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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
Bishop of Kensington encourages Christians to consider how to relate to each other during Covid-19

The Bishop of Kensington is encouraging Christians to think about the way they relate to one another, as coronavirus cases continue to rise across the UK.

Rev Graham Tomlin told Premier that Covid-19 has left Christians with a “real choice” between relating to others and cutting themselves off.

Although there has been a positive wave of people acting selflessly, Rev Tomlin believes that there is a danger that such behaviour could be short-lived. Due to infection risk, some people are starting to fear their neighbours while others are no longer speaking to strangers.

“I think there's a real choice between us now, in this coronavirus time. Do we choose the way of actually going out from ourselves towards God and our neighbour? Or do we turn back inwards and [continue] in this sort of “inward-looking” way of the world?”

Rev Graham Tomlin is responsible for several churches in West London. When asked about how they are doing, he says that although the restrictions still feel unusual, churches have managed to stay connected despite so few people attending in-person meetings and not even being allowed to sing.

“I'm now going out to our churches in person [and it] still feels strange not being able to sing, not being able to have the wine at communion. [...] it still feels odd. But in this time, I think we are learning to find new ways to connect with one another and to connect with God as well.”

Despite the ongoing hardship, Rev Tomlin is upbeat about how well churches have adapted to the needs of the community, particularly in view of the constant and frequent changes to government rules for congregations.

“People have had to reinvent church every few weeks as the new regulations come in," he said. "I think people have been very inventive. They've been very innovative.

“Some churches respond to that better than others. But on the whole, I think churches have done really well at being able to find ways to connect with one another”.

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the privilege that it is to be able to stay connected with our church through these uncertain times.

Help us to behave selflessly and make us aware of the needs of those around us.

In Jesus’ name
CHRISTIANS should “channel the abundant grace of God” towards both refugees and those who fear them, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said.

In a sermon preached to a congregation in Washington National Cathedral, in the United States, by video link, on Sunday, Archbishop Welby said that “the greatest movement of people in human history continues to grow,” although it had been “almost forgotten amidst the pandemic”.

“From the burning refugee camp the weeping of the helpless rises into the unhearing air,” he said. “From the dusty road with the trails of belongings abandoned, children lost, women violated, men humiliated, bodies unburied, there are only the after-marks of horror beyond horror.

“From Dover in England to Queensland in Australia, the tides rise and fall on innumerable beaches, and only the groan of the shingle testifies to the lives lost at sea.”

Refugees fled their homelands “for any and every reason”, he said. “They may have illusions about their destination, and their reasons for fleeing may be more or less understandable. Yet they flee.”

The Archbishop also drew attention, however, to “the cries . . . from the poorest among us. They are the cries of those who find their neighbourhoods changing; for the refugees do not normally come to the wealthy areas, but to the poorest.”

The inhabitants of poor communities said that it was “almost impossible” to share their “inadequate resources” with “strangers”, he said.

“Like the travellers, the displaced, they are often not heard . . . until they vote; until their voices are channelled so loudly that they can no longer be ignored.”

When addressing the refugee crisis, Christians “must not compromise with false simplicities”, the Archbishop said. “But we must, as Christians, channel the abundant grace of God.”

St Peter’s first epistle, the Archbishop went on to say, taught that the Church comprised people who were once “aliens and strangers. . . Because we were exiles, we love exiles.

“How that must change us, if that truth grabs us deep in our gut, as it must. . . We cannot surround our love with barbed wire, so that only those with the password can be its recipients.”
Yet Christians sometimes treated “church life as politics, and our way of doing things as superior to all others”; made “malicious comments through social media”; and could be “insincere” and “cruel”.

“We have been transformed, not by our virtues, but by the grace of God alone. Yet sometimes we behave as though we then had to wage a civil war in God’s Church so that our views may prevail. . .

“It is no wonder that, in the global North, we see numbers decline; for the rule of love is so often the rule of self.”

