



St Hilda's
Ashford

Weekly Newsletter3

Contents



- St Hilda's re-opened for public worship
- Why do people go to Church – Robert Dobbie
- When we simply do not know – a reflection from *Ven Richard Frank, the new Archdeacon of Middlesex*
- Jesus Is Our Victory Zoom Group – London Diocese
- The programmes we need now – Steve Morris, Church of England newspaper
- ALMA Sunday – 19th July 2020
- First online prison church service broadcasted by Church of England
- Tea and Chat – After Sunday Service
- More Tea with the Vicar

➤ Our thoughts and prayers – Those from this weeks notices

➤ Puzzle Page

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

St Hilda's re-opened for public worship



On Sunday, the doors of St Hilda's re-opened for public worship.

There were 29 people in the congregation all safely distanced apart, in addition Junior Church also re-opened where 19 children and 7 adults joined.

The above was only possible thanks to the hard work and planning that took place previously.

Chairs were appropriately spaced out, hand sanitisers were in place, signs and markings were visible to guide people. Face masks that were made by Alison were also available.

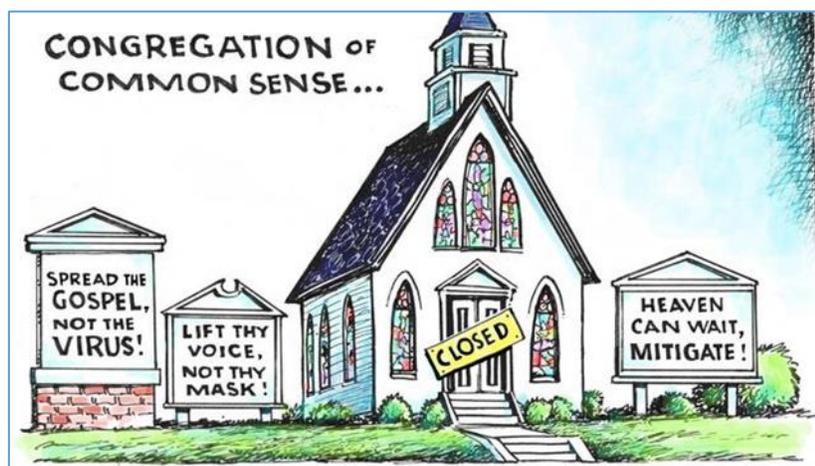
Overall, the service was a success, and we will be looking to see if there are any things we can do better.

St Hilda's will be open for public worship twice a week – on Sunday's and some Wednesday's throughout July and August, subject to cover.

This week's Wednesday service has at the time of writing had a very few attendees, as people are taking heed of the advice that if you are in the vulnerable category we would recommend you not to attend either service, as we want you all to stay safe. We will reassess the feasibility of the midweek service if demand remains low. Hopefully, we will be in a position in the not so distant future where we will all be able to worship together again.

To attend one of the services, we request you book a ticket through Eventbrite (link on the website) or call the Parish Office, this is to ensure we can allocate seating as required whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines. We will be maintaining a register to enable track and trace if ever required. Deadline for booking is midday Saturday for the Sunday service and midday Tuesday for the Wednesday service.

Sunday services will continue to be live streamed for those who are not able to join in person.



Why do People go to Church?

We had a card from a friend with a very thought-provoking message, beautifully written, eloquent and concise, and very challenging for church members!

I have had a hard year on the work front – what's new? – but also an interesting year in terms of my own development. It began last Christmas when I attended 3 carol services in one day – one at my mother's old church, one at the church where my brother was a choir boy, and one at the church where I was formally a bell-ringer. I realised I feel happy in church, and, to cut a long story short, have begun attending regularly. I've struggled to find the 'right place' for me as I need thought-provoking sermons, a church choir (now, alas, uncommon), a fairly traditional service (with BCP services optionally available) and active bell ringers.

