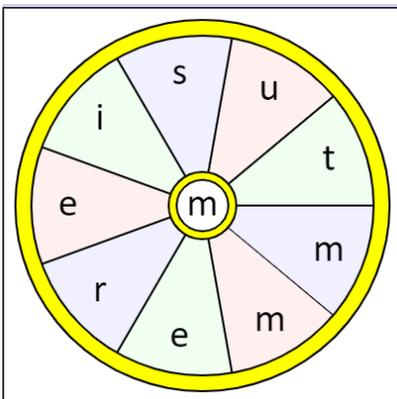


Slide the letters (Left, Right, Up or Down) into the grid to complete the words.

Sudoku

		4		9	6			
8	9							
				2				3
				5			7	
		7			8			
	2			1	9	4		
		8			3		5	
						1		6
	3	2					9	8

Word Wheel



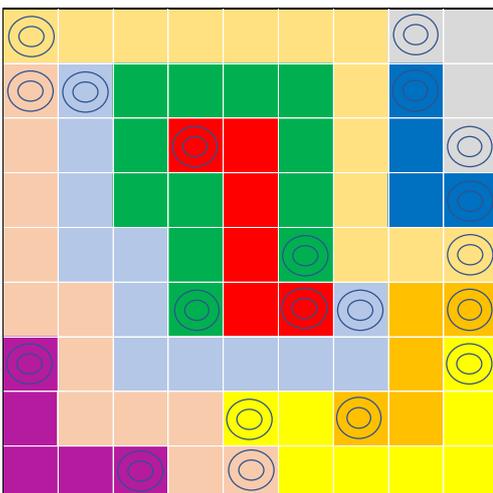
How many words can you find using the centre letter?
There is one 10 letter word, the season we're in

Riddle

Start with an 8 letter word, remove a letter so it makes a new word, keep on doing this until you are left with 1 letter.
What is the starting word?

Answers from last week

Circuits



Wordsnake

CELLO, FLUTE, OBOE, PICCOLO, CLARINET, SAXOPHONE, HORN, TRUMPET, TROMBONE, TUBA, HARP, VIOLA, HARPSICHORD

Word Wheel

9 letter word – Birthdays

Riddle

Prince – Princes - Princess