



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.

What priests can learn from gardeners

If the Church wants new things to happen, perhaps it should look for signs of new life which grow slowly, says *Max Bayliss*



IN THE fury of a Twitter storm, or amid the anger and angst stirred by the sharing of another inflammatory article on Facebook, I like to leave my laptop and phone in the flat and head out into the garden in search of peace and stability.

The college gardens have, for me, been a place of great refuge and solace during the past few months. I take exercise in them, rest, read, chat to the gardeners, and pray. I know that I am deeply

fortunate to have such a haven. I feel for people who do not have access to gardens, and I fear for a world in which their value is commodified. I'm blessed to live in a community which values its gardens.

I have long associated this sanctuary with our other holy places. The vaulted ceilings of bark and lichen are breathtaking, canopies of leaves like stained glass stream green light on to the nave below, as a chorus of birds chant in their elevated quire. Gardens are places where I feel like I can commune with God in a natural, easy way. In this midsummer's daydream of mine, if I associate churches with gardens, then the priests are the gardeners. What sage advice should I glean from the example of my green-fingered friends?

ANYONE who wants a garden to be "oven-ready" has missed the point of gardening. Only a fool expects a new garden to be instantly mature. Perhaps that is why God started with a garden: to be patient with it, to let it grow in its own time, and to watch it happen. Just because you have to work at something, doesn't mean it isn't perfect. When Adam ate of that forbidden fruit, he lacked trust and humility, but he also lacked that quality of keen patience, which any gardener must know.

Being a priest, I would like to suggest, is more like being a jobbing gardener than it is being a landscape designer. Parish [priests](#) would do well to see themselves in this guise, as tending a garden on behalf of a community rather being the owner strolling in it, benevolently opening its gates for the locals to peer in at privileged times.

We are part of a team that has been given stewardship of a garden, and we have to tend it, be faithful to what we've received, and work to make sure it's still there for future generations. It's the gardener's job to nurture the garden and look for signs of new growth.

Sure, there is a bit of creativity and imagination, some weeding and reshaping, but there is more patience and care. It is not our job to change the world: the world is already changing dramatically all the time (and, besides, I think that's the laity's charism). It is our job to be

faithful to what we have received, and, where organic change occurs, to respond to it with wisdom and experience, making sure that it contributes to the life of the garden rather than detracting from it.

Impressive results — “fruits”, if you will — come only after pruning, watering, feeding, fussing, and not fussing, and, above all, time, in which things die and decay and are eaten and transformed, and the warmth of the sun shines on it, giving growth.

In this garden, we are to cultivate the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We are not to cultivate the fruits of this world: money, power, expediency, popularity, idolatry.

Always looking for “new ways of doing church” seems to me like a craven worship of the prevailing cultural idol of consumerism and entertainment. If the Church wants new things to happen, perhaps she should, instead, look for signs of new life which grow slowly, fed by the deep streams of living water, whose roots are in the dependable soil of scripture, reason, and tradition, rather than seeking salvation in the Force 8 Pro Jet Hot Tub gimmick on the new decking surrounded by artificial turf.

THE Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed: growing, transforming, spicy. I'm not saying that we shouldn't be innovative, canny, or afraid to get our hands dirty (all essential qualities of any gardener worth his or her salt). What I'm saying is that we need to see the hidden value of patience and the warmth of love, and to trust that the ground that we're tilling, where the C of E already has deep established roots, is a fertile gift from God. It might not seem glamorous, but this marginal ministry is vital.

The clergy seem to be suffocating on a lot of hot air and indignation, and need the oxygen of the great outdoors. Maybe the best thing to do in a world of vapid virtual reality and ambitious hasty solutions is to slow down and be real. Perhaps, if you're looking for a prophetic edge, go and cultivate a herbaceous border.

The Revd Max Bayliss is Chaplain of Queens' College, Cambridge.

St Hilda's Re-opening - Church Cleaning



We are working towards re-opening St Hilda's on Sunday 4th July, to be able to do this we need volunteers to help with the Church spring clean. If you are able to help, even if only for an hour, please contact the office. Thank you

Message from Bishop Graham on ringing the bell on Sunday for the victims of the Grenfell Tower Fire:

Dear friends

Thank you so much for joining in the ringing of the bells for Grenfell on Sunday. I know it meant a lot to people in the wider Grenfell community that they felt the support of the Church across London and the rest of the country – it was wonderful to see so many churches joining in from parishes a long way from North Kensington, but wanting to express love and support for the bereaved and survivors. For many of us the ringing of 72 bells brought home the scale of what happened three years ago and was a good way to express the longing for some resolution and justice. I am very grateful to you for arranging this act of compassion, of solidarity and witness.