The result is that I have spread myself rather thinly across four churches, three local, and one in a nearby city. I am in two church choirs (one is a relief choir for a traditional boys + men choir), and regularly bell ring with the other two, and, occasionally attend a fifth, the local Methodist church where my mother worshipped. They are very friendly and have an occasional choir too.

Perhaps I will narrow the field eventually, but no one seems to mind, and I enjoy a variety of approaches to worship, some of which I might not have expected to value, whatever the form, the result is uplift, and a glad – if chastened – heart!!

Robert Dobbie

When we simply don't know

A reflection from the Ven Richard Frank, the new Archdeacon of Middlesex.



Knowledge is power, but what we can do when we have a lack of knowledge?

'Well perhaps, as the saying goes, "Knowledge is power," or, at least, can be powerful. But what do we do when we simply don't know? I began as Archdeacon of Middlesex some 15 weeks ago, on the very day that we in the UK entered what

became known as a lockdown. I'd already known that as I plunged into this archidiaconal world of faculties and finances, HR and appointments, that my knowledge would be not even an inch thick, and certainly not a mile wide.

Knowledge might be power, and can be really useful as we serve others, but what do we do when we simply don't know? We were walking, as we walked into lockdown, into a world that simply wouldn't bend to my knowledge-gathering efforts. It didn't seem to matter how hard I worked, how much I read, how many Zoom briefings I attended or people that I spoke to,

there was suddenly simply so much I didn't know, and couldn't know because no one did. None of us knew what was going to unfold over the months that were to follow.

And ever since then, we've been running, and I confess, I suspect, a little bit more recently, trudging wearily, through a world so unfamiliar, so unknowable, that it's hard to believe it's the same one in which we celebrated Christmas just six months ago. So knowledge may give us power and some influence, but what do we do when we can't know? And what do we do when, on top of a pandemic, we find that pretty much every important aspect of our shared life together is exposing even the knowledge we thought we had as being bankrupt?

What do I do in the face of the climate crisis, when my lifestyle and my choices threaten the very fabric of our future on this planet? And I simply don't know how to make a big enough difference. What do I do in the face of the crushing effects of racism, where our history of slavery and the toxic effects of empire still shape attitudes, relationships, structures? And where I simply don't know how to deal with the privileges I'm only just recognizing I carry by the colour of my skin? What do I do when I have to say, "I don't know"?

One thing that the Scriptures don't allow us to say is that it's OK to give up on that knowledge, to take lack of knowledge as an excuse to give up on rational thought, or powerful conversations as if they're somehow beneath us, as people of faith. Far from it. The sort of knowledge that comes from reading, from deep listening, from scientific inquiry, from logical, rational debate, is part of God's great gift to us as human beings. We are to commit ourselves to think deeply, to engage rationally with the biggest challenges of our age.

But the Scriptures do also show us that knowledge isn't only rational, but it's fundamentally relational too, that we are creatures of heart, not only of head, that the power of knowledge comes perhaps most strongly in our knowledge of the other, to know and to be known personally. And most of all, to know the One who knows us from the inside out, and who chooses, nevertheless, to love us just the same.

The apostle Paul, someone of erudition, deep learning, and even, we might say, philosophical genius, wrote of knowledge in his letter to the Corinthians. He wrote this. "I decided to know nothing among you, except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." In other words, Paul knew that there is a knowledge which, in the life of the Christian, is to shape, to underpin, and to challenge all other knowledge, the knowledge of Christ and Him crucified, a knowledge of heart as well as head.

So as many of us begin to help lead our church communities, tiptoeing tentatively out of lockdown, not knowing exactly what we will do nor how things will go, our knowledge of Christ keeps our hearts in the right place, set on the One whom I serve, not on my fear of reputation or status or even success. And as we try to respond to the growing effects and threat of climate crisis, knowing Christ helped set my personal desires and my appetites in their proper place. And yes, as we grapple with privilege and with the evil of racism, our knowledge of

Christ and Him crucified, nails to the cross, any sense that a human may be worth less or more than any other, so precious to the God who in Christ, comes to meet us in love.

