



St Hilda's
Ashford

St Hilda's News

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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

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More churches and cathedrals reopen for Easter

Guidance permits weddings to be held in church again as stay-at-home rule is disbanded

MANY churches and cathedrals that have remained closed throughout the recent lockdown are reopening in time for in-person worship during Holy Week and Easter — but online services and events remain at the heart of festivities.

On Monday, the Government updated its guidance on places of worship in England in line with the next step of its roadmap to lifting Covid restrictions. Since Monday, the stay-at-home rule has been replaced by the rule of six: up to two households of unlimited numbers, or up to six households of six people, can now meet outdoors. This applies to outdoor worship, too.

Indoor worship has been permitted in Covid-safe churches throughout the latest lockdown, but festivals and life events are now included, such as weddings of up to six people, previously permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Funerals remain limited to 30 people. Children and support groups can continue to function indoors in church buildings.

Face coverings remain mandatory, and congregations are still limited to the Covid-safe capacity of the building, allowing for social distancing. Singing, however, is now permitted in small groups, allowing church choirs to return in some form for Holy Week and Easter. Bath Abbey has been closed for worship since January. Since then, the floor has been restored and a new eco-heating system installed. The building reopened for in-person services on Palm Sunday.

The Rector, Canon Guy Bridgewater, said: "After all the painful challenges of this last year, we look forward eagerly to celebrating the life-renewing hope of Easter. It will be a great joy to celebrate Christ's victory over death, as a church family back in the abbey once again — especially as we weren't able to come together at Easter last year."

Southwell Minister, and Ripon, Bradford, and Leicester cathedrals have also reopened for the first time since January.

On Easter Monday, Salisbury Cathedral is releasing an album of organ music that was played as people received their Covid vaccinations in the building, to raise money for NHS Charities Together. More than 25,000 people have been vaccinated at the cathedral.

The new album, *Salisbury Meditation: Music for the NHS*, features 16 tracks compiled by the director of music, David Halls, and assistant director of music, John Challenger,



A server, Xander Galloway-Gee, leads a donkey outside Ripon Cathedral, in North Yorkshire, on Palm Sunday, before the eucharist, the first main Sunday-morning service held in the cathedral since January

including pieces by Bach, Handel, and Pachelbel, and film scores. It can be bought from the cathedral website.

The cathedral is open for in-person Easter services, all with choral music, all of which will be live-streamed. This includes a family service on Easter Day, during which a virtual children's choir will sing a new song, "Make me a light", by Philip Wilby, as part of a joint Cathedral School and Cathedral Outreach project.

The Precentor, Canon Anna Macham, said: "To be able to worship in person is wonderful, especially after worshippers were not able to access the building at all for Holy Week and Easter in 2020, during the first lockdown. We would love a full return to normal, but we will have to bide our time and be patient."

As last year, restrictions in England do not permit a large gathering for the Trafalgar Square Passion Play, which had been running on Good Friday since 2010. Instead, the 2019 *Passion of Jesus* will be live-streamed tomorrow at noon and 3 p.m. on the Wintershall Facebook page. A new introduction from the producer, Charlotte de Klee, the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, has been recorded.

Other online events include an Easter service broadcast by the Christian British Sign Language (BSL) website christianbsl.com at 4 p.m. on Holy Saturday. The website posts videos showing how to sign words and phrases that might be useful in church, as well as prayers, reflections, and readings — all of which are presented by deaf interpreters, church leaders, and worship leaders.

A former inmate at HM Prison Winchester is to tell the story of his recovery in spoken-word poetry during an Easter Day service that will be live-streamed to more than 50 prisons. The service from Christ Church, Winchester, broadcast on the Prison TV channel at 9 a.m., will include a message from the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls. A curate at Christ Church, the Revd Craig Philbrick, said: "Prisons are often side-stepped by the community — no one really knows what to do or how to help. This service is a great example of how we can support the prisoners and staff of HM Prison Winchester."