With very best wishes

+Graham

AMEN

'Amen' is a wonderful word which came from the Hebrew language, was adopted into Greek and Latin Bibles and so into English. It has two meanings; strong agreement as in, "It is so", and ratification as in, "So let it be". I really love to hear strong Amens when we are at prayer. At our virtual Eucharist, there are usually over 30 computers logged into the Service, some with two, three or more participants. I really long to see responses to the spoken word; and even more would love to see a flood of Amens at appropriate points. Fr Joseph can't hear our responses, but can see them, so let's really encourage him with our Web-chat responses! Let all the people say, "Amen".

Robert Dobbie

Learning to pray

In times of isolation private prayer becomes even more important for people to stay close to God and the Church. Below is some guidance from the Church of England website to help you structure your prayers.

To pray is to make our hearts ready to experience the love of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Praying regularly will help us to develop a spiritual rhythm. A

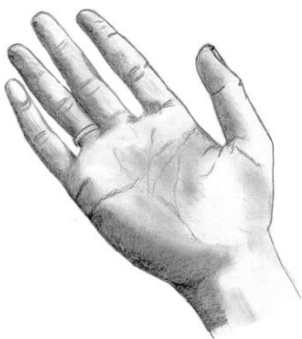
discipline of prayer changes the way that we think about our lives, because it creates new habits of heart and mind. Prayer opens us more deeply to the transforming grace of God. We enter into God's presence, allowing the Holy Spirit to pray in us.

Remember that God hears every prayer—but not all prayers are answered in the way we might expect or desire: we don't always pray for his will to be done! Prayer is a discipline - it can be difficult at times, just like keeping fit, being on a diet, or keeping weeds down in the garden. Little and often is best, but don't give up! No prayer, however inadequate you may feel it to be, is ever wasted or of no value.

You don't have to know any prayers if you want to pray - in fact, words can often get in the way. But you may wish to write down or memorise some prayers that speak to you, especially the Lord's Prayer. You could build up a collection of favourite prayers and sayings and keep a scrapbook. Or you could use a collection of prayers such as [Pocket Prayers](#) or [Words for Worship](#).

Use your hand as a model

Your fingers can be used to bring to mind different things to pray for.



1. **Thumb**

This is the strongest digit on your hand. Give thanks for all the strong things in your life, like home and family, relationships that support and sustain you.

2. **Index finger**

This is the pointing finger. Pray for all those people and things in your life who guide and help you. Friends, teachers, doctors, nurses, emergency services and so on.

3. **Middle finger**

This is the tallest finger. Pray for all the important people who have power in the world, like world leaders and their governments, members of parliament and local councillors, the Royal Family, other world leaders and their governments.

4. **Ring finger**

This is the weakest finger on your hand. It can't do much by itself. Remember the poor, the weak, the helpless, the hungry, the sick, the ill and the bereaved.

5. **Little finger**

This is the smallest and the last finger on your hand. Pray for yourself.

Find a prayer that speaks to you and meditate on each word one by one

If you would like further guidance, please contact the Parish Office and Denise will arrange for someone to give you a call to support you.

Life in Lockdown

We are your average family, my wife is a teacher and I work for a ventilation company, we have 2 lovely children, one is a toddler the other is at primary school. Unfortunately, I have a condition that causes me to be on the extremely clinically vulnerable list. I had not received a letter from the government before I contacted my consultant who advised that I should not be at work and needed to leave as soon as possible.

The first week everything seemed so surreal, my wife and my oldest child was told they are closing the school and need to be at home. I finally received a letter from the Government who advised that I needed to shield and to stay away from everyone (including my wife and children) I also needed to stay in my home for 12 weeks. When I read this my heart sank and I thought I knew how difficult this would be but the reality was much harder. It has been an impossibility to stay away from my family and I have not even tried. People who write these letters do not have a grip on reality. "Use separate bathrooms" we only have one bathroom like many others, "make your food in the kitchen then go and eat it in a separate room away from everyone" they clearly do not have a young family.

I think because of everything that was happening and the magnitude of the events unfolding the first few weeks were a blur. I was continuing to work from home which had some real challenges but most of which have been overcome. It does get very stressful when you are trying to manage a team but are unable to see what's going on and having to rely on others. My wife was home schooling the 5 year old and trying to do her own work as well whilst I was trying to do my job and look after a toddler who is intent on destroying our house. My wife was having pressure put on her by her work and the same could be said of mine which caused a massive amount of tension in the early days. Whose work takes priority? Well the reality of it is that neither does, you just have to do the best you can. If you mix the children into the equation then it's a bit like living in a pressure cooker. I think the best thing to do is to take a step back when everything is on top of you and all you can feel is the pressure building, it is easier said than done but this is not going to last forever and people from the outside have to appreciate the situation you are in. When I have a phone call with a customer and you have your child in the background saying "I need a wee" it is not ideal but you explain the situation with a smile on your face and most understand.