These past 15 weeks may well have felt to many of us like 15 years, but as we walk together into this strange and unpredictable summer ahead, and is there so much we simply don't know about how to live and how to act, may we determine simply and most importantly with Paul, to know Christ and His crucifixion. And may we find in that knowledge of Christ the courage and grace to think, to work, to act, and to pray not for our power or influence, but to see the power of God in Christ at work by His spirit, through us and in us, and in a world in need.

To the glory of His name, Amen.'

Jesus Is Our Victory Zoom Group



Isolation during Lockdown can be incredibly tough for people of all ages. However, one small community group based in west London has created an online daily group that has not only benefited their lives, but also the lives of people across the world. This endeavour was recently reported on the BBC Asian Network programme The Big Debate.

The interview features Sophie Waghmare, a nurse from Harrow, who in March 2020 created a daily Zoom meeting with her husband Raj and a small group of friends. Most were from the Indian Christian Community at St John's Church, Greenhill. The friends and family have met online to pray, study the bible and socialise. Through word-of-mouth, the online meeting soon involved families from across the UK, India, the Middle East, Africa and the USA.

Speaking to the radio host, Sophia recounts how this all came about.

"At the start of lockdown there was a lot of fear and anxiety, and uncertainty, so we got our family together online, and my husband shared the link. Before you know it, five families turned to be 50-60 families. We call our group, *Jesus Is Our Victory*, and we are called to share stories, to pray together, and share the word. We've been supported by a number of pastors and clergy from the London Diocese. Over the last three months, we have felt overwhelmed at all of the support from each other, when churches are closed. Elderly people, young people and kids all join in."

Soon after, a weekly Zoom group was also held specifically for the young people. Nikhil Holkar, from the church young adult's team, describes how this young person's group came about:

"It was on my heart at the numbers of young people that we were seeing [in the daily meetings]. So I realised that we needed a platform for them to share the sort of issues that we all face ... we do a weekly meeting on Friday, and it's really good to see how the people are opening up and coming out of their shell."

One of the young people on the weekly call, Neha Holkar, talked about how it has helped people in the group to develop during the isolation of lockdown.

"We've grown in our faith so much in this quarantine, more than we have for many years. We get to meet each other each week, and we get to pick a topic and learn what our faith, says about it.

"In terms of mental health, that has been huge. Because of these Zoom Meetings, we get to see people that we would have only at Christmas and Easter, but we see them every day. We have people who are in their 80s, and all ages in our group. If you have a love for God, you can talk about God and learn from each other."

All three people in this inspiring BBC interview mention the role of faith, about coming together and helping people not to be lonely or isolated. They give concrete examples of how the shared experience has kept them going through a very challenging period. The interview can be heard on BBC Sounds at 2 hrs 33 mins. Copy this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000k9xl> until Friday 24 July.

The programmes we need now



– Church of England Newspaper



Lockdown has tested us all. And being stuck in for so long has thrown us back on the consolations of television. The TV is our friend in the room, isn't it. It gives us a sense of normality and a shared reality. Of course, for all its faults, the BBC is very good at making us feel safe.

The pandemic, though, has stretched TV. Presumably lots of programmes were caught in mid-production, But am I the only one who thinks that while TV has majored on news it has been very thin on entertainment?

Let's draw a veil over *The Big Night In*, which raised good money, but felt like it had all been written in five minutes. But they meant well. So here are my five most-missed programmes.

Only Connect. This beautiful odd-ball quiz is the high temple of geekiness. Victoria Coren Mitchell presides with sly wit and charm and the programme is more about speed of thought and lateral thinking than general knowledge. Unlike *University Challenge*, the contestants are adorable. I miss it gentle championing of intellect.

Scarborough. Darren Litten's beautiful and heart-warming comedy series starred Jason Manford and Catherine Tyldesley and only ran for one series. Looking at it now it is the perfect picture of what life was like before lockdown. It is also funny and warm and doesn't patronise either Northerners or working-class people. It helps that I love Scarborough and East Yorkshire.

