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.

www.sthilda.org
Church bells to ring across London to mark 3rd anniversary of tragedy at Grenfell Tower

Church bells across London will ring 72 times at 6pm on Sunday, 14\textsuperscript{th} June to mark the third anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire, in a coordinated effort to ensure the victims of the tragedy continue to be remembered.

Over 80 churches across the Capital, including St Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Southwark Cathedral will join the bell ringing, as will St Clement Notting Dale, the parish in which Grenfell Tower stands. The 72 rings will mark the beginning of two minutes silence, observed in the local community and elsewhere in memory of those who died. St Hilda’s will be taking part in this tribute.

Bishop Graham worked closely with the community in the aftermath of the fire and undertook a series of interviews that culminated in the publication of a report, “\textit{The Social Legacy of Grenfell}”. This sought to identify the societal issues that Grenfell brought to the fore and posed an agenda for change in wider society, to improve community cohesion and wellbeing.

The Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, said:
“Nearly three years ago, the tragedy at Grenfell Tower left us wondering how this could happen in a twenty-first century city like London. We are now facing a very different tragedy in the form of coronavirus, but we continue to ask similar questions. As we try to make sense of what we are living through today, let’s not forget that hundreds of families are still trying to make sense of what happened on that day in June 2017. Life has not moved on for the families and friends of the 72 victims – they still mourn the loss of their loved ones and seek justice. “On Sunday 14\textsuperscript{th} June bells will ring across our nation; bells of remembrance, of sympathy and support for those whose lives were changed forever that day and of hope that nothing like it will ever happen again. I invite as many churches as possible to join in ringing their bells, and those who listen to join in the silence that follows to remember this tragedy that affected our national life so deeply.”

Grenfell United, the bereaved families and survivors group, said:
“It means a lot to our families and the community that across London bells will ring out in memory of 72 loved ones lost at Grenfell. Thank you to all faith communities across London that stand with our community in North Kensington to pay respect and show that 72 lives are forever in our hearts.”
Did you hear the bell of St Hilda’s ring out on 6 June at 6.44pm?
Paula, Nick and Will Gething rang the bell of St Hilda’s 76 times to mark the 76th Anniversary of D-Day.

The Archbishop of York retires

The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu, accompanied by his wife, the Revd Margaret Sentamu, laid down his crozier of office on the high altar of York Minster on Sunday 7 June.

Below is an extract from his final sermon in post.

“I begin my reflection on the four passages of Scripture appointed for this Trinity Sunday with a story. Not about anyone else but me.

I was ten years old when I responded to Jesus Christ’s invitation to become his friend and to discover his plan for my present, and my future. To receive life in all its fullness, in the present and to know the forgiveness of past sins, to own my past but not be enslaved by it and to begin writing my future in hope.

Sixty-one years on, I truly know I was lovingly invited into God’s glorious community of love, rooted in faithfulness and friendliness. And throughout my life I have found God in these experiences:

I found union with God, encountering him as the Loving Father, as the Redeeming Son and as the Energising Holy Spirit, ever ready to answer my call as the helper and strengthener. Not three gods, but One God, present to me in three persons.

I found myself trusting in God with a new lifestyle, a life of obedience to the pattern demonstrated by Jesus of Nazareth who lived it out in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I found myself united with other followers of Jesus Christ because I was, they were, we are, united with the Father, with the Son, and with the Holy Spirit. United in our witness and life together as disciples of Jesus Christ, bound up with the worship of One God in three persons.

.....
But, reflecting on my sixty-one years as a follower of Jesus Christ, I have tended to shy away from recognising Jesus Christ in my own poverty of spirit. I have stood alongside those who are in need without at the same time acknowledging the poor and prisoner inside me. I now know it is both/and.

I have learnt, with wonder, to see Jesus Christ in my own poverty, hunger and thirst for meaning and in my deepest needs; as well as all that is “strange” inside me.

…..
Discovering the presence of God in these very places of weakness is liberating!
God in Jesus Christ calls us to enter into the pain, the mystery of the Cross and dereliction, forsakeness. Leading us to a compassion like his, so that even in the midst of searing pain, we can focus our eyes on others and their pain and be steadfast in love and care for them.
As we grow in trust, we learn to wait in hope and open our lives to the tender love of God and hear him in the lament of his world.
God, the Holy Spirit, like a parent to their child, is a comforter to each one of us. He interprets our deepest unuttered cry and draws us out of our inner prison of fear. God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is compassionate and gentle of heart. Therefore, we will not be afraid to open our wounded hearts to him. Let us go to him for wholeness and healing as we put our trust in him. Come! Come! I will go with you.
Amen.”

If you would like a copy of the complete Sermon, please contact the Parish Office

HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY, ST HILDA’S ENTERTAINERS

All members of St Hilda’s Entertainers were extremely disappointed not to be able to go ahead with this year’s May production, “Now We Are 60”, due to the coronavirus, especially as it is their 60th Anniversary. When lockdown occurred they were halfway through rehearsals, preparing a selection of short plays which, together, would have constituted a hilarious evening of comedy entertainment to remember. However, the show will go on, just one year later, in May 2021. Dates will be published in due course.
In the meantime, if restrictions have been sufficiently lifted, the Entertainers look forward to entertaining you, and the local community, with their next pantomime, “The Little Mermaid,” planned for this December.
Please stay safe, take care, and come along to St Hilda’s Hall to enjoy St Hilda’s Entertainers’ future productions.

