

St. Hilda's Newsletter

August 2023

Helen's Ordination

What a joyous afternoon (albeit very hot) we had at Helen's Ordination on Saturday 17th June 2023, which took place at St Paul's Church, Hammersmith and was led by The Bishop of Kensington (The Right Reverend Dr Emma Ineson). It was so lovely to see so many Ordinands (19 in all).

Following the service, the attendees from St Hilda's, together with Father Joseph and Elizabeth, met Helen outside to give her our congratulations. It was lovely to be there all together and to witness Helen's first blessing of Father Joseph.





Attendees of Helen's ordination, congratulate her outside

O Happy Band of Supporters

Three memorable events have been supported by members of the congregation over the past few weeks.

At the end of May after the morning service at St Hilda's, a group of us met to take the train to Waterloo to attend the service at St Paul's Cathedral, where Father Joseph was to be installed as a Prebendary. Unfortunately, there were no trains from Ashford due to engineering works, so we had to pile on to a replacement bus that took us to Hounslow. That was not a pleasant experience!

Once at Waterloo and after a picnic lunch we went to get a bus to St Paul's but regrettably, they were not running due to a cycle race taking place around the city area and we ended up walking in some haste along the South Bank.

Thankfully, we got there in good time and were joined by others who had made their own way up. As always, we were overawed by the size and splendour of the Cathedral. The service was conducted by Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London, within the framework of Evensong and Father Joseph was one of six to be installed. There was some beautiful music performed by the choir, including Psalm 67 and rousing hymns for us to sing including "Come down O love divine" and "O Thou who camest from above". If you visit St Paul's, you must look for Joseph's stall with the name of Chamberlain Wood. By chance it was the stall of David Vanstone until he retired. Afterwards, we were able to meet with Father Joseph and his family.



The installation of Joseph as Prebendary

A couple of weeks later a more organised trip, thanks to Bobbie booking a minibus, was arranged to Father Joseph's Collation and Induction as Rector of the parish of St Mary's Acton. It was an extremely hot night, so it was a relief not to have to brave the train system again. Once again there were others who made their own way there and we only just made it due to the heavy traffic. I think we were all surprised by the position of the church in an extremely lively area of Acton and by the sheer size of it - huge! The contingent from St Hilda's almost equalled the regular congregation and we were asked to go to the front of the church during the

Service, for Rosalyn to do a hand over from St Hilda's to the new parish. This service was embedded in the Eucharist and was conducted by Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy the Bishop of Willesden. It was a long but moving service and again we sang some stirring hymns.

Afterwards, we were invited to a reception and met with Father Joseph and his family.

Barely three weeks later saw many of us gathered at St Paul's Church, Hammersmith, for the Ordination as Priest of Mother Helen, by Dr Emma Ineson the Bishop of Kensington. She was one of nineteen being ordained to serve in parishes around the Diocese.



*Above: St Mary's, Acton
(Joseph's new church)*

Below left: Helen's first Mass



This was again embedded in the Eucharist and was an exuberant and joyful service. There was a mixture of traditional and very modern music in another huge church, almost under Hammersmith Flyover. One of the most moving moments for me was after the ordinands had been presented and made their declarations. The Bishop laid hands on them individually and they were accompanied by the priest from the parish which they would be joining. They then had their stoles taken off and replaced around the neck instead of across the chest and they were presented with a Bible. We were able to meet with Helen afterwards and share her joy.

Joyce Rouse

Becoming a Churchwarden

On Tuesday 27th June, Chris Brown and I were sworn in as Church Wardens of St Hilda's church, at St Mary's Church Twickenham, which has an enviable riverside position with pay and display parking. I was very grateful that Elizabeth Bate and my husband Nick were there to support us, as none of us really knew what to expect.

We were greeted at the door with an apology. The invitation asked us to arrive at 6.30pm for a 7.30 start. We duly arrived at 6.30. It seems the plan was to start at 6.30 and some people had been waiting since 6pm. Obviously, others would arrive nearer 7pm or even 7.30. The Archdeacon therefore had a dilemma; require the early birds to wait an hour and a half or to start early and risk upsetting those who didn't arrive until nearer 7.30. We were informed on arrival, that the decision had been taken to split the difference and start at 7pm. Cold drinks and cake were provided and it seems most people didn't mind waiting.

After a colourful introduction from the local vicar, the Archdeacon took over. The order of service displayed the hymns and Nick and I were delighted that we knew all of them, starting with Praise My Soul The King of Heaven. At times like these, we are reminded how lucky we are at St Hilda's with the quality of the recorded accompaniments we use. The recording used for the first hymn was rather fast and the voices were strong but unfortunately a little slower than the recording. Something similar happened with the second hymn and thankfully the recording broke at the start of the third hymn so at the insistence of the Archdeacon we gave up with the recording and sang it a cappella. There were approximately 45 people in that church but the sound we made was fabulous. It was suggested that we had missed a trick in not starting a choir of church wardens! There really were some splendid voices, joyfully raised in worship.

