



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](mailto:office@sthilda.org)
- Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237.

## Statement from The Bishop of London on Churches re-opening for public worship

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England's Recovery Group, said on Tuesday: "The last three months have been an extraordinary time — the first period without public worship and the sacraments in England in more than 800 years. There will be real joy as we begin to come together again — if even at a physical distance."

The Bishop said, however, that many people would be "understandably cautious at this news. We will not be returning to normality overnight — this is the next step on a journey. We've been planning carefully, making detailed advice available for parishes to enable them to prepare to hold services when it is safe and practical to do so. It is important to say that the change in Government guidance is permissive, not prescriptive."

She continued: "Not all church buildings will be ready to hold regular services from July 4, but we are providing whatever support we can to enable them. There will still be restrictions and we must all still do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus to protect each other, especially the most vulnerable. The online services and dial-in worship offerings we have become used to will continue."

## Returning to Church

### The doors of St Hilda's will be re-opening on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July

We are delighted to be able to announce that St Hilda's is re-opening for services from Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

We have been following Government and Church of England guidance on when and how to re-open the Church once again, in the following sections you will find useful information and advice on the steps we have taken to ensure we maintain safety, social distancing and compliance for all during this changing and challenging time.

- **Services**

There will be 2 services a week;

- 9.30am Sunday – including Junior Church in the Church Hall
- 9.45am Wednesday

Unfortunately, we won't be able to hold the 8am Sunday service for the time being.

There will no singing in either service as this increases the level of risk of spreading the virus. Sadly, we don't know when it will be possible to sing in enclosed spaces yet, and so will continue with pre-recorded music.

Certain groups of people who are considered vulnerable and remain at risk from COVID-19 are strongly discouraged from attending church. Please see the vulnerable group section - page 6.

Services will continue to be live streamed, both Sunday and Wednesday.

- **Layout**

The Church seating has been re-configured to ensure the 2m distance is maintained (even though this has been reduced by 1m this week, we are maintaining the 2m ruling)

The reconfiguration allows a maximum of 70 at any service, therefore we will be adopting a booking system where a seat will be allocated. There are designated wheelchair spaces. Your service book will be waiting for you on your allocated seat, if you require a large print copy, please let one of side persons know.

**A one-way system** will also be in place for entry and exit. Entry into the Church will be from the Woodthorpe Road door, and exit via the door facing the Church Hall. The only exception will be for those with mobility scooters or wheelchairs where the Woodthorpe Road door will also be used as an exit (under the guidance of a sides person).

Also, within in the Church you will all be asked to go down the centre aisle to your seat, and on leaving via the side aisles, there will be arrows on the floor to remind you.

After the service has finished, please wait in your seat until a sides person advises you it is safe to move, again we are moving a large number of people and we need to ensure we maintain distancing and safety at all times. Please leave the Church building promptly and remember to sanitise your hands on the way out.

- **Collections**

There will be no collection during the service, however, there will be a box on the table at the back for a retiring collection, as well as a collection point for planned giving envelopes. Please see the section on page 8 for alternative methods of giving.

- **Masks**

Alison Garner has kindly made masks for our return to Church. These will be given on your first visit back to St Hilda's. The masks are made from 100% cotton and have two layers. Although not to the filtration standard of clinical masks by wearing them the mask will stop any droplets from escaping and act as a preventative measure to people around you. So, by all of us wearing them we are protecting each other.

The mask design includes a pocket where a 3<sup>rd</sup> layer, or filter can be added. The filter can be any non-woven fabric such as a dried baby wipe, coffee filter or vacuum filter (these are not provided).

The masks are washable and reusable. It will be yours to keep and reuse at Church.

Please remember to bring your mask each week until the restrictions are lifted.

Thank you Alison

- **Booking System**

To enable us to comply with this we will be implementing a booking system for all the services. All services will be bookable on eventbrite.co.uk and booking will open on the Monday prior to each Sunday Eucharist and on Thursday prior to a Wednesday service. Booking will close at midday on the day preceding the service.

All seats will be allocated to enable us to seat household groups together safely within St Hilda's.

For those who are unable to book online or who have any queries please call the Parish Office.