Neale Winter, Chairman, St Hilda’s Entertainers
Life in Lock Down at No. 68 – Part I, by Bobbie Bedford

When the lock down was announced more than 12 weeks ago (has it really been that long). I thought I can do this no problem. To be honest it was as though I had been given permission to just stay home and not worry about the usual day to day problems, you know how it is sometimes, you want to say ‘stop the world I want to get off’. In a way I was quite looking forward to it.

I did my usual weekend shop the week before and walked round Tesco’s smiling at the people piling up their trollies. There was no Pasta or rice, toilet or kitchen rolls but there was a special offer on pots of 2ltr white emulsion paint, so not being able to get pasta I bought paint instead.

My plan was to shop on line, spring clean the house, get the garden into shape, get a sun tan and lose weight.

I began very enthusiastically spring cleaning my bedroom, I hoovered and washed anything that didn’t move, a good start I thought. The oven and kitchen were next on the list, then I made a start washing down all the paintwork throughout the house. After a week of this the novelty wore off, I was bored with cleaning. So, I made a start on the garden, however, the pollen count was so high my hay fever kicked in big time, so my gardening was limited to sitting under the umbrella reading.

My daughter lives close by and has a regular food delivery from Ocado and was able to get me a supply of cat food for my two cats – they eat a lot. She also shopped locally for anything else that I or Mariane needed. Shopping on line just didn’t happen, I created a sign on for Tesco, Sainsbury’s, Iceland and Asda but couldn’t get a delivery from any of them. Funnily it made me aware of how much food is wasted, I began making tea in a small teapot and topped it up for a second cup rather than using two separate teabags. I used what I had in my cupboard and could always make a meal.

Unfortunately, I also had in the cupboard, two chocolate father Christmases and four chocolate reindeers, all still in date until the end of March, so of course they had to be eaten, so the new slimmer me hasn’t happened.

Just before Easter Mariane told me about a Morrisons food box that they had begun to produce, I looked on line and they had plenty of delivery slots, so I ordered two, one with groceries and meats and another with vegetables. We also found that M & S had started box deliveries and so I ordered two from them, a fruit box which was fabulous and a grocery box and bliss it contained a bag of Percy Pigs and a bag of salted peanuts. When they all arrived, it felt like Christmas. To be continued.......
Statement on individual prayer in churches
The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, chair of the Church of England’s Recovery Group said: “We welcome the Government’s announcement today that church buildings can open up for supervised individual prayer from June 15. This is the start of the journey for church buildings to open up safely in line with Government advice and we look forward to their detailed guidance on enabling this first step to happen.

"Advice has already been circulated to all our dioceses to enable local churches to plan ahead for opening up for individual prayer. Our advice recognises that a particular local church may or may not be able to open at the same time as others and collaborative working between local churches is encouraged.

"Throughout this crisis churches have been serving their communities in a range of practical ways but this announcement recognises that the buildings themselves are important sacred spaces for people. We also remember all at this time who mourn the loss of a loved one who died during the crisis and recognise that this is a fragile time in the prevention of the spread of this virus.

"We look forward to when it is safe for our church buildings once again to become meeting places for worship, prayer and all they do to serve and bless their communities.”

St Hilda’s
St Hilda’s along with other churches within the Spelthorne Deanery, after careful consideration of the Government’s guidelines and risk assessment, have agreed that we will move as one. As a result, churches will not be ready to open on 15 June, including St Hilda’s. We are currently planning to open as part of phase II, for restricted public worship, which is anticipated to be in early July. We will update the situation as it enfolds.
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 14 June 2020 at 11.00am. See below on how to join. Any questions 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](http://www.zoom.us)
   - Click – Join a Meeting
   - Enter the Meeting id – 894 9317 1947
   - Enter password - 899113

   - Dial – 0203 051 2874
   - Enter Meeting Id – 894 9317 1947 – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
   - Password – 899113

MEACC (Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns) Message from Southwark Diocese:
Our churches are closed, our hearts are open #BlackLivesMatter

Bishop Christopher said, ‘We wanted to stand in solidarity with those who are lamenting, praying and protesting about the death of Mr George Floyd in Minnesota.

We hope that, by sending out this photographic statement of our firm belief that Black Lives Matter. Racism is a blight on so many people’s lives and the Diocese of Southwark, working through its MEACC, is committed to challenging and eradicating racism in all its forms.’
Canaan Ministries are pleased to announce, that in line with the latest government legislation, we are planning to re-open the shop from Monday 15th June subject 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.

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

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)
The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave

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

Use 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

Weekly Newsletter
Please email Denise at office@sthilda.org or Fr Joseph at Vicar@sthilda.org if you have anything to be included in the weekly newsletter.

Crossroads
Please email Rosemary at crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The most recent edition is available on our website.

Sunday Eucharist
The 9.30am Sunday Eucharist can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda’s Ashford), and Twitter. 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

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The Recently Departed

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A prayer for those who govern and represent us

Eternal Wisdom, guide our leaders called to serve us in our Nation.  
May they respond to the challenges of this affliction with prudence and sound judgement.  
With foresight, may their planning alleviate the economic burdens, compensate for losses, protect employment and ensure ample food for the poor and isolated.  
Amen.
Puzzle Page

Battles Wordsearch (puzzle created by Terry Rickson)

Word Wheel

How many words can you find using the centre letter? There is one 9 letter word that you would associate

Answers from last week

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Complete the grid using the digits 1-9. You can use only each digit once.

Number Sequence

What number comes next in the sequence

5, 24, 81, 252, ?

Riddle

What is full of holes but still holds water?