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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
Second wave will be harder, Archbishops warn

‘We will need to be more critical in our response to restrictions that are above and beyond government regulations’

DIVISIONS are deeper now — on the brink of a second wave of coronavirus infections — than they were six months ago when the nation first went into lockdown, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have warned in a joint letter to all bishops on Wednesday.

The letter speaks of the inevitability of further national and local restrictions as the winter months approach, and the responsibility of the Church to “avoid mistakes” and respond in the right way to a more complex situation than before. In March, the Church was criticised for going beyond the government advice at the time and ordering church buildings to close, even to clergy.

Their short letter also refers to the “concealed” issue of domestic violence, cases of which have risen globally during the pandemic; the impact on the national economy, on small businesses, and on unemployment; and the effects of further restrictions on the elderly and isolated, and people on low incomes.

Finally, the Archbishops acknowledge the “growing nervousness about Christmas” as well as mental health. The Church and its Bishops, they write, have a responsibility to use its networks to meet people with “hope and stability” where there is “weariness and tiredness”.

The full text of the letter:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is clear that we now have to gear up for a second wave of the coronavirus. This is hard. Many people were starting to believe things could return to normal. They can’t. But neither are we in the same place as before. We have learned a great deal. In our leadership of the Church and in the witness we show to our nation we need to be determined, resilient and hopeful. We will need to be more critical in our response to restrictions that are above and beyond government regulations, helping the church at the local level, in parish and diocese, steer a course that is marked by responsible action towards each other, care for the most vulnerable, and witness for the poor and disadvantaged who are suffering disproportionately. All this is the nature of love.

Our national situation is much more complicated than it was in March. The divisions are deeper. There is public and reasonable concern about hunger — especially amongst
children — and homelessness, with an expected rapid rise in evictions. Domestic violence remains a major issue which is concealed.

We are also in a situation which threatens the recovery from the huge decline in the economy in the second quarter. The most vulnerable to this second wave are the small companies who employ the most people, and especially those in the hospitality industry. It will be for us and others to encourage the banks, who received such help in 2009, to be equally merciful to others as the nation was to them. St Matthew 18:23-35 seems highly relevant.

The poor, the elderly and isolated are especially vulnerable. There will be growing nervousness about Christmas, about mental health and many other issues that cannot be considered in this very short letter.

We are called to be responsible, but we are also called to resilience and prophetic speech. We have the networks, long since mobilised, and the partnerships to serve especially the hungry and homeless. Our schools are a particular treasure.

However, there will also be a sense of tiredness; the weariness which comes with dealing with yet another threat and difficulty. To face this, we must continue to encourage one another and bear one another's burdens. We must in our meetings be transparent with each other, able to say difficult things in a way that avoids mistakes being made through unwilling acquiescence to the perceived view of the majority.

Most of all we need to draw close to Christ, and continue to offer the hope and stability of the gospel. It is this gospel joy, even in the darkest times, that alone can help us through this crisis, bringing hope and an eternal perspective to the very pressing trials of the moment. We are so grateful for our partnership with you in this work. Do feel free to share this letter as you see fit. And please be assured of our prayers.

In the peace of Christ,

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

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**Innovative harvest festivals planned amid Covid-19 concerns**

Churches across England are planning to celebrate this year’s Harvest Festival in innovative ways because of the pandemic.

Among the most popular events of the year - and a centrepiece of the Church’s Season of Creation - Harvest Festival may look different this year as parishes innovate in light of the Government's restrictions on gatherings to limit the spread of the virus.
The churches of St John (Hopwood) & St Luke (Heywood) in the Diocese of Manchester have already marked Harvest Festival in an outdoor interactive service. Providing parishioners with a pack which included paper and crayons, the Revd Kirsty Screeton had scattered food items around the church grounds. This all-age activity encouraged people to reflect on the source of their food and how it came to be in their hands.

She said: “[The items] we see can remind us that God is incredible and that sometimes he does the work himself but at other times God needs our help.

“For the vegetables - although God created it, gave it its colour and shape, in order for it to grow God needed someone to plant the seed, care for it, water it and pick it when it had grown.

“Harvest celebration means lots of things. It means helping those in need with our food donations, it means being thankful to God and those in our food chain productions, but it is also about being thankful for what God has given us in gifts too.”

In Portsmouth, the festival will be used to gather food donations through a campaign known as ‘With Thankful Hearts.’ The project brings together local government, charities and churches.