On Easter Monday, an international Christian radio station for children is being launched by AllstarsGO Studios. The new channel, AllstarsGO Radio, was piloted in February. It will broadcast live shows, dramas, children's worship, Bible stories, and guest interviews for 12 days, for free, on its website, app, and Amazon Alexa.

As in England, Wales has also ended its national lockdown, which had been in place since 20 December, and under which places of worship had been permitted to open for general worship, funerals, weddings, baptisms, and private prayer. Limits on numbers are also determined by the capacity of the building.

For the many churches in Wales that remain closed, however, the Church in Wales has organised a virtual pilgrimage for Holy Week using Google Earth. E-pilgrims will be able to visit 14 churches, at each of which a video reflection and prayer have been filmed. These have been uploaded to Google Earth with photos and details of the history of the building and area.

The pilgrimage will begin at Bangor Cathedral. The Bishop of Bangor, the Rt Revd Andy John, who is the lead bishop for faith tourism, hoped that it would inspire people to visit more churches as they reopened. "Faith tourism has been hit particularly hard during Covid-19. Tourists are looking for unique ways to connect spiritually with sacred places." In Scotland, places of worship have reopened after national Covid restrictions that instructed their closure in January were ruled unlawful. A group of 27 church leaders filed a judicial review at the Court of Session, arguing that the Scottish government had acted beyond its emergency powers by banning in-person worship. Lord Braid agreed last week that the regulations went further than was lawful.

Field of memories. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., St James's, Devizes, is inviting people to visit the Green outside Devizes School and place a wooden cross and heart in the ground to create a field of memories and experiences during the pandemic. On Easter Day, a posy of flowers will be attached to each cross and heart around a large floral display.



KEITH BRINDLE *The Vicar of St James's, Devizes, the Revd Keith Brindle, on the Green with the first crosses and hearts*

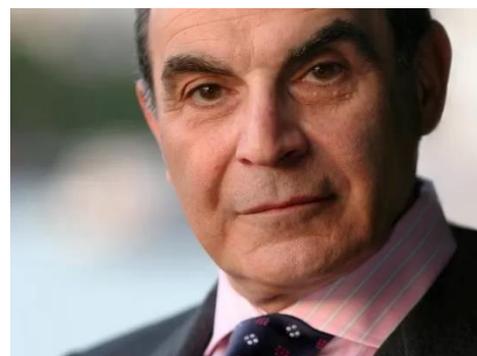
The Vicar of St James's, the Revd Keith Brindle, said: "Our hope is that the field will give the people of Devizes an opportunity to share our experiences of the pandemic in a simple and visual way. This weekend marks a year since the first lockdown, but is also Easter, which celebrates the enormity of God's love for each one of us, demonstrated in the resurrection." Sue King, from St John's Flower Guild and Devizes Flower Club, said: "After the display is finished on Monday, it will be composted and used to nourish a crocus bed, which will be planted on the site to remind us every year of

the pandemic and this time in our history."

Visitors to St John the Baptist, Royston, this weekend, are also invited to create a display to remember people who have died, are bereaved, or affected in other ways during the pandemic, by attaching a flower to the church gates, which are being covered in greenery in preparation.

Sir David Suchet reads 879 Bible verses at Westminster Abbey

Actor Sir David Suchet CBE has read the whole of St John's Gospel at Westminster Abbey for its upcoming Easter Sunday service. The book, which contains 879 verses, was read from the abbey's renowned Jerusalem Chamber. The recording will be broadcast as a streamed premiere via the abbey's website at 4pm.



Sir David Suchet said: "I count it as a great privilege to be filmed reading St John's Gospel in the iconic Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey."

The Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev Dr David Hoyle, said: "When the translators of the 'King James' Bible met to agree the final text, they tested it 'by ear'; they read it aloud. Hearing the gospel is not the same as reading it and having David Suchet read John, in the Jerusalem Chamber, is both exciting and compelling."