Unfortunately, you will not be able to attend a Church service without prior booking as we will need to manage numbers.

- **Toilet Facilities**

**The toilet in the Church is not accessible.**

The disabled toilet in the Church Hall foyer is available for use, if you require the use of this facility please advise one of the Side person's to direct you.

The toilet has a supply of disinfectant wipes for use on the seat, flush and handles – please use before leaving, and place in the collection bin for disposal afterwards.

- **Side Persons**

**Side persons will greet you on arrival, they have all received clear guidance and are available to help you and maintain your safety.**

- Sanitise your hands
- Register your attendance
- Guide you to your seat
- Be available for any assistance you may require

- **Keys, and access to the Church buildings**

Control of access to the Church outside of services will be vital to maintain the hygiene and safety for all. The Church is in lockdown between services.

It has been agreed that all keyholders (Church and Church Hall) are requested to return their keys to the Parish Office.

This allows us to

- Control access to the Church and Church Hall during the phased re-opening
- Perform a complete audit of keys, and review whether any doors locks require changing. A log is maintained of all keyholders.

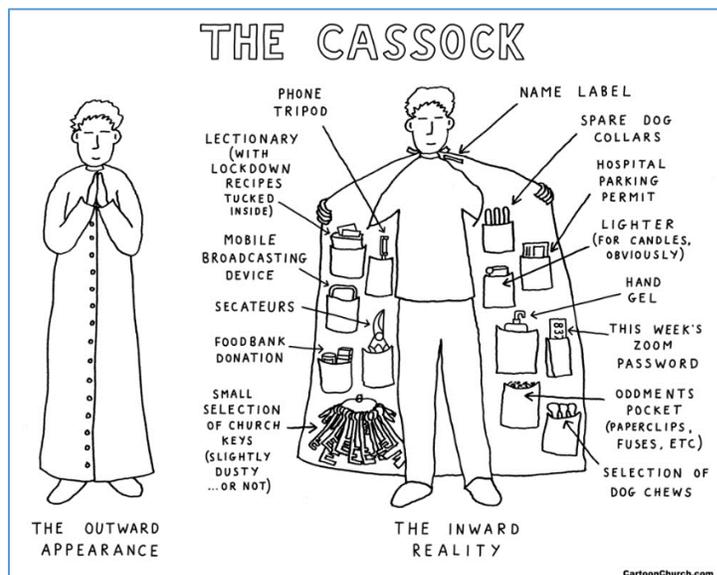
Keys will then be allocated back out as and when required.

To return any keys, you can either

1. Place in an envelope with your name and put in the Parish Office postbox, and call the Parish Office to advise so they can be collected
2. Or, call the Parish Office and we will arrange someone to collect the keys from you direct.

Keys can be requested via the Parish Office and will be reallocated following approval from The Standing Committee.

Whilst there are a number of guidelines, much of this is common sense and similar to the precautions taken by other organisations including retail. We are very much looking forward to meeting again as a church family, remembering that those who are shielding are still advised to stay at home. As already mentioned, services will continue to be streamed so those that are able can participate virtually.



## Vulnerable categories

The current Government guidance considers the following people as vulnerable, if you fall into any of these categories, we strongly discourage you from attending Church at this time.

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (that is, anyone instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds):
- chronic (long-term) mild to moderate respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
- chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), or cerebral palsy
- diabetes
- a weakened immune system as the result of certain conditions, treatments like chemotherapy, or medicines such as steroid tablets
- being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- pregnant women

## No Ordinary Time, No Ordinary Response



*Tim Thorlby, Managing Director of Clean for Good, asks how we might rebuild a society post Covid-19 that's fairer for the key workers we've been so dependent on.*

### A time to mourn

A wise person once wrote that there is 'a time for everything....a time to mourn and a time to dance'.

Now seems very much like a time to mourn.

So much is currently being lost or broken in our country as Covid-19 remains an unwelcome guest in our midst. Many have lost lives – or lost loved ones. A growing number have lost their jobs. Both charities and businesses are bringing forward redundancy programmes – and as the Government's furlough scheme winds down, this will accelerate. A generation of children are missing out on their education. A record number of families are reliant on Food Banks for their daily meals. The mental health of many people is under strain.