Canon Bob White, vicar of St Mary’s Church, Fratton, and chair of local charity Hive, said: “The last few months, and in particular the period of lockdown, focused our awareness of the food supply chain and the many things we so often had taken for granted.

“We looked afresh at our lives and the things we use and enjoy every day and perhaps appreciated them more.”

Another churches taking on the challenge of marking Harvest Festival in a different way are the parishes of Seaview, St Helens, Brading and Yaverland – which form the benefice of Haven Churches – on the Isle of Wight.

Volunteers have been instructed to “go to town” on bringing flora and fauna into the churches by the Revd Alison Morley.

This year shared homemade apple juice and bread after Harvest Festival are off the menu.

Instead the benefice is focussing elsewhere. Congregants are being asked to ‘sponsor trees’ for a community orchard. After worship, parishioners will be asked to put a name against a tree to be planted in the autumn.
The Revd Morley explained: “With so much uncertainty and fear around, the planting of trees is a visible and tangible sign of hope and of patience as we wait for the harvest in three- or four-years’ time.”

The churches are also prioritising their ‘Eco Market’, which provides income and charitable donations.

“I have so many people joining us in the Market,” she explained.

“They’re coming for a chat and staying as a volunteer - even just to knit dish cloths!”

“We currently have a strict six-volunteers-at-a-time limit in place but since reopening the church has made more new friends than we could ever have imagined.”

The Queen appoints Archdeacon of London as Chaplain

The Archdeacon of London, Fr Luke Miller, has been appointed as a Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen. A Chaplain to The Queen is a member of the clergy who, after distinguished service, is appointed to an honorary role in service of the monarch.

Fr Luke will become a member of the College of Royal Chaplains which forms part of Her Majesty The Queen’s Ecclesiastical Household. He will join a rota of Chaplains who are available to Her Majesty at any time and will preach once a year in the Chapel Royal, St James’ Palace, London.

The Ven Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London, said:

“I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed by Her Majesty The Queen to this role, which I will take on alongside my position as Archdeacon of London and Rector of S Andrew by the Wardrobe. It will be a great privilege to work alongside the other Chaplains to The Queen, both from within the Diocese of London and beyond, from whose ministry I will learn a great deal.”

Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London and Dean of Her Majesty’s Chapels Royal, said:

“I’m delighted that Her Majesty The Queen has appointed Fr Luke to this role. It’s a well-deserved recognition of his work in the Diocese of London and beyond over the past 30 years since his ordination. The wide variety of work he undertakes in the Diocese, and the creativity and commitment with which he approaches it, is inspiring and will serve him well in this new position as an Honorary Chaplain to The Queen.

The Diocese of London is privileged to be home to several excellent Chaplains to The Queen, which is testament to the hard work and dedication of our clergy.”
Fr Luke has been Archdeacon of London since 2016, and was previously Archdeacon of Hampstead. He is currently a member of the General Synod and very recently stepped down as Chair of the London Diocesan Board for Schools. He chairs the Faith Sector Panel of the London Resilience Forum and is responsible for helping Faith Communities across London be ready to respond in major incidents. Recently he has played a leading role in guiding the Diocese of London’s response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and has been appointed a member of the London recovery Board.

Fr Luke becomes the fifth member of the Diocese of London clergy to serve as a current Honorary Chaplain to The Queen. Fr Edward Lewis, the Vicar of St Mary’s Kenton in North London, is the most longstanding Honorary Chaplain, having been appointed in 2008 whilst working as the chief executive of the Hospital Chaplaincies Council. The Archdeacon of Hackney, Liz Adekunle, and the Senior Chaplain to the Metropolitan Police, Jonathan Osborne, were both appointed to role in 2017, while Rupert Charkham, who joined as Vicar of St. Michael’s Church, Chester Square from the Diocese of Cambridge this year, was appointed in 2016.

**Battle of Britain, 80th anniversary: The Few are honoured, if only by a few**

A SERVICE to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain went ahead at Westminster Abbey on Sunday. The Dean of Westminster, the Very Revd Dr David Hoyle, described the occasion as a chance to “seek out, together, the ways of peace and reconciliation”.

The Abbey has held a thanksgiving service every year since 1944 to remember the pilots and air crew who died in the Second World War. This year it was the first national event to take place in the building since the start of the pandemic.

A statement posted on the Abbey’s Twitter feed yesterday read: “Social distancing means there will be a smaller congregation than usual, but we’re delighted the annual Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication can go ahead.”