The Church, he concluded, should be a place “that, knowing its exile, loves the stranger, knowing its forgiveness has become the home for the Spirit of love”.

‘Love can jump two metres’: Archbishops upbeat despite pandemic trials

A HUMBLER and simpler Church of England must bless the nation, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

They were addressing a special one-day session of the General Synod on Thursday, which met to approve a change in its constitution to allow remote decision-making during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, speaking to the Synod for the first time since becoming Archbishop of York, began by emphasising how much he hated the coronavirus: for how many lives it had claimed, for ruining weddings, baptisms, and funerals, for robbing children of time in school, for forcing so many into isolation, pain, and depression.

But the Church must also recognise what it had learned from the last six months, he said. “We have learned that those whose jobs we thought were menial and inconsequential are vital and essential. We have learned that we belong to each other. We have learned that love transcends boundaries and can easily jump two metres.”

There was an opportunity amid the tragedy for the Church to speak up for the poor and the common good, and to ensure other important issues such as “the curse of racism”, the environment, and Britain’s relationship with Europe do not slip off the agenda.

He thanked those in public office who had made “hard decisions, and inevitably come in for sharp criticism”, and then apologised for the “inevitable mistakes” the Church’s leadership had made during the pandemic, without specifying anything in particular.

Everyone was learning how to be a humbler and simpler Church during the Covid age, and to be dependent on Christ alone, he concluded.
Archbishop Welby warned that there was a “new kind of trial” coming to England in a second wave of coronavirus. Foodbank demand, unemployment, domestic violence, mental-health problems, and poverty were all growing, and it was impossible to know in what form the C of E, or even the country, would emerge from this period. The consequences of Brexit remained uncertain, as did the future of the Union, while prevarication over the climate crisis continued.

He echoed Archbishop Cottrell’s apology for mistakes made during the difficult “uncertainty fatigue” experienced throughout the pandemic.

“In one sense, it has given us a sort of national PTSD,” he said of the past six months. Acknowledging how much worship had been forced to change, he suggested that “I think you’re on mute” had almost become a liturgical greeting, to knowing laughter across the chamber.

But amid the loss, trauma, and struggle, the “darkness does not overcome the light”. The Church must continue to bless its nation, to pray and offer worship, and even expect to see renewal, he urged. The General Synod, despite meeting to agree a legal formality, must also look forward to the new Church that God was “loving into being”.

**Feed all children on universal benefit, Welby and Butler plead**

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has joined the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, in urging the Government to give free school meals to all children from households on universal credit, to prevent a “harrowing” situation by Christmas for many families.

In a joint article published in the TES on Thursday, Archbishop Welby and Bishop Butler write: “The circumstances of the past year have meant that many have needed extra support. According to research by the Trussell Trust, 46,000 food parcels will need to be provided by their network to people in crisis between October and December 2020: an increase of 61 per cent on last year.

“Their estimate that an additional 670,000 people will be destitute by the end of the year is harrowing.”

They have urged the Government to supply schools with the resources they need to support children in the months ahead, including “the expansion of free school meals to every child whose family is on universal credit, and the expansion of holiday provision to all children on free school meals.”

Furthermore, they highlight the need to focus on children’s mental well-being, writing: “A Nature Premium would also be a valuable development. Outdoor play, exercise, and access
to nature are vital to healthy learning. Helping schools ensure outside activities continue will aid mental as well as physical health.”

They acknowledge that school resources are “at their limits” in terms of time and funding, stating that the Government would need to fund more training and support for the volunteers needed to help feed children and provide extra educational support.

Archbishop Welby and Bishop Butler praise the efforts of Norwich diocese’s “Filling the Gap” project, which supplied 128 families with 26,082 meals over six weeks; also Marcus Rashford’s free-school-meals campaign (News, 16 June).

Archbishop Welby posted on Twitter on Thursday: “We stand with Marcus Rashford and everyone working so hard to make this happen.”