Grocery shopping had become a weekly battle, in the first few weeks we were relying on my in laws to bring us shopping and then as time has gone on we have managed to get delivery slots but this is not easy as you all know.

I do feel lucky we have a garden and the kids have been able to take full advantage of this during the warm weather. I really feel for those who do not have one as this has been a

massive outlet for us to keep the children occupied and make their life in lockdown a little bit more palatable.

In the last couple of weeks we received a letter from the school regarding returning. We decided straight away to keep the toddler home from playgroup but we thought it would do the eldest child good to return and get some sort of normality and routine, she also missed her friends terribly. My wife was also told that she would be returning to work leaving me here on my own writing this email in peace and quiet in the same 4 walls I have been looking at for 12 weeks as my mother in law looks after the toddler. That's another thing, my mother in law is not meant to be looking after the youngest but what choice do people have?

The best things about the last 12 weeks have been getting to spend time with my family who I do not get to see very much of when I'm working. The kids are growing up so fast and it is really nice to see them develop. Those first 5 / 6 weeks the roads where we live have never been so quiet, with so few cars and hardly any planes it was so peaceful and tranquil. I bought my mother who is almost 70 an iPhone so she can facetime the kids, she gets to see them at least once a week. Thursday night clapping when everyone came together to clap for the carers, my 5 year old would not go to bed unless she went outside. We have grown vegetables in a small vegetable patch and now have lettuce, carrots and parsnips which the children have enjoyed watching grow and watering. The VE Day celebrations which a young lady organized along our street, it was nice to see everyone out the front of their house celebrating, we even had a singer. I'm sure I have missed a number of things but I can't keep rattling on.

Let's hope this is all over soon and normality can resume. Let's also hope that it changes people for the better and we become a bit more tolerant and considerate towards others. You never know. Stuart

Life in Lock Down at no 68 – Part II

Well like everyone I settled into lock down I wake up every morning and look at my phone to see what day it is, the days just seemed to fly by. Just before the lock down one of the neighbours set up a neighbour's WhatsApp group and we have had some lovely Sunday afternoons sitting at our gates chatting, we have even had a couple of sessions of bingo and a quiz, all curtesy of Suzanne Appleyard, Chris Davenport's daughter.

The live streamed services have been wonderful and although we are taking part from home it still feels like St Hilda's and the Zoom after church coffee time is great, it's lovely to see everyone and how much their hair has grown. I did have a bit of trouble with Zoom at the start but have mastered it now. The first week on the Zoom coffee time, I thought I would make a

flask of coffee ready to pour out, however, once made I could not get the top off, even after it got cold the top of the flask was stuck fast, so I had to throw away the flask, coffee and all. I have also got through two kettles, so the lock down has not been without its problems.

On doing my big clean I found some Laura Ashley paint that I'd bought a couple of years ago intending to paint the Welsh dresser bought about three years previous from the RSPCA charity shop. It's amazing how much stuff you can shove into cupboards and drawers, there was no room to move once I had emptied it out ready for painting. When I painted the first brush stroke, I thought this is a major mistake, however, I carried on and was quite pleased with the result. The white emulsion paint was also put to good use, when I painted the middle bedroom, so my staying at home has proved quite productive.

Back in February one of my 14-year-old cats suddenly became very ill, on testing his blood it was found that he virtually had no red blood cells and I was afraid I was going to lose him. He had scans and more blood tests but the vets could not find anything wrong with him, he was put on a high dosage of steroids which have been gradually reduced to 2 a day. About 3 weeks ago I was watching tv and decided to make some tea, as I got up I saw something lying under the dining room table, I grabbed my phone and ran upstairs, I sent out a WhatsApp plea to the family, there is something big and dead under the table help.



My daughter came round, I was still sitting on the stairs, she said if it's a rat or snake mum, you're on your own. She then burst out laughing – it was a fully grown squirrel, how the cat got it through the cat flap I do not know. Thankfully my daughter disposed of it and I steam cleaned the carpet. Notice my son in law and three 6ft grandsons were nowhere in sight.

A few days later sitting in the garden there was a kerfuffle in the tree and down came Lewis, the cat who was at death's door a few months ago, carrying yet another squirrel, I ran round the garden clapping my hands and shouting put it down, put it down, much to the amusement of my neighbours. As this dead body was not in the house, I could cope with it and buried it deep in the garden, only to have it dug up and carried away by foxes a few days later.