In previous years, the service has attracted a congregation of close to 2000. This year, owing to social-distancing restrictions, only 79 guests were present. Chairs were placed two metres apart, and plastic screens were inserted between the north and south transepts of the Abbey.

Those attending included the Prime Minister, who gave a reading from Philippians 2.1–11; Sir Keir Starmer, leader of the Opposition; Lord Stirrup, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, who was representing the Prince of Wales; and the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mike Wigston.
Also present was the Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force, the Ven. Air Vice-Marshal John Ellis, who paid tribute to the “service, sacrifice, and dedication” of those working in the health service in his address.

During the service, the Battle of Britain roll of honour was borne through the Abbey, escorted by serving Royal Air Force pilots and aircrew, and placed beside the high altar. The roll contains the names of the 1497 pilots and aircrew killed or mortally wounded during the battle.

In the words of the Dean: “Their sure courage halted the advance of a terrible tyranny. They held fast in days of greatest danger. For their resilience and their skill we give thanks, for their pain and loss we grieve.”

The service ended with an act of dedication, led by the Dean, “to building a world where there is justice and peace for all, and where women, men, and children live a life of full human dignity”. Three Spitfires and a Hurricane — the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight — flew over central London after the service as a tribute.

I wish I had the words to describe the joy of being able to sing in St Hilda’s again by Paula Gething

Thank you so much for the kind words, the choir works hard and it is nice to know that some of the time at least, our work enhances worship at St Hilda’s. But for us, music is an integral part of our prayer, and the first weeks of being able to lift our voices to the glory of God in that beautiful place again have been wonderful.

Dare I say it has been a tough year for the choir? We have seen more than one change in leadership, struggled with accompaniment and learning new pieces of music. We have had to change long held habits and principles - and that was before COVID-19.

I did not ever anticipate ever being legally unable to sing in church!

Before lockdown, Singing was part of everyday life for many of the choir. Friday Choir Practice has been non-negotiable in my house since we moved to Ashford and I joined the choir in 2005, much longer for everyone else, yet suddenly we learned that it was a potential source of spread and even if we were allowed back into church, we would be unable to sing.

Chris Maddock’s talent, equipment and dedication made recorded music possible in the weeks of lockdown. Something we had previously taken for granted, suddenly took hours to achieve. Firstly, we needed a tune or accompaniment and we tried various options. We are all eternally grateful to Melvyn Rouse for the most consistent and beautiful tunes he provided for many of the weeks. We managed a couple of anthems unaccompanied and Chris found a programme that would convert notes into a passable track. Each week the
recorded accompaniment - whatever the source, was circulated by Chris, with the music and step by step instructions on how to record one’s own voice using a mobile phone.

Supplying music by “karaoke” was difficult. Firstly, there is no acoustic, you have to remember to wear your headphones so the recording only listens to your voice and if you make a mistake you have to start again. Secondly, there are no excuses for errors on a recording. We recorded using the voice app on our mobile phones, which meant each Person needed 2 devices; one to play the backing and one to record. I lost count of the number of re-takes each week. Frustratingly, the errors never happened in the early verses, usually in verse 5 or 6, just when I thought I had done it.

Once, I sent in my offering without listening to it first. Listening to the recording - voice only with no accompaniment, was agony and every one of us trusted Chris implicitly with that agony. One Saturday I just couldn’t face listening to it and I sent it in. An hour or so later, I had a message from Chris to say that “there was a lot of background music on my recording”. Listening back, I realised I had forgotten to use my headphones, the recording was of me and the backing track and so would not work, and I had to start again.

We have kept all the recordings and have recorded our practices in church since we have been able to meet there again, not every member of the choir has been able to return yet and the first communion hymn is a recording while the choir receives. We will continue to use recordings at times, which we hope will keep involved those who are still shielding.

Once Chris received all the tracks he then had the long job of “stitching” each voice recording together with the backing music to construct the track finally used in the service / live stream. But as each of us had a different quality phone to record with, there were also differences in speed and the odd noise that he had to edit out. Each week’s offering took Chris about 5 hours. This commitment and dedication enabled us to sing “together” during that difficult time.

Finally we were allowed to sing in church again and whilst joyful, I think we thought it would be easier.

