



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
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Covid Memorial Wall should become permanent if the public wants – Archbishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury has said bereaved relatives should be allowed to decide whether the National Covid Memorial Wall in central London should be made permanent.

Justin Welby spoke with people adding tributes to the wall, which features roughly 150,000 pink and red hearts representing those who have died with coronavirus, along with Rabbi Daniel Epstein and Imam Kazeem Fatai in a show of support and solidarity.

Mourners began painting on the wall opposite the Houses of Parliament, to ask the Government to acknowledge the deaths and make the memorial permanent, on March 29.



The memorial, which stretches almost 500 metres between Westminster and Lambeth bridges by the Thames, is still being added to as the death toll rises.

After speaking with bereaved relatives and saying prayers with them beside the wall, the Archbishop said: “It’s like a huge wave that’s about to break over you of sorrow, it’s the most extraordinary sight, it’s quite overwhelming.”

“It’s very moving, very impressive, to think of the depth of love that they’ve shown here and working their way down the wall where all these hearts are ... it’s a great privilege to be here.”

“The Rabbi, the Imam and I were together ... it sounds like a bad joke doesn’t it ... but the Rabbi, the Imam and I were saying it’s such a privilege to come down together, because this is about everyone, it’s about the national community.”

When asked whether the wall should be made permanent, he said: “I think that’s up to the relatives, I think we listen to those who have done it, is the first and most important thing.

“It’s organic, not planned, it hasn’t been worked out by a committee, and that makes it all the more powerful.”

Rabbi Daniel Epstein said the wall gives the personal stories behind the “overwhelming” coronavirus death toll.

He said: “If you come back and focus on a single heart, and you have a name on it with a date and some words, and you take everything that is overwhelming as a statistic and it comes back to a single story ... that’s the only way to find out about such an overwhelming experience.”

Imam Kazeem Fatai agreed the wall should become permanent.

He said: "It's affected a lot of people, it's a global tsunami, so us believers we need to reflect ... it should become permanent."

Ben Spencer drew a heart for his father Brian Spencer, who was a cab driver for 20 years until he died aged 71 on April 24 last year, and the family were not able to hold a proper funeral for him.

He said: "We thought it would be nice to have somewhere to remember him ... it's good to feel that you're a greater part of something too.

"He was a joker, the life and soul of the party, and so, so argumentative. We used to like to wind each other up quite a lot.

"He was known as 'The Walrus' throughout his adult life because he had a handlebar moustache ... it stuck for almost 50 years."

Michelle Rumball, 49, a carer, and Courtney Rumball, 20, a drama student, etched a red heart for their mother and grandmother Violet Partington, 78, who died on April 20 last year.

The Archbishop said a prayer for Ms Partington, who was a Church of England Christian, which Miss Rumball said had been "amazing" because they had not been able to properly grieve until this moment due to coronavirus restrictions.

She said: "We were telling the Archbishop about my nan... it's been like a nightmare that you can't wake up from.

"Those in Parliament aren't recognising (the deaths) so someone has to.

"Something I've found as a young person who has lost someone to Covid is my nan's death and other people's deaths haven't been addressed.

"There's been no support, there's been nothing, so coming down and meeting other people and realising you're not on your own... it just gets us talking, and talking is something we haven't had the opportunity to do."

After his visit, the Archbishop tweeted that the wall was "a moving public testimony to so much private grief".



Bishop accuses wedding industry of 'ramping up' expectations for the big day

The wedding industry has been accused in the Lords of "ramping up expectations" for the big day.

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, said marriage itself mattered more than the "commercial trappings" of the wedding day.

At question time, she said weddings did not have to be an "expensive extravaganza".

The bishop's comments came as peers urged ministers to back the institution of marriage and recognise National Marriage Week next month.

Commending marriage week, she said one of this year's themes was that weddings did not have to be an "expensive extravaganza" and pointed out that fees for a church wedding or a simple registry office ceremony were "very modest".

The bishop said: "The wedding industry is busy ramping up expectations of what a special day should involve."

She urged the Government to encourage couples to understand "that marriage itself matters far more than the commercial trappings of a wedding day".

For the Government, Baroness Scott of Bybrook said she agreed with the bishop on the "ever increasing cost of weddings" but was not sure it was an issue ministers should get involved in.

Lady Scott said the smaller weddings due to Covid restrictions had "perhaps made people think they do not need the huge weddings that they have had in the past".

Tory Baroness Eaton said it was 10 years since a minister last recognised National Marriage Week.

Many peers regretted this and would welcome recognition of the "stability bound in marriage" and the benefits this brought to children, Lady Eaton said.