The extract on the following page, from the Church of England website, indicates the churchwarden duties that we have promised to undertake:

The Canons of the Church of England [Canons E1.4 and E1.5] state that churchwardens shall be foremost in representing the laity and in cooperating with the incumbent; they shall use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them. They shall also maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service. The property, in the plate, ornaments and other moveable goods of the church, is vested in them, and they should keep an up-to-date inventory of these items and deliver them to their successors.

Churchwardens should:

- 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
- when any concerns arise, they should consult the Area Dean and/or Archdeacon

Churchwardens should have a set of keys for the church.

They should attend services regularly, and normally arrive in good time to support the welcome group, be present for any refreshments, and assist in tidying up after services.

Paula Gething

Editor's note:

Liz Brian has also taken the time to write about Fr Joseph's installation as Prebendary and his Collation and Induction.

Evensong and Sermon at St Paul's Cathedral

On Sunday 28th May, a group from St Hilda's Church took up the challenge of the bus replacement service offered by South Western Trains to get to St Paul's Cathedral to see Father Joseph being installed as a Prebendary. In the Church of England, a Prebendary is an honorary title for senior parish priests, usually awarded in recognition of their valuable ministry in the Diocese. This was given to Father Joseph for having made a considerable contribution as the Diocesan Chaplain for the Gypsy Traveller and Roma Communities. Father Joseph was one of six Prebendaries to be collated at the Evensong Service. Prebendaries are appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the Dean and are installed as members of the Cathedral's College of Canons. They have their own stall in Quire, are invited to preach once a year and are given a portion of the psalms to recite each day. Father Joseph was collated into the Prebend of Chamberlainwood.

The Service was led by the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, The Very Revd Andrew Tremlett, who presented those being installed as Prebendaries to the Bishop of London, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE. The Prebendaries-designate affirmed their beliefs and swore allegiance to his Majesty the King, Canonical obedience to the Bishop and to uphold the Constitution and Statutes of the Cathedral. They were then led to their designated stall. The service of Evensong followed on with the choir singing the responses, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis. The sermon was preached by Canon Dr Paula Gooder, Chancellor and Canon in Residence. The service ended with the Organ Voluntary, Plein Jeu, and Dialogue sur les grands jeux from Veni Creator by Nicolas de Grigny.

Some members of our congregation met Father Joseph and his family for a celebratory drink after the service, before again tackling the homeward journey avoiding the bike race in London, taking the train to Hounslow and then waiting for the bus and eventually making it back to Ashford.

Liz Brian

Collation and Induction

On Tuesday 13th June, thanks to Bobbie, our journey to St Mary's Acton did not depend on South Western Trains so was more straight forward. This was for the collation and induction of Father Joseph into his new Parish. St Mary's Church is in the centre of Acton town, in the London Borough of Ealing. Bobbie had booked a minibus that, despite the rush hour traffic, managed to get us to Acton within 5 minutes of the 7 pm start, to the sound of the Church bells. There is always room at the front in C of E Churches for the late comers, so we were seated well before the service started. It was good to see other members of the congregation and other Ashford folks who had made their own way to the Church, including clergy from the Spelthorne Deanery. There were also friends of Father Joseph and his family who had travelled further to attend.

The Institution of a new Incumbent (called Collation when the Bishop is Patron) is performed by the Bishop who commits to the new Incumbent the cure of souls within the Parish. As St Mary's, Acton falls within the Diocese of London, Willesden Area, the Bishop is The Rt Revered Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, the Bishop of Willesden. The Induction is performed by the Archdeacon who gives the new Incumbent charge of the church buildings and legal rights to the income and privileges of the benefice. The Archdeacon of Northolt is The Venerable Catherine Pickford. Near the beginning of the Service, members of St Hilda's, Ashford were asked to commend Father Joseph to his new parish. Thank you to Rosalyn Young for representing us and making the transition from our church to St Mary's, Acton so special.

After the Collation, the Archdeacon took Father Joseph to the main door of the Church and presented him with the keys, and Father Joseph then tolled the church bell as a sign of a start of his ministry in the Parish. The Churchwardens and representatives of the Community including the local MP, and local Clergy, then welcomed him into his new Parish.

After the service refreshments were served in the Church Hall, which gave us all a chance to meet up with Mother Helen, Father Joseph and Elisabeth and talk to members of his new congregation. Then the minibus arrived to get us back to Ashford in half the time it had taken us to get there.

Liz Brian

June's Messy Church

At Messy Church in June, we explored the theme of Pentecost and unseen powers and forces.