We did a risk assessment and got out the 2 metre stick. It would be possible to accommodate 12 easily in the available space, more with some imagination. We knew books would be a problem, so we decided everyone would have their own seat and the books would stay there from week to week. A track and trace register would be easy. We even found a website that provides copyright free organ accompaniment, this is going to be much easier, so we thought. Robing has not been possible and it is also not possible to process and socially distance, but we can sing and we can sing together.

You may have noticed we have selected some really rousing hymns, we have loved singing them. We now always record and listen at choir practice, so as a group we are learning about the sound we make and adjust what we do accordingly.

Are there challenges? Of course. Chris is now galloping through the Lady Chapel after he starts the live stream from the table at the front of church so he can sing the first hymn.
Last week, he had to do a return journey to read, then get back to his place in the stalls quickly enough to start the recorded second reading. If the music volume is not loud enough, he sends me a text (- and I have to read it in church!) The speakers in the choir stalls have to be off while we are singing, but we can’t hear Fr Joseph unless they are on for the rest of the service. (That is Stuart’s job). Carolyn, Chris, Rosemary and I meet weekly to plan and prepare.

To a man (and woman) we are delighted to be back. Lockdown reminded me what a privilege it is to be able to sing in a place such as St Hilda’s and certainly not something I should take for granted. We are planning Christmas now although it seems unlikely we will have returned to congregational singing by that time. Ssoooooo if you want to sing the hymns why not think about joining the choir. We are a great team, we are very welcoming, people say nice things about us And we have the best seats in the house...

**St Hilda’s is Open**

Over the last few weeks we have welcomed many people back to the Church services, whilst those who continue to self-isolate join the worship via Facebook live. We would like to welcome you all back, but only after you have carefully thought about your own personal situation.

We can assure you that the church is as Covid friendly as possible with clear segregation, hand sanitiser availability, as well as the requirement for all to wear facemasks during their time in the building apart from when receiving communion.

If after considering this, you feel you are still not ready to return for any reason, please remember the ministry team are still here for you, and if you wish to speak to Fr Joseph, please contact him direct or call the Parish Office and Denise will pass on your message.
**APCM/ Vestry Meeting**

The 2020 APCM/ Vestry meeting will be on **Sunday 25th October @ 11.30am.** In the current climate, the meeting will require some planning and consideration to ensure that all members of the electoral roll are able to participate.

Under current restrictions, the APCM/ Vestry meetings will be held in a hybrid format, the majority of participants will be invited to join by Zoom meeting (including telephone). Those who do not have option of joining via Zoom can either join via telephone or request to attend the meeting in person. Attendance in person will be a restricted number to comply with current government and Church of England guidelines, so only those who don’t have the facility will be considered to attend in person.

**Zoom Registration**

All those wishing to attend will need to inform the Parish Office either by phone or email. The Zoom meeting codes will then be shared with those individuals.

An information pack will be distributed to all members on the electoral roll that will include copies of reports as well as guidance on how to use zoom, including how you can vote.

NB important to note that each member of the electoral roll will need to join the meeting separately to enable individual votes.

**PCC Nominations**

One of the agenda items, will be the appointment of new PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives.

- Any communicant who is on the Electoral Roll is able to stand in either capacity
- There are 4 positions to fill on the PCC
- In addition, there are 3 positions for Deanery Synod members

Forms are available at the back of the Church or on request, and will need to be completed and returned to the PCC Secretary by 9am on 25th October. As part of the nomination process each nominee will be requested to write a short bio including:

  i. A little about themselves
  ii. What you will bring to the PCC
  iii. Why you would like to be part of the PCC.

Any questions please contact Denise in the Parish Office, *we are in difficult times and as such need to be flexible in our approach. Thank you for your understanding.*
St Hilda’s Parish News

Harvest Festival – Sunday 4th October 2020
This year St Hilda’s will be collecting donations for The Salvation Army’s foodbank appeal. They are looking for donations, especially:

- Food
  - Tinned meats
  - Tea and Coffee
  - Sugar
  - Biscuits
- Toiletries/ Other
  - Toilet roll
  - Tea and Coffee
  - Nappies/ Baby Wipes
  - Sanitary Products
  - Deodorant
  - Toothpaste
  - Shampoo

The Great Ashford Jumble Trail
Following the great success of the Ashford Jumble Trail, another is being arranged
Put the date in your diary – Sunday 18th October
St Hilda’s will again be participating and will be appealing to you all for:

1. Help on the day and beforehand (collecting, sorting etc.)
2. Any donations
   a. Clothes
   b. Toys and Games
   c. Books
   d. Ornaments
   e. Toiletries
   f. Anything else!