In addition, Bishop Butler joined a number of charities, including the Trussell Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, in a letter on Wednesday to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, calling for him to retain the £20-a-week increase in benefits given during the pandemic. It was introduced in April as a temporary measure to help families on low incomes.

It was omitted from the Covid-19 support package announced last week. The authors write: “If the uplift ends in April 2021, this good work risks being undermined.”

'Black history is British history': Christian MP calls for better black history curriculum in fight against racism

A Christian MP has marked the beginning of Black History Month by urging the Government to ensure students are being thoroughly educated about black history all year round.

In a video with Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, Labour MP Marsha de Cordova, said schools have a part to play in ending racism, especially in light of racial unrest this year.

De Cordova said in the video: "The Black Lives Matter movement shone a light on racism in the UK and around the world. One way for the Government to act would be to ensure that young people learn about Black British history, colonialism and understand Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade. Black history is British history."

The MP for Battersea's comments come after a recent study by Teach First revealed that students could leave secondary school without having studied literary work by a non-white author.
"Marcus Garvey has a famous quote, saying, 'a man that doesn't know his history, or his culture is like a tree with no roots,'", she added.

"And I'll also say we had the McPherson report 20 years ago that also made reference to having a culturally diverse curriculum to help prevent racism. And more recently, with the Windrush review, really, if we want to be a progressive society, then we really should be looking at ensuring that our history, black history, which is British history, is part of the curriculum."

Marcia Dixon, religion correspondent for black newspaper The Voice and Christian PR specialist, echoed those thoughts. She told Premier black history curriculum has to be more than learning about slavery.

"Most of the history that is taught in school about the black contribution to history has been around the whole subject of slavery. As important as it is to discover that, I think it's important for people to realise that prior to slavery, black people had their own kingdoms, they were inventing, they were writing, they were doing great things.

"I just think it's wrong to focus on black people through the prism of slavery, poverty, police oppression, we are so much more than that. Since the protests over the killings of George Floyd, people are looking at the black community in a different way, which I think is a really good thing."

Dixon said Christians can celebrate black history this month by digging deeper into the black Christian history.

"I think it's important to look at how black people have helped to shape Christianity," she said.

"I would also encourage people to actually learn about the ways that Christian black people have been inspired and empowered by Christianity to actually fight against oppression. The whole thing about Gospel music, which has its roots in the spirituals, it arose as a musical response to the oppression that black people were experiencing.

"Martin Luther King and Desmond Tutu not only espouse Christian values, but they are saying to society there is a better way to live.

"As Christians, we can look in the Bible, look at Church history to see the role that black Christians have played in promoting the Gospel, but also fighting for justice, which is something that is very close to God's heart."

Lord help us to see the true value in learning more about black history.
We pray that you will help schools make sure they are providing a diverse curriculum and truly fights against racism.

Amen.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

As we approach the APCM and the associated elections, below is an insight into the roles of the different bodies and positions.

In St Hilda’s as with all churches, there are 2 main committees

- Parochial Church Council (PCC)
- Standing Committee

1. **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The PCC is made up with representation from the following groups, the number next to each indicates how many.

- Vicar – 1
- Other Clergy (Carolyn & Rosalyn) – 2
- Church Wardens – 2 (see section below)
- Deanery Synod – 3 (see section below)
- Laity members (church members on the electoral roll) – 12
- Co-opted – where skills or expertise are required in addition to the PCC, going forward these will be by exception.

**Role of the PCC**

- Co-operates with the minister (Fr Joseph) in promoting the mission of the church. Together with the minister have a duty to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, and to co-operate in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- Responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church, and buildings
- As well as being responsible for the care and upkeep of the church overall charge of all expenditure
- members are Trustees of the church.

The business at times can be vast, and sub committees are formed led by members of the PCC but have a membership from anyone from the congregation e.g. Stewardship, Buildings, Fundraising etc.