Lady Scott said ministers had no plans to recognise the week but did acknowledge the role marriage can play as the basis for family life.

She said families came in "all shapes and sizes" and the Government wanted to ensure that "any type of family can provide a nurturing environment for children".



Church Commissioners to reduce carbon intensity of its portfolio by 2025

The Church Commissioners for England today announced its goal to reduce the carbon intensity of its investment portfolio by 25% by 2025.

The 25% reduction target, based on a baseline of 2019, is a realistic goal in our mission to create real world change to transition to a net zero global economy.



As part of this goal, the Church Commissioners commit to increasing engagement activity with the highest emitting companies in our portfolio, as well as with our investment managers across all asset classes.

We are also increasing our policy work in the build up to COP26 and beyond. This includes Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Deforestation and the Green

Recovery as well as increasing our efforts to search for, make and enhance the supply side of climate solutions investments.

To achieve this goal, the Commissioners continue to engage with companies and policy-makers, and are working across the whole portfolio. The Commissioners hope that in addition to reducing emissions within the portfolio, that true indicators will be seen on the path to the decarbonisation of the real economy.

The 2025 target includes the Commissioners' public equities and real estate portfolio, with other asset classes to be included as methodologies and reliable data develops.

An example of the Commissioners' commitment to climate solutions is a £30 million investment in the Zouk Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Fund, which will support the roll-out of the UK's electric vehicle charger network.

The Church Commissioners for England joined the UN-convened Asset Owner Alliance (AOA) in January 2020, formalising the Commissioners' 2050 commitment to transitioning its investment portfolio to net zero GHG emissions by 2050. Since joining the AOA, the Commissioners have been active across all its workstreams, and participated in developing the AOA's Target Setting Protocol. The Alliance currently includes more than 30 asset owners representing 5.5 trillion USD in AUM.

Tom Joy, Chief Investment Officer for the Church Commissioners for England, said: "Real action is necessary to respond to the climate emergency. Through this 2025 interim goal, the Church Commissioners are reaffirming their commitment to reaching net zero. This 25% reduction in carbon intensity will be the first step in getting there. We are pleased to work with the AOA and join others in this approach, which we are confident will make a real difference."

Bishop of Oxford appointed to new committee on environment and climate change

The Lord Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, is among 13 peers appointed to a new Lords Select Committee for the environment and climate change.

Bishop Steven is known as a leading advocate of fossil fuel divestment within the Church of England and has previously called for 'nothing less than an ecological conversion of every person and every part of society'.

The new committee for environment and climate change is one of five new sessional committees designed to allow for more effective and comprehensive scrutiny by the House of Lords over major areas of public policy.



"Human beings are far more than consumers: we are called to be just stewards of creation, to care for the poorest and the weakest. Human fulfilment lies not in escalating consumption but in meaningful rest and labour and learning to be content. Many dioceses, including Oxford, are placing care for the earth at the top of our agenda for the coming years. It means identifying challenging but achievable targets and the practical path to reach them. We need to hear the voice of government in policy detail and not just principle," Bishop Steven said in a statement.

"The leadership we offer to the COP summit must be demonstrably grounded in the trinity of policy intervention, technology solutions and the changing lives of our entire population," he added.

Ruth Chambers, senior parliamentary affairs associate at the major coalition of green groups, Greener UK, creation, welcomed the new environment and climate change committee: "Never has there been a better time for House of Lords scrutiny on the environment and this committee is very welcome," she said in a statement.

In March Bishop Steven announced the Diocese of Oxford had completed its divestment from fossil fuels. The Diocese of Oxford declared a climate emergency in March 2020.

Lord,

Let us seek to be better stewards of your creation and care for your beautiful world.

We give thanks for the Bishop of Oxford and pray for him in his new role.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

New Bishop to Archbishops of Canterbury and York appointed

The first post-holder will be Dr Emma Ineson, currently Suffragan Bishop of Penrith

THE post of Bishop at Lambeth has been abolished and replaced by “Bishop to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York”, it was announced on Monday. The first holder of the new post, Dr Emma Ineson, currently Suffragan Bishop of Penrith, says that she will use the post to bring together the north and south of England.



The current Bishop at Lambeth, the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, announced his retirement earlier this year. The new arrangement is to “facilitate closer working” between Lambeth and Bishopthorpe Palaces, a note from Lambeth explained.

Dr Ineson will leave her home in Kendal, in the diocese of Carlisle, in May. Like Bishop Thornton, she will be based at Lambeth Palace in London, but she said on her appointment on Monday: “I am excited, because I think that there is a real opportunity for closer working between the two Archbishops and two offices. It is a really good thing about the north and south: I am delighted, especially coming from the north-west as I am, to be doing a role that encompasses both Provinces. The role itself signals some important developments.”