Heartbeat. It seems like only yesterday that we used to settle down on a Sunday evening for a reassuring dose of *Heartbeat*. There was the golden age of the show with Nick Berry and, yes, there was a slow decline as the plots became more fantastical and characters more one-dimensional. But when it was good it warmed the cockles.

Snooker from the Crucible. Now we're talking. A couple of years ago I went to watch snooker live at the fantastic venue. It was brilliant. The venue is actually small, and you get a really close view of the game. But it is on TV that snooker really works. The combination of late finishes, the commentary, the ability for a player to lose or win many frames in a row and the lights make it essential watching.

Snooker is a really brilliant sport and there is something very comforting about the rhythm of the game and the sound of the balls hitting the back of the pocket.

Time Team. This was another Sunday favourite. I know that it ran out of steam and that production costs helped it demise. Plus, there was probably nowhere else left to dig up. But, again, its heyday it was a gem with Tony Robinson buzzing around the site and the various supporting characters playing to type – grumpy, pernickety, care-free. It was a great dose of comfort and like all the best of these kind of shows it gave us a sense of what a different kind of life or job would have been like. I probably would have hated being an archaeologist – the cold and damp, the thwarted dreams – but watching the show, made me wonder.

Do you have programmes you miss?

ALMA Sunday – 19th July 2020



Due to COVID -19 ALMA have had to make many changes to their planned events. However, we can still celebrate ALMA Sunday 2020. Those who haven't yet may be able to make a small contribution to the ALMA Sunday Gift Day for the Lent Appeal via <https://www.give.net/lent2020>

ANGOLA

Angola suffered flash flooding in January 2020, destroying homes and villages. Now it is dealing with the effects of Covid-19. World Vision and its partners, including the United Nations, is very concerned about Covid-19 response in the country.

MOZAMBIQUE

With last year's Cyclone, flash flooding, drought, Cholera, and now Covid-19, this country is really having to dovetail its disasters. More information can be found on the relief web pages. There is also increased violence in the region and the possibility of a destabilisation of the area. Floods affected 58,000 in January 2020 says the United Nations. One year after Cyclone Idai, (March 2020) 2.5 million people in Mozambique remain in need of humanitarian assistance says UNICEF.

First online prison church service broadcasted by Church of England

On Sunday 5 July, prisoners and their families were able to worship together during the first-ever online prison church service broadcast by the Church of England.

The service was broadcast on prison television and radio, as well as on the Church of England's [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

This means that, for the first time, prisoners and their families were able to attend the same church service, wherever they were.

Recorded at three sites - HMP Stocken in Rutland, HMP Low Newton in Durham and HMP Pentonville in London - the service included contributions from prison staff and chaplains, along with prayers, reflections and artwork written and created by prisoners.

The service, with the theme of hope, was led by Reverend Helen Dearnley, Anglican chaplaincy adviser for HM Prison and Probation Service.

Speaking from the chapel of HMP Stocken prison, Reverend Helen Dearnley said that the online service is "enabling us wherever we are to unite in hope and prayer and praise."

She said: "Today for the first time, those in prison and their families will be able to worship virtually together, and all of us, separated from our communities by coronavirus, can share in this worship."

Lucy Frazer QC MP, Prisons and Probation Minister at the Ministry of Justice said:

"To prevent outbreaks of coronavirus in our prisons, we have temporarily put in place a restricted regime and paused all social visits to help protect staff, prisoners and the public."

It is great to see examples of how technology is allowing prisoners to connect remotely with their families, and I am delighted that we can continue to do that with our first-ever virtual prison church service.

"I would like to thank all of our prison staff who have made this possible - you truly are hidden heroes."