Please contact the Parish office if you are either able to help out, have donations you require collecting or whether you have questions.

Pilgrimage
The pilgrimage to the Holy Land that was planned for this November has unfortunately been postponed to March 2022.
Those who have booked this, will shortly be contacted by McCabe with your options, which will be either your booking will be carried forward, or you can cancel and your deposit will be refunded.

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, as well as at the back of the church.
Deadline for applications to be received by The Electoral Roll Officer 25th September.
Appeal
We have been contacted by a local community project for any unwanted embroidery thread, cotton, wool, or other sewing threads. This includes wool, but no fabrics please. If you have any that you would like to donate, please either contact the Parish Office or leave in the box at the back of the church. Thank you

Ladies Group
The ladies group is re-starting again, fortnightly from 30th September at 7.30pm. It will be a kind of a hybrid - a zoom meeting, and with up to 6 in church (Lady Chapel) for those who don’t have the facility. To join by zoom, see instructions under Tea and Chat, and enter

- Meeting id – 979 5352 0934
- Password – 631917

Any questions please ask Carolyn or Elisabeth

Local News
Revd Allen Bower was inducted as the new vicar of St Saviours church in Sunbury earlier this week. Fr. Joseph in his capacity as Area Dean took part in the service along with The Archdeacon of Middlesex Richard Frank and The Bishop of Kensington Graham Tomlin.

*We welcome Revd Allen to Spelthorne.*

If you have any Parish News you would like to share, then please send them into the Parish Office.

We have now had 22 editions of the St Hilda’s News and we would like to know your opinion.

Do you enjoy the articles?
Have fun with the puzzles?

This is the newsletter of the St Hilda’s family so what do you want to read about in it? Please let us know (good or bad) and any suggestions you may have for other features
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 27 September 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 – 980 0919 9552
   • Enter password – 625138

   • Dial – 0203 051 2874
   • Enter Meeting Id – 980 0919 9552 – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
   • Password – 625138

More Tea … – 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 however, there is no topic and would welcome everyone for a general chit-chat.

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 29 September @ 10.30am
The codes are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

• Meeting id – 940 4505 0929
• Password – 917216
This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist – 27th September @ 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 – 30th September @ 9.45am
To attend either service please book a ticket on Ticket Tailor (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.

St Hilda’s Junior Church
Junior Church has been thriving in recent weeks, however, due to the current guidelines and restriction unfortunately we’ve had to review how this runs for the foreseeable future.

- We can only allow a maximum of 20 children to attend each week, they will be split into 2 clusters
  - Unfortunately this means we may disappoint some each week
  - Materials can be shared with those who are not able to attend
- Parent helpers – this will be limited to 4, any parents who do attend will be required to support the Junior Church leader in the cluster they are assigned to.
  - All parents along with the leaders will be required to wear a face covering.
- To attend Junior Church, you must book on-line or call the Parish Office to book a place. Please don’t turn up without booking to avoid disappointment.

Proverbs 2:20
Therefore walk in the way of the good,
and keep to the paths of the just.

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

Opening times - 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.

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

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Crossroads
Please email Rosemary at crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The September edition is now available on our website.
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
- Michael Browne
- Pamela Claridge
- Robb Clarke
- Rebecca Cohen
- Ann Considine
- Chris Davenport
- Michael Dixon
- Jim Hennessey
- Jane Johnson
- Libby Mills
- Raymond Nation
- June Prentice
- John Radford
- Elizabeth Savill-Burgess
- Delphine Scrivener
- Riley Shaw
- Anne Shenton
- Elsie Stone
- Roy Stone
- Sandra Swain
- Rev. Peter Taylor
- Chick Wilson
- Peter Wilson
- Jo Wood
- Nic
- Martyn
- Joey

**The Recently Departed**
- Christopher Court
- Cyril Winter
- Shirley Warrender

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**Prayer**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen
Puzzle Page

Time for Tea Wordsearch
(puzzle created by Terry Rickson)

Riddle
What is greater than God,
more evil than the devil,
the poor have it,
the rich need it,
and if you eat it you die?

Number Tower

Answers from last week
Sudoku

Word Wheel

Word Snake
Soaked, Sopping, Drenched, Saturated, Waterlogged, Swamped, Dripping, Doused, Flooded, Sodden, Watery