This includes work on the Church’s vision and strategy, she said. “We are coming into a new era. We are doing a lot of work on vision and strategy and the emerging Church; it is such a key point for the Church as we emerge after Covid, so there will be new and wider elements to the role, which I will be relishing. I have been involved with Archbishop Stephen already on the vision work.”

This process, she said, “has been discerned very much in partnership with people around the C of E, so all sorts of voices have been listened to, especially younger people; we are trying to engage with a younger and more diverse group of people.”

She continued: “I am looking forward to consolidating some of the things that we have heard coming out of that, particularly developing a mixed ecology of church, to making sure that our Church reflects the communities that it ministers to and serves. . . We have so much to say in terms of hope, who God is, and the work God can do in people’s lives.”

Beginning on 1 June, Dr Ineson will work directly for both Archbishops, and closely with the College of Bishops and the House of Bishops, and the National Church Institutions. She will also have specific oversight of the programme for the 2022 Lambeth Conference (News, 15 January), the working group of which she already chairs. Dr Ineson will not, however, be Bishop to the Forces or Episcopal Commissary to the Falkland Islands, both of which are duties of the present Bishop at Lambeth.

“We are organising some really exciting bishops’ conversations, which are opportunities for all the bishops around the Anglican Communion to get together — mostly on Zoom — in

smaller groups to get to know each other and to worship and pray. Just sorting out the practicalities and organising that will be a big part of my role for the next few months.”

Dr Ineson is a former chaplain to the Bishop of Bristol, and was Principal of Trinity College, Bristol, from 2014 to 2019. She was appointed Bishop of Penrith in May 2018, and consecrated at York Minster the following February.

She spent most of her childhood in Kenya, her family moving to Wales when she was a teenager. She studied English at Birmingham University, then for an MPhil, and a Ph.D. on the language of worship. She and her husband, Mat, trained together for ordination at Trinity College before serving a job-share curacy in Sheffield, and later as chaplains to the Lee Abbey community in Devon.

She has been a member of the General Synod, the Faith and Order Commission, and the Implementation and Dialogue Group. She is also Central Chaplain to the Mothers' Union, chair of the CPAS Council of Reference, and a trustee of Emmanuel Theological College. She has written two books: *Busy Living: Blessing not burden* (Continuum) and *Ambition: What Jesus said about power, success and counting stuff* (SPCK).

She said: “I have really enjoyed my time in Carlisle diocese. It is with very mixed feelings that I leave here: excitement about the new role, but I will carry the hills of Cumbria in my heart into the centre of London as I move. I am just hugely grateful for the communities of Carlisle welcoming me over the past few years.”

The Bishop of Carlisle, the Rt Revd James Newcome, thanked Dr Ineson for her “instrumental” work in the diocese. “Emma has brought tremendous oversight and leadership qualities to the relaunched God For All vision. She is a fantastic communicator of the gospel message, and I know she has inspired many others to explore their faith further. All of this, married with her strong analytical and strategic skills, will, I’m sure, see her flourish in her new role.”

Archbishop Welby said: “I know she will bring her considerable wisdom, humour, and humility to the role, as well as her wealth of experience as a chaplain, teacher, and outstanding preacher. Archbishop Stephen and I are looking forward to working with Bishop Emma on issues relating to the emerging Church, the role and nature of bishops’ meetings, and the priorities we face.

“As we look forward to the Lambeth Conference, in which Bishop Emma will continue to play a crucial role, her authentic and practical ministry will be invaluable to the global Anglican Communion.”

Archbishop Cottrell, said: “Her theological depth and pastoral heart will be a huge blessing in this important ministry, not just to the Archbishops but to the Church of England, as we strive to be a simpler, humbler, and bolder Church.”

Archbishops welcome anti-racism report



The Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen, and the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2020

THE Archbishops of Canterbury and York have welcomed the report of the Anti-Racism Taskforce and have pledged to implement five of its recommendations immediately:

- working with the General Synod to co-opt ten ethnic-minority candidates with full voting rights;
- inviting ethnic-minority clergy as participant observers to House of Bishops meetings until there are six UKME bishops there by right;
- establishing a racial-justice commission to review and reform the Church's working practices, and to "hold the two of us to account for our leadership in this regard";
- working with the Archbishops' Council to create a racial-justice directorate as part of the national church institutions, to spend the next five years ensuring the implementation of the taskforce's recommendations; and
- again with the Archbishops' Council, working to replace the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns (CMEAC) with a new standing committee to oversee the work of the new directorate.

