



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

www.sthilda.org

Limit of six on amateur choirs ‘unreasonable’

C of E is ‘reminding’ Government of importance of congregational and amateur singing



Bowdon Parish Church choir members at the beginning of March 2020

THE tightening of the Government’s coronavirus restrictions on singing, only 24 hours after the relaxation of rules covering the entertainment industry, has caused anger among church choirs.

As bars, theatres, and sports grounds opened up last week, new guidance, applicable to England, appeared on the Department of Culture, Media and Sport website restricting gatherings of amateur singers to just six.

The Association of British Choral Directors said that the advice “diverges from what we had been led to believe. This update was deeply disappointing for all of us who have spent so much time carefully planning indoor rehearsals, and we are concerned that the guidance for amateur singing imposes unreasonable and unworkable restrictions that other leisure and amateur activities are not currently facing.”

Social-media users reacted in protest. The assistant director of music at Ely Cathedral, Glen Dempsey, posted on Twitter: “10,000 football fans singing in football stadiums, dozens singing in pubs, yet only six non-professionals are allowed to sing in our cavernous cathedrals, churches, theatres and concert halls.”

The director of music at Pembroke College, Cambridge, Anna Lapwood, tweeted: “This is ridiculous and another blow to our industry. . . Why are people allowed to eat in crowded restaurants when choirs can’t meet socially distanced in well ventilated rooms?”

An online parliamentary petition (petition.parliament.uk/petitions/586559), asking the Government to allow choirs of any size to rehearse indoors, provided that social distancing is maintained and Covid-secure measures are in place, had gathered more than 35,000 signatures by Wednesday afternoon: more than three times the number required to force a government response.

In the House of Commons on Thursday of last week, the Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, told MPs that he shared the frustration of choirs, but “the decision was made on the basis of very clear public-health guidance.” He hoped that full rehearsals and performances could resume on 21 June, assuming that the final stage of the roadmap was implemented.

The Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge, directed his reproach via the Conservative MP for Mid Worcestershire, Nigel Huddleston. When the junior tourism minister tweeted from the Evesham medieval festival “Our festivals and events contribute so much to our communities and our tourism industry,” the Bishop responded: “Thank you, Nigel. But please enable the Three Choirs Festival to go ahead by lifting the ban on more than six

amateur singers singing together inside. It makes no sense in view of the fact that there is no such ban on professionals.”

The director of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), Hugh Morris, said this week that the restriction had created “upheaval, not to say uproar”, and he urged all singers to show solidarity in song by joining the Big Music Sunday Service, online, on 6 June from Lichfield Cathedral.

He said that, as choirs were so severely restricted again, the service was “a powerful way for singers to come together, even if that has to be online. The music is rich and varied, and comes from around the world — which seems especially appropriate at this time, as we all come together to support each other.”

The service will be streamed live at 6 p.m. on the day, on the RSCM’s YouTube channel, and will be broadcast on the BBC’s *Songs of Praise*. Resources are available through the RSCM website.

Mr Morris also said: “We have been doing our best to cut through the ‘white noise’ of all the social-media outcry and focus on doing things which will actually have an impact. That’s included direct conversations with DCMS and other government contacts. We are focusing on helping to show that singing can be done safely, with evidence from different sorts of groups being collated and sent through to them.

“We are not expecting an imminent about-turn — but one can never tell, and the strength and depth of feeling of so many people is very clear to see.”

The Association of English Cathedrals called on cathedral singers — both choirs and individuals — to join the protest. The Dean of Lichfield, the Very Revd Adrian Dorber, who chairs the association, said on Tuesday: “We appreciate public-health concerns, but now that sport stadiums can have fans, pubs and bars are open again, and more and more of us are vaccinated, it seems punitive of the authorities to stamp down on singing, especially on amateur choirs and church congregations.

“There is very little definite, published, and properly peer-reviewed evidence to support these draconian measures. However, where there is evidence, it is that singing brings enormous pleasure and satisfaction to thousands of people, and is a major contributor to personal well-being. We urge the Government to have a rethink right now.”

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England’s Recovery Group, said on Monday: “We understand the frustration that many feel at the limitations in current government guidance at this stage, and share the longing for amateur choirs — and, indeed, congregations — to be able to sing without restrictions.

“During the Covid-19 pandemic we have worked with the Government to try to ensure that guidance for churches and places of worship was proportionate, and informed by a detailed understanding of our environments and practices. All along, we have encouraged the Government to be alert to the consequences of our choirs’ continued silence, as well as the loss of congregational singing.”

She said that the group was “reminding” the Government of the “importance of singing to lift our prayers to God”.