As well as doing a variety of things like bubble painting and magnetic fishing, we considered a number of questions. Two of our young people, Sophie and Alice, came up with these deep and thoughtful responses to the questions recorded below in italics.

Why do the fish stick to the rod? What is the invisible power called?
Fishes stick to the rod because of the bait. This is like God baiting us to do good. The invisible power is called God's love.

What draws us to God? Why do we want to believe in him?
We are drawn to God because every Christian knows when we need Him, He is there. We message Him by our prayers.

Why do we want to believe in God?
We want to believe in God because He takes us on the right path and when we need help, He helps us. He always forgives us our sins.

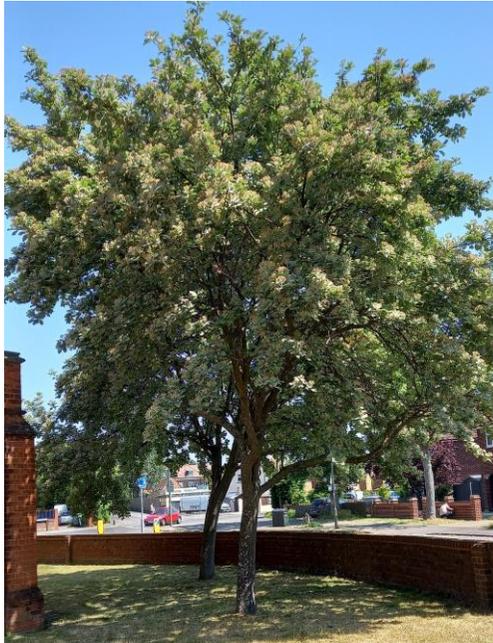
Why don't you ponder these questions and think about the answers you would give?

Rosalyn Young

St. Hilda's Trees

Most of you reading this are familiar with St. Hilda's Church and grounds. Do you know how many species of trees we have there? One of the questions on the Eco Church survey is whether, and if so how often, we undertake wildlife (birds, animals and plants) surveys on our lands. At the moment, our answer is "Never." To improve this, I've started looking at the plant life in the church gardens. I thought I knew them quite well, but I found several surprises, and evidence of how quickly nature can take over when left to its own devices.

Do you know what these two trees are?



There is another specimen to the north of the church. They are Whitebeams - probably the Common Whitebeam *Sorbus Aria*, but my reference book states that " ...the classification of *Sorbus Aria* is a minefield, in a state of flux, and viewed differently by various experts."

Next to these, is a tree most people can identify: a Silver Birch *Betula Pendula*. Ours is quite mature so its bark is no longer smooth silver but has a much more varied texture.

Continuing to the flower bed near the crypt, there are some Columnar Golden Irish Yew trees: *Taxus Baccata 'Fastigata Aurea'*. Apparently, all plants of this variety descend from one of two trees found in County Fermanagh in the 18th century. This bed also contains a creeper I don't recognise, twining round one of the supports of the crypt roof; it looks as though it could be a species of Jasmine - can anyone tell me what it is?

Around the car park there is a riot of trees, as several of the species propagate themselves vigorously, including Laburnum *Laburnum Anagyroides* and False Acacia *Robinia Pseudoacacia* - beware of its thorns. Nearly lost among them is a red-leaved tree planted, "To the glory of God and in memory of Bernard Nicholas." This is another species I can't identify; I don't remember ever seeing it flower. Does anyone know what it is?



Above left: Silver Birch

Above right: Irish Yew

On the west side of the car park, there is an Elder bush *Sambucus Nigra* (should this be considered a tree or a shrub?) and a Holly tree *Ilex Aquifolium*. Both of these may well be self-set. The Holly is evergreen, but it sheds its leaves generously over the memorial garden which contains our final official tree: the Millennium Yew, *Taxus Baccata*. In addition to these, seedlings of the Sycamore tree we removed last year still appear, there is a young Hazel bush near the Stanwell Road entrance which was probably planted by a squirrel, and I found two Oak seedlings whose acorns must have travelled a fair distance. If I've missed any trees, please tell me; and make a note of any more mobile wildlife, such as animals, birds, and invertebrates, you may see in the church grounds.

Rosemary Greenwood

Another Farewell

As well as losing Helen and Fr. Joseph in May, we also said farewell to Gordon and Carolyn Clark.

Carolyn has been one of our Licenced Lay Ministers for a number of years, helping lead our worship and giving thought-provoking sermons, as well as being a strong voice in the choir. She trialled other forms of worship with us, started a Prayer Group, and re-started the Bible Study group after lockdown.