The Archbishops have invited the Revd Dr Joel Edwards to act as the commission's first chair.

In their response, the Archbishops write: "Racism is a sin. Of this, we have no doubt. Anything which diminishes the value and beauty of each individual person, made in the image of God, is sinful. There is no place for it in the world, and we are determined to make sure there is no room for it in the Church.

"But it is here. We have seen, time and time again, people being bullied, overlooked, undermined and excluded from the life of the Church, from the family of God. It breaks our hearts, and we are truly sorry."

They note the lack of progress over the past 35 years. "We hope we will be the generation to halt this cycle of inaction."

The Anglican Minority Ethnic Network (AMEN) also welcomed the report. "We are particularly pleased that the report calls for urgent action with a proposed implementation action plan that has details of what needs to be done, when it should be done, and by whom," a statement said.

AMEN also commended the report for “highlighting racial justice as the work of the ‘whole church’ and not ‘a minority concern’. This, in our view, is an important insight with very far-reaching implications. It should discredit and remove any idea that the issue here is about doing a favour to minority ethnic people and make it clear, as the report does, that this is about the Christian imperatives of ensuring justice for all and the growth of Christ’s body.” The statement concluded: “We hope that people across the Church of England will rise to the challenge, the call to real and urgent action presented by this report. We thank the Task Force for this courageous and actionable report. Now is the time to act, and we are all called upon to do something to move things forward.”

Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

25th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Read John 10 : 11-19

The Good Shepherd

Make a sheep or lots of sheep from card and cotton wool. Or just colour them in. If you don't want to make one, then use a toy sheep. Take one and hide it somewhere in the house and then send everyone else to try and find it. Give a clap or even a small prize to the winner! Play this as often as you like. Think how good it feels to find something which is lost.

If there is just one of you in the house, why not place the sheep in a different unusual place in the house, moving it each day and every time you see it reflect on how God loves those who come to him.



Editor's note – please share a picture of your sheep, and we will publish in next week's St Hilda's News.

Lift Up Your Voices, Lift Up Your Hearts

Church Music Webinar Tuesday 18 May

ONE LICENSE
CHURCH TIMES

St Hilda's Parish News

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

Vestry Meeting and APCM

The 2020 Vestry meeting and APCM will be on **Sunday 25th April @ 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.

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 has been distributed to all members on the electoral roll that included copies of reports.

PCC Nominations

One of the agenda items, will be the appointment of new PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives. We would encourage you to consider taking an active part in the community of St Hilda's.

- Any communicant who has been on the Electoral Roll for 6 months is able to stand in either capacity
- There are 7 positions to fill on the PCC for a term of office
 - 3 until April 2023, and
 - 4 until April 2024.
- In addition, there is 1 position for a Deanery Synod member for a period of office to April 2023

Nomination 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 April. 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 the Parish Office, *we are in difficult times and as such need to be flexible in our approach. Thank you for your understanding.*

Junior Church

We are delighted to share that Junior church will resume on 2nd May. We are going to have to restrict numbers, so please book your child's place as soon as booking is opened to avoid disappointment.

We regret that no pre-school children will be able to attend in this phase, but they are more than welcome to join the main church service.

St. Hilda's House – Informing the church



As part of the parish missional and community engagement, an exciting new project has emerged named St Hilda's House. This is something to be noted and celebrated by the church community.

In essence, the project centres around the church making a house available to a charity which supports people who would otherwise have no fixed abode or would be 'sofa surfing' or in very temporary accommodation such as hostels, hotels, and B&B's. The charity assesses those people referred to it and manages the property – giving the necessary support the tenants need to adjust to their surroundings and integrate in the local community.

This is a practical demonstration of love in action and offering people an opportunity to rebuild their lives. The tenants moving in will be claiming housing benefits and these will go towards their rent, thus contributing to the church's finances. The charity is 'Hope into Action' who currently oversee nearly 80 houses in England and has been established for 10 years. An Empowerment Worker has been appointed to oversee the project.

Whilst it is good to share the news about this new project, it is also important to respect the privacy of the people who will be living in the designated property, and therefore celebrations will be low key and limited to the day they arrive.

We would very much appreciate prayer for this new adventure. If you want to find ways to support it, please do contact the church office.



Enabling churches to house the homeless

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

The Recently Departed

HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh			
Gillian Shepherd	Patsy Forsbrey	Joyce Small	Michael Orchard
Daphne Leader	John Radford	Peter Richardson	

Prayer

Almighty Father,
 who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
 with the sight of the risen Lord:
 give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
 that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
 and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
 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