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 12 July 2020 at 11.15am**. 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
- Click – Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id – **894 9549 7788**
- Enter password - **715295**

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

- Dial – 0203 051 2874
- Enter Meeting Id – **894 9549 7788** – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
- Password – **715295**

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 after the Wednesday service. We will be introducing a topic for discussion for the Wednesday chat – this week’s topic is **‘Show and Tell an interesting item’ that you are willing to share.**

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.

Weekday Tea and Chat will be held on Wednesday’s @ 10.30am (Please note change of day). The codes for **Wednesday 15 July** are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- Meeting id – **872 5088 0050**
- Password - **734282**

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.

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>

Crossroads

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

This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist – 12 July @ 9.30am

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

Wednesday Eucharist – 15 July

There will be no midweek service this week.

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

The Recently Departed

Rev'd Caroline Wareham	Heather Masters	Bernard Biggs	Alex Nare
---------------------------	-----------------	---------------	-----------

Prayer

Lord, You provide us with perfect love at all times and have given us everything we need.

We pray that you increase our faith and help us through the challenging times.

Give us the strength to face these obstacles and let the difficult days strengthen our faith until we rely only on You, Lord.

Amen.

Prayer – by Francoise Cohen

In this time where we walk in separation of lockdown may the holy spirit fill us with love to go out of our way to reach out to others

May you rest and find peace beneath the empty cross and may our souls be restored and resurrected in hope and love helping us tread the difficult path that lies ahead

Amen.

Puzzle Page

St Hilda's Lockdown Bingo!

Can you cover 15-20 squares?

Learnt a new skill	Prayed while washing your hands	Forgotten which day of the week it is!	Completed a jigsaw puzzle	Clapped for Carers
Joined a Zoom meeting	Been out for a daily exercise	Baked Bread	Helped a Neighbour	Joined the Sunday service in your pajamas
Completed one of the Puzzle pages in the Newsletter	Shared the Peace virtually	FREE SPACE	Phoned a Friend	Joined a Tea and Chat session
Had your hair cut by a family member or yourself	Decorated a room in your house	Worn a face mask in public	Watched another Church's service	Taken up a new hobby
Feared a shortage of tea bags	Groceries home delivered	Said 'Flatten the Curve'	Celebrated a lockdown birthday or anniversary	Spoken to a neighbour for the first time

Seven Little Words

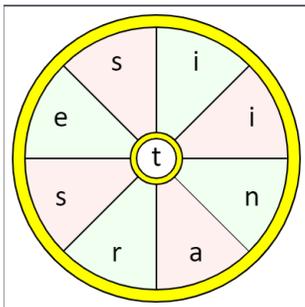
Find the seven words to match the clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can only be used once, all letter combinations are required to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

- Not justified (11)
- Giving a dirty look (8)
- Shakespearean actor, Kenneth (7)
- Clasps for tresses (6)
- Non violent (9)
- City with a famous library (10)
- Short course (7)

MI	UNWA	AN	CEA	BRAN
SLI	ALEX	LING	SE	TED
RIA	SC	BLE	RR	PEA
OW	NAR	DES	AGH	AND

Word Wheel



How many words can you find using the centre letter?
There is one 9 letter, something we all use now.

Riddle

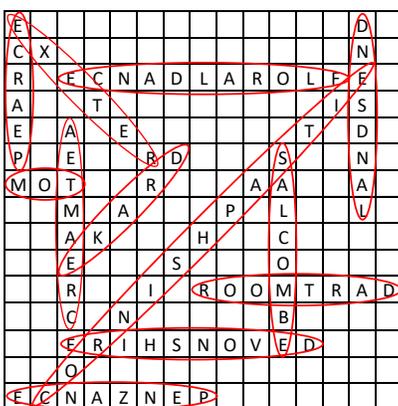
What tree can you hold in your hand?

Number Sequence

What number comes next in the sequence

4, 12, 28, 60, ?

Answers from last week



Word Wheel

9 letter word - **Communion**

Riddle

Queue

Top View

1-10, 2-6, 3-7, 4-8, 5-12,
15-11, 16-9, 17-14, 18-13