Best-known for playing Agatha Christie's fictional detective Hercule Poirot, Sir David became a Christian in 1986 after reading a hotel room Bible. He has read the entire Bible before, for Hodder & Stoughton's NIV Audio Bible, which has sold over 100,000 copies worldwide - and a previous reading of the whole of St Mark's Gospel at St Paul's Cathedral has received over 1.5 million views online.

The Jerusalem Chamber has a long history with Bible translation. It hosted the translation committee for King James I's Authorized Version of the Bible in 1611, who read the full Bible aloud in the final stages of their work.

Lord we thank you for your word.

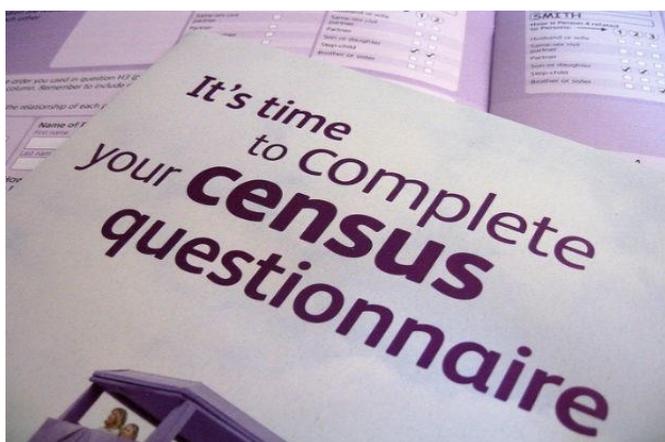
Help us to truly treasure it. May this reading by Sir David Suchet be a blessing and inspiration to many.

Amen.

UK Census: my vicarage doesn't exist

Nicholas Cranfield waited for his Census code. It did not come

Canon Nicholas Cranfield is Rector of All Saints', Blackheath, in south London.



WITH mounting excitement, I had waited for my Census form to arrive. Would it ask this year if I prefer Sugar Puffs to Cornflakes or whether I have ever holidayed in Wales? Such excitements. But nothing came. The neighbours had their form delivered ten days ago, but I could not claim to live there. The helpful local Census officer, who has been giving me information to publicise in church

over several months, suggested I should phone the helpline for census.gov.uk. Eventually I found why I have not been sent a form: my address does not exist. Even though my address appears clearly among those in the listing for my postcode, along with several neighbours in the street, when clicked it says: "Not Known", and refers to the helpline number.

Easier said than done. There followed three-and-a half-hours (cumulatively, over two days) of call-waiting. Interspersed with a poor choice of band music, a recorded voice advised me of a high call-volume and a waiting time of more than six minutes. Then, at the end of each working day, it cut out with a crisp command to call back the next day — not much help, two days before the cut-off.

The next day, I tried at 8.01 a.m., waiting for 28 minutes before Morning Prayer. I tried again later, and after 48 minutes, I finally got to speak to an adviser.

She was helpful, but found that, because my address did not exist for Census purposes, she could not send out the magic code.

I assured her that the house has been here since 1886, and that I had seen the returns for 1891 and 1901. I had filed my own returns in 2001 and 2011. I also had received an electoral mailing at this address the previous week.

She explained that new listings had been drawn up in November 2020. Possibly, I suppose, but I see that two neighbouring properties are still listed as each containing three flats, even though both were converted back to single occupancy before 2011.

She could still not give me the all-important code, but suggested I download the 32-page form, and then gave me the wrong directions of where to find that on the ONS website. But all was finally well.

I HALF-wondered whether the Romans were quite so incompetent back in the day. I recalled how cleverly *The Life of Brian* exploited a census mistake. Having read about the birth of Jesus at mass that morning (St Joseph's Day), I felt all was right with the world, after all.

Unusually on a government form, I saw nowhere to indicate my "satisfaction level", or "how likely I would be to recommend the Census to a friend"; but I have written to the local officer to explain the palaver.