Lewis' latest catch last week was a fully grown magpie again brought in through the cat flap, it seems he has turned into super cat.

As things are easing up a little, I ventured on Saturday to the Co op to get a newspaper and some farmhouse pate, Lewis will only take his tablets when wrapped in pate. It's the first time I have been in a shop for 13 weeks and it was a little scary but I'm sure we will get back to a different normal and hopefully we won't have too long to wait. Bobbie

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 21 June 2020 at 11.00am**. See below on how to join. Any questions please call the Parish Office.

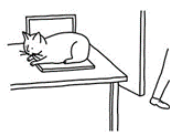
LIVESTREAMING THE SERVICE



THE DIRECTOR'S CUT



OPENING CREDITS



INTERVAL



A BIT OF SHUT-EYE



THE REALISATION THAT THIS WAS LAST WEEK'S EPISODE



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE VIEWING

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 – **851 1723 3384**
- Enter password - **004225**

- Join via telephone – cost of a local call.
 - Dial – 0203 051 2874
 - Enter Meeting Id – **851 1723 3384** – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
 - Password – **004225**

More Tea with The Vicar – Weekday Tea and Chat

Following the success of the Sunday after service tea and chat session where 20 or so join and have a chat over a cup of tea (or something stronger!), we are planning to introduce a further opportunity for people to 'meet up' over a cuppa.

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. You only need a telephone to join.

Weekday Tea and Chat will be held on Thursday's @ 10am

The codes for **Thursday 25 June** are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- Meeting id – **836 7962 1305**
- Password - **099985**

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.

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

Psalm 56:3 (NLT)

But when I am afraid,
I will put my trust in you.

Choose the UK's most trusted home insurance provider and we'll donate

£130
to your church

Take out a new home insurance policy with us before **31 December 2020**, and we'll donate £130* to a church of your choice through our Trust130 promotion. Find out more at www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130 or call our team on 0800 783 0130 and quote **Trust130**.

* Terms and conditions apply and can be viewed on the offer website page above.

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

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

The Recently Departed

Alex Nare	Joyce Butcher	Stuart Vincent
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Prayer

Heavenly Father, our Nation cries out to you in pain and fear.

Keep our Nation united as one in this our battle against this evil virus.

Guide us with your loving hand and help us see through this time of trial, tribulation and torment.

Give aid to the afflicted, the poor and feed the hungry.

Give courage to your people and calm the fearful with the assurance of your mercy, protection and love.

For you alone are the one God, the creator, redeemer and sustainer of all,

now and forever.

Amen.

Puzzle Page

Aviation Wordsearch (puzzle created by Terry Rickson)

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

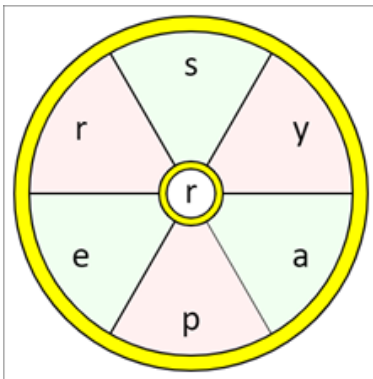
- DAKOTA
- HARRIER
- HURRICANE
- JAGUAR
- LANCASTER
- LYSANDER
- SOPWITH CAMEL
- SPITFIRE
- TIGER MOTH
- TORNADO
- TYPHOON
- VULCAN

Letter Slide

	R	E		E	O	A	
N	■	■	■	■	■	■	J
S	■	■	■	■	■	■	U
N	■	■	■	■	■	■	D
G	■	■	■	■	■	■	T
L	■	■	■	■	■	■	E
D	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	G	V	S	U	R		

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

Word Wheel



How many words can you find using the centre letter?
There is one 8 letter word that you would associate with God.

Riddle

I am a word of 6 letters: my first 3 letters refer to an automobile; my last 3 letters refer to a household animal; my first 4 letters is a fish; my whole is found in your living room. What am I?

Number Sequence

What number comes next in the sequence
100, 250, 700, 2,050, 6,100, ?

Answers from last week

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

9	-	5	÷	1	=	4
+		+		+		
7	+	4	+	3	=	14
X		X		X		
8	+	6	X	2	=	28
=	=	=				
128		54		8		

Riddle

What is full of holes but still holds water? **A Sponge**

Number Sequence

What number comes next in the sequence
5, 24, 81, 252, **765 (times by 3 and add 9)**

Word Wheel

9 letter word - **Eucharist**