We must surely make time to acknowledge and lament for what we have lost. It is considerable.

But we also see the light at the end of the tunnel. The virus is on the wane. The lockdown is easing, step by step.

But let's not go back to normal. 'Normal' actually wasn't a great place for many people. We can do better.

### **A time to think**

One of the most visible features of the Lockdown in the UK has been the attention given to 'key workers' – 'thank you' signs and rainbows have appeared everywhere, even on litter bins. These are the people who have kept working whilst many have been at home – to keep us safe, to keep us fed, to keep the country moving.

Key workers include doctors, nurses and social care workers of course, but also teachers, supermarket workers, cleaners and couriers. It is a long list. All providing essential services. Yet we've also seen how many of these people, providing our essential services, are only paid a Minimum Wage, often accompanied with poor terms and conditions, and expected to work under difficult circumstances.

In the cleaning sector, where I work, the Living Wage Foundation estimates that 60% of cleaners in the UK earn less than the Living Wage. In my experience, the majority of cleaners are on the Minimum Wage, with terms and conditions also at the bare statutory minimums. We even meet some who are being paid below the legal minimums.

The nation's cleaners are being asked to help us get out of Lockdown – by cleaning hospitals, offices, churches and schools – making them 'Covid-19 Secure' for the rest of us.

Surely, the least we can do is treat them fairly? That means paying them a Living Wage (£10.75 in London), employing them on decent terms and conditions (like sick pay, holidays and pensions) and treating them with respect.

As we all go back to work, as offices re-open and churches re-start their activities, there is a question to answer – can we rebuild a better country than the one we left behind?

### **A time to dance?**

I want to ask every employer (including churches and charities) to think about who does your cleaning. Who are they? Do you know their name? Are they paid the Living Wage and well treated?

We have seen how much the nation's Key Workers do for us. Can we take one step forward and move to paying every cleaner in the UK the Living Wage? This action is available to every employer – whether business, charity or church.

It would transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers and their families.

The company I help to lead – Clean for Good – is three years old. It is an ethical workplace cleaning company for London – cleaning offices, churches and community centres. Founded by

churches and charities to set a new standard in the cleaning sector, we are a Living Wage Employer and employ our own cleaners on Terms and Conditions above statutory minimums. We invest in training and management.

Since we started, Clean for Good has enjoyed three years of continuous and rapid growth, won two national awards, achieved commercial viability and proved that a professional cleaning company can also operate ethically. We have proved that a better future is possible.

As we slowly emerge out of this unprecedented national crisis, let us do better than the old normal – let's choose to take one step forward and give the nation's cleaners – and other Key Workers – something to dance about. There is a time for everything... and a time for dancing.

*Tim Thorlby is the Managing Director of Clean for Good. You can find Clean for Good at [www.cleanforgood.co.uk](http://www.cleanforgood.co.uk) and you can find Tim on Twitter at @TimThorlby.*

## Stewardship/ Donations

Our financial giving as Christians is a form of worship to a god who gives us everything. Below are some of the alternative methods of supporting the mission of St Hilda's through your giving. If you wish to make a one off or regular donation to the parish, please see below options to do so. Any questions please call the Parish Office and Denise will advise. Thank you.

### 1. Parish Giving Scheme – Regular Giving

The Parish Giving Scheme has launched a new 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**

### CAF On-Line – Single Donation (via our Website)

If you wish to make a single donation, you can now do so via the Website

- Click on 'Donations'
- Scroll down a little to the single donation section until you see via CAF online, and click 'Donate now'
- Enter the required details – it is easy to follow

## 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 28 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 – **826 4650 8468**
- Enter password - **928830**

- Join via telephone – cost of a local call.
  - Dial – 0203 051 2874
  - Enter Meeting Id – **826 4650 8468** – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
  - Password – **928830**

## 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 2 July** are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- Meeting id – **834 6403 4624**
- Password - **505062**

**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.

## 2 Corinthians 5.17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:office@sthilda.org) or Fr Joseph at [Vicar@sthilda.org](mailto:Vicar@sthilda.org) if you have anything to be included in the weekly newsletter.

## Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at [crossroads\\_ashford@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://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**

Bernard Biggs                      Alex Nare

**Prayer**

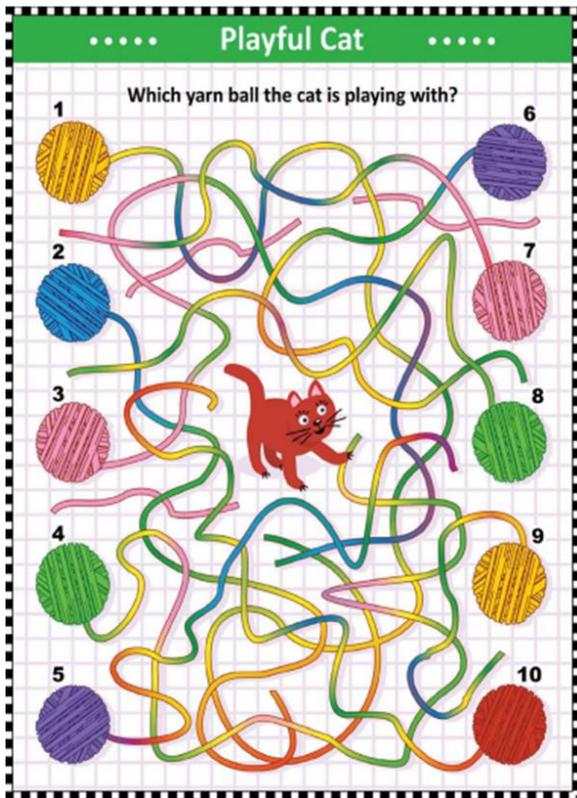
Father in heaven, thank You for this new day.  
Thank you for the opportunity to begin again.

I choose to press forward and keep believing for the dreams and desires You've placed in my heart.

I trust You today with everything that I am in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## Puzzle Page



### Seven Little Words

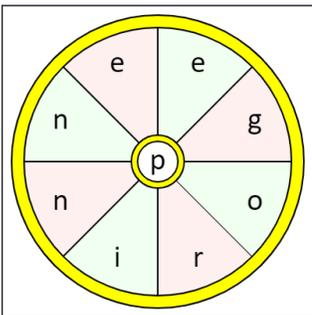
Find the seven words to match the clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can only be used once, all letter combinations are required to complete the puzzle.

#### CLUES

1. Safe (8)
2. Collie with a 1950s TV show (6)
3. Without Limits (8)
4. Misspend (8)
5. Miami's state (7)
6. Makes cloth (6)
7. Locks away (7)

EL	SHI	LAS	UTE	AB
SIE	SQ	DA	VES	ER
CU	SE	DED	UA	FL
RES	ORI	WEA	ND	SOL

### Word Wheel

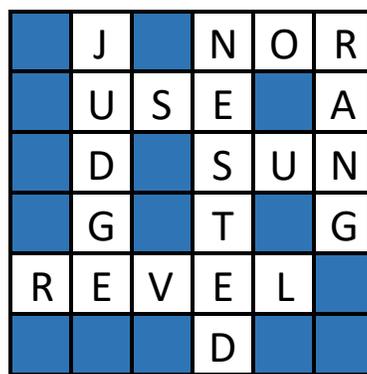
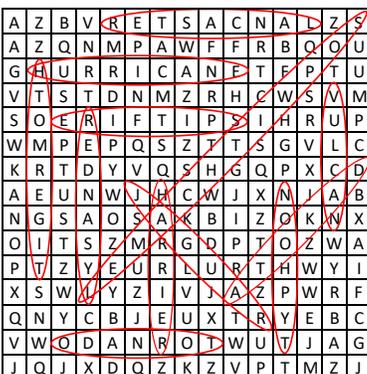


How many words can you find using the centre letter?  
There is one 9 letter, what we are planning.

### Riddle

I sound like one letter but I am written with three. I show you things when you look through me. What am I?

### Answers from last week



Riddle  
Carpet

Word Wheel  
8 letter word - Prayer

### Number Sequence

What number comes next in the sequence  
100, 250, 700, 2,050, 6,100, 18,250  
(times by 3 minus 50)