To his credit, he offered me ten out of ten for persistence, noting: "It is just as well that we do not have to return to the city of our birth for the census, as lockdown would have a major impact on the outcome." How true.

Birthday Wishes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY from all your family at St Hilda's to **SHELIA FREEMAN** who will be 90 years young on Saturday. We hope you have a wonderful day.



Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

There is a new weekly slot for St Hilda's News. Sheep and Lambs Together, Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages.

It will provide a weekly chance to be creative with and reflect upon a reading from that Sunday. Usually it will be the Gospel, It is designed for everyone, from 3 to 103 ! You can do the activity and reflection as a family or on your own.

The idea of Sheep and Lambs comes from John 21, where Jesus asks Peter to care for and feed his lambs and sheep. For me that represents all ages.

So give it a go, whether 3 or 103 or anything in between !

Rosalyn Young

Easter Sunday

Read John 20 : 1-10

Why not make your own Easter Garden.

Fill a large tray, large garden pot, plastic food tray, or anything suitable with earth, potting compost or sand and add twigs and flowers. Use a cardboard tube to make the tomb. You may want to cut it. Put a stone by the tomb and a piece of fabric inside. Add play figures for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Jesus. Enjoy playing with the scene as you recount the story of Easter morning and the resurrection. Maybe you don't have any figures to use and that doesn't matter. You could make card figures.



Or you could use a few house plants to create the garden. Rather than play you can read one of the Gospel accounts of the resurrection and just sit and reflect on the scene.

St Hilda's Parish News

St Hilda's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Sunday 25th April after the service at 11.30am. Like last year we will be holding the meeting via zoom to adhere to the government's covid safety measures.

Nomination forms for membership to the PCC are available in Church or by contacting the Parish Office.

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

Canaan Ministries are open for any of your Lent needs. Just simply phone or email them and they will look after you. They also offer a delivery service.

Any other information can be found on their website www.canaanchristianministries.co.uk/

Acts 3: 15

and you killed the Author of life,
whom God raised from the dead. To
this we are witnesses.

This weeks services

Easter Sunday – 4th April @ 9.30am

This service can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford), and Twitter.

Wednesday Eucharist – 7th April @ 9.45am

Tickets can be booked for this week's services via the links on our website and Facebook page or by contacting the Parish Office.

Day of Service	Booking Opens	Booking Closes	Livestream
Sunday	Monday 9am	Saturday midday	Yes
Wednesday	Thursday 9am	Tuesday midday	No

Please see the back page for Holy Week services.

Tea and Chat after Sunday Service

We will be taking a short Easter break from Tea and Chat.

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	Peter Garner	June Prentice	Chick Wilson
Michael Browne	Eileen Gilbert	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Peter Wilson
Robb Clarke	Jim Hennessey	Delphine Scrivener	Jo Wood
Rebecca Cohen	Jean Iddiols	Riley Shaw	Erin
Ann Considine	Jane Johnson	Elsie Stone	George
Michael Dixon	Pat Kyle	Roy Stone	Pat
Jackie Forsbrey	Libby Mills	Sandra Swain	
Patsy Forsbrey	Raymond Nation	Rev. Peter Taylor	

The Recently Departed

Michael Orchard	Daphne Leader	John Radford	Peter Richardson
Beryl Loveridge	Jean Newrick		

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
 who in your tender love towards the human race
 sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
 to take upon him our flesh
 and to suffer death upon the cross:
 grant that we may follow the example of his patience and
 humility,
 and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
 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



Palm Sunday
9.30am Parish Eucharist

Maundy Thursday
7pm Eucharist

Good Friday
1pm Private Prayer
2pm Liturgy

Easter Eve
10pm Easter Vigil

Easter Day
9.30am Parish Eucharist

Attendance at all services must be pre-booked via our website sthilda.org, our Facebook page or by contacting the parish office 01784 253525 / office@sthilda.org

All services are livestreamed.

*The Stations of the
Cross
Reflecting on the
Pandemic*

Good Friday 1 -2 pm