2. **Standing Committee**

The standing committee shall have power to transact the business of the Council between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee’s role is therefore subservient to the PCC.

The committee therefore deals and manages the day to day running of the church, but can only act with regards to changes or expenditure with the consent of the PCC.
Members of the Standing Committee are – the vicar, church wardens plus 2 others, who are appointed by the PCC, it is though deemed best practise for the secretary and treasurer to be part of this committee.

3. **Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod representatives are also members of the Spelthorne Deanery Synod. The body play an important role in representing local churches to the Diocesan Synod.

4. **Church Wardens**

The Churchwardens are the Bishop’s officers, and are admitted to office each year by the Archdeacon, on behalf of the Bishop. Their first responsibility is to the Bishop, usually via the Archdeacon. They, with the parish priest, are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish.

Churchwardens are vital to the health and wellbeing of our church communities. It is an important and, at times, a demanding role. Roles include, though not exhaustive:

- care for and support the parish priest, and be people to whom the incumbent can turn to for advice and support
- try to ensure that the incumbent is relieved of superfluous administrative, and other, tasks
- provide feedback, as a ‘critical friend’, for the parish priest
- care for the congregation and encourage people in their Christian faith
- help to resolve disputes or disagreements amongst the congregation or with the parish priest, or with the local community

If you want to learn anymore more about the roles, please contact Fr Joseph or one of the church wardens.
**Vestry Meeting and APCM**

The 2020 Vestry meeting and APCM 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 for a term of office until April 2021.
- 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
- Toiletries/ Other
  - Toilet roll
  - Toothpaste
  - Shampoo
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- Nappies/ Baby Wipes
- Sanitary Products
- Deodorant

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.

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
Ask the Vicar.....
Watch this space! Fr Joseph has received his first question, answer to appear here next week!

Remembrance Sunday 8th November
In the year of the 75th Anniversary of the end of the WWII, St Hilda’s would like to remember the fallen with a tribute in Church. This year, as well as our usual poppy garden we would like to display knitted / crochet poppies in a similar way to the poppies at the Tower of London. If you can help make the poppies or have any red wool that you are able to donate please let us know.
There is also some wool in Church if anybody needs some for making poppies.
A pattern is shown, but please feel free to use any pattern you have.
In a year when we will be unable to remember them at the war memorial services as we have in the past, please help us to honour their sacrifice.
Please bring any knitted poppies in by 1st November.
We also have a crochet pattern for those who prefer, please ask you if would like one.

A way to brighten one’s day
Thanks to Pat and John Parish for these beautiful roses along their garden wall. They really brightened my day. Paula.
What put’s a smile on your face?, we would like to hear.

Local News
Some good news for Spelthorne as we have just been taken off the watch list having been placed on it a couple of weeks ago.

If you have any Parish News you would like to share, then please send them into the Parish Office.
**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 4th October 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](http://www.zoom.us)
   - Click – Join a Meeting
   - Enter the Meeting id – **956 3063 3248**
   - Enter password – **387232**

   - Dial – 0203 051 2874
   - Enter Meeting Id – **956 3063 3248** – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
   - Password – **387232**

**Even Superheroes enjoy a nice cup of tea!**

**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 6th October @ 10.30am**

The codes are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- **Meeting id – 918 7575 8545**
- **Password – 718425**
This week’s services

Sunday Eucharist (Harvest Festival) – 4th October @ 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 – 6th October – No service this week

To attend the Sunday 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.

Galatians 5:22-23
22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

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.

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.
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

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**Prayer**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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

Cornish Cracker Wordsearch
(puzzle created by Terry Rickson)

Instructions
Place the numbers 1-5 only once in each row or column.
The greater than and less signs (>, <) indicates where one cell is greater/less than the adjacent cell indicated.

Futoshiki

Riddle
Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?

Answers from last week

Wordsearch

Number Tower

Riddle
Nothing!

Word Wheel

10 letter word – Spelthorne