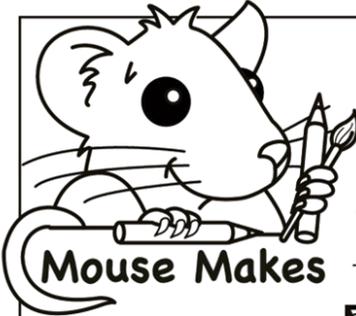
Gordon has served as Church Warden, helped lead Junior Church, and was one of our representatives during the previous vacancy. He has taken the lead in our current Mission Action Plan, been our Safeguarding Officer, and on the team providing intercessions.

Having moved to Chertsey, Carolyn and Gordon felt called to join the congregation of their local church there. We miss them.

We are grateful for the fellowship and ministry they have shared with us over the years, and pray that God will bless them in their new home.

Rosemary Greenwood

Children's Page



The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?

BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

P L B O W I K
 R I O S I L G
 O G O N S W O
 P H K E D O L
 H T S W O R D
 E R L T M D O
 T E A E G O D
 S V W S E E D
 L E T T E R S
 T L W A N L O
 H A M M E R N
 O T I E H I G
 N I R N I R S
 E O R T S A B
 Y N O R T I I
 F I R E O N B
 P O E T R Y L
 F O O D Y O E

- LAW**
God's rules for living
- Old Testament **HISTORY**
- POETRY and SONGS**
- WISDOM**
advice for living
- THE PROPHETS**
- New Testament **HISTORY**
the life of Jesus
- LETTERS**
teaching and advice
- REVELATION**
about the end of time

The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '*Biblia*' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:

- Mirror**
James 1:23
- Food**
Hebrews 5:12- 6:1
- Honey and Gold**
Psalm 19:10
- Light**
Psalm 119:105
- Rain**
Isaiah 55:10-12
- Seed**
Mark 4:14
- Hammer**
Jeremiah 23:29
- Fire**
Jeremiah 20:9
- Living Word**
Hebrews 4:12
- Sword**
Ephesians 6:17

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

The Origin of St Hilda's Millennium Garden and its Yew Tree

The article below, from the St Hilda's family newspaper of September 2001, is an account by Rev Stephen Blood (who sadly died recently) on the dedication service for St Hilda's Millennium Garden. Few people today would remember or believe that the space it occupies was once a thicket where an obsolete electricity substation stood. The Church of England promised a cutting, taken from some of the [yews](#) in its churchyards that are more than 2,000 years old, to any parish that wanted one. It expected to distribute a few hundred but by the end of 2000 it had distributed 8,000 cuttings. The project helped raise awareness of environmental issues within the church and provided a large collection of yew trees of known provenance. So our tree is a cutting from a parent tree which is over 2,000 years old.

When the Millennium loomed ahead, Professor David Bellamy suggested the planting of Yew Trees to mark the year AD 2000, and he prepared to supply these to Churches and other concerns. Then an idea took root. With limited funds, but unlimited enthusiasm of a team of gardeners and labourers, began the creating of the garden in the now disused Southern Electricity Board land next to the church car park. (This land had been purchased for £1)

Chick and Peter Wilson, Eileen Ingles and Pat Parish worked mightily, and John Hunt cared for the Yew sapling, which had arrived. Harry Knight then planted it in the plot. So the Garden has grown from an idea to a reality and will stand, we pray, for perhaps another Millennium

Planning of the dedication now started – would the weather be fine? whom should we invite? were just some of the questions. A Cheese and Wine Party was planned and clergy who had helped through the interregnum were invited. Peter and Chick Wilson also secretly planned a surprise for they were determined that the opening and dedication should have a special note.

It was very heart-warming that, when Mary and I entered the Hall, we were well received by members of St Hilda's asking how retirement was affecting us. The timetable required us to move to the Church by 8.45 pm. It was there that Peter and Chick's real surprise took place. Four trumpeters from the Household Cavalry introduced the Service of Dedication with a fanfare from the Altar as I took my place.

I told the story of how the garden came about. Then a passage from the 'Life of a Yew Tree' reflecting on the coming of Christianity was read. This led on to the prayers for the Garden, those who would use and maintain it. We sang the hymn 'Now thank we all our God' then moved outside with another fanfare before the Opening and Blessing of the Garden.

The catering Team had prepared refreshments. Keith and Marguerite Hart supplied the wine. Ray Kitto expressed our thanks to them, to the Trumpeters, and all who had planned and prepared the evening.

'A few words' from me and the evening was complete. To you all, 'Thank you for a wonderful get together'

Jane Dobbie



The Millennium Yew

Want to contribute?

It would be preferred if all submissions were between 250 and 500 words to save on editing time. Please write in Calibri 12 point.

Pictures/photographs are encouraged, but please select only one or two that you want included with the article.

We would welcome contributions for a children's page, or articles about the wider church.

Please email all contributions to the **NEW** email address:

editor@sthilda.org

Church contact details

If you would like help or to speak to one of the ministry team, please contact the parish office:

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