The composer John Rutter has launched ChoirGuides, an online choral learning aid to help singers to learn their individual parts and make virtual choir recordings.

Mr Rutter said: “These are exceptional times, and choirs are responding to the challenge in new and inventive ways. We hope this new tool will prove especially useful now and also for years to come, as choirs will always be glad of help learning their music.”

In Scotland, amateur choirs can meet indoors, with social distancing and other measures in place, in Level 1 areas (mostly in the islands), but only outdoors if in Level 2, and not at all in Level 3 (Glasgow area). In Wales, indoor rehearsals of up to 30 people are permitted.

In Northern Ireland, from Monday, groups of up to 15 may rehearse indoors without special precautions. Risk-assessments must be carried out for bigger groups.

Church of England commits £1.25 million to enabling digital giving in parishes

First pilot begins as Church of England aims to enable contactless giving in half of all parishes over the next two years.

More than 100 churches across the Diocese of Carlisle will be the first to take part in a national pilot scheme to help encourage contactless giving, making giving easier for congregations. The pilot will help pave the way for a £1.25m investment from the Church of England which will see thousands more churches accept contactless and digital payments over the next two years.



The funding will be used to provide contactless devices for churches. Consideration for connectivity in rural settings has been taken into account, with churches being offered one of two types of device depending on each parish's context.

Two further pilots will take place in other dioceses later this year before the nation-wide roll out begins.

All those churches taking part will be offered training and one-to-one support. Grace Emmett, National Digital Giving Manager for the Church of England, and David Stout, Regional Giving Advisor for the North, are currently touring churches in the county, offering drop-in advice sessions for Cumbrian churches.

Grace explained: “As the trend continues for card payments to outperform payments made using cash, contactless giving will enable visitors and regular churchgoers the ability to quickly and easily support the life and ministry of churches across the Diocese

of Carlisle. Experience so far is that contactless donations are, on average, three times the value of cash donations.

“Working with churches in Cumbria allows us to see how contactless giving functions in a range of contexts, from the city of Carlisle to towns and villages. Enabling contactless payments will be ideal for helping tourists and ramblers share generously within the local economy as they visit churches while out and about exploring the Lakes. We’re also excited to see how these units support churches in the urban centres of Carlisle, Workington, and Barrow where churches are delivering front line support to their local communities.”

The Rev Beverley Lock, Team Rector of St Mary’s, Ambleside, said: “We really welcome the opportunity to help lead this pilot and give thanks that Cumbria has been chosen as a pilot area.

“More and more we are seeing people who worship in and visit our churches turning to contactless forms of payment in their day-to-day lives so it’s really important that the church is able to offer them the same opportunity to give financially.

“We are so grateful for all the ways in which people give to our mission, both through action and in monetary ways. During the Covid pandemic, we’ve really missed our regular visitors for their fellowship and encouragement. We hope this will make their generous giving easier.”

The Church of England has adopted a National Giving Strategy for 2020-2025 that will invest in different ways to encourage giving to its churches. This includes expanding advice and guidance for parishes, encouraging digital giving and providing training for clergy and laity.

Vicar helps forge connections outside church walls thanks to baby charity

A vicar in Cornwall has launched a volunteer led project which supports new parents who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burden of looking after a new baby.

Reverend Becca Bell, a priest in Liskeard, is behind the first Baby Basics facility in Cornwall. She tells Premier that more new parents are in need as a result of the pandemic :



"A lot of the poverty in Cornwall is very hidden, and on first sight, you don't see it. And I noticed in the parishes where I work, that there's a real sense of pride. And often people don't always come forward for the help that they are entitled to or that they need. But speaking to health visitors, they're definitely seeing an increase in families accessing benefits and other support as their situation has

really fallen over this last year. And of course, it's particularly hard for people becoming parents for the first time this year."

Baby Basics started in Sheffield in 2009 and works with a wide range of frontline health and social care professionals. It provides much needed essentials and equipment to mothers and families who are unable to provide these items for themselves; including but not limited to teenage mums, people seeking asylum and women fleeing domestic abuse and trafficking.

Rev Becca says her hub will give out bundles for the first three months of a baby's life :

"We pack it all beautifully into a Moses basket. And it will contain clothes like baby grows and vests and little jackets, some boots and a few hats, blankets, towel and toiletries, a few packs of nappies, some wipes, and maybe a couple of treats for mum as well, because we know what a fragile time it is having a baby, I'm a mum myself, so I appreciate how much help like this could help somebody who's particularly vulnerable."

The new Baby Basics facility is due to open in June. Becca hopes holidaymakers to Cornwall will be encouraged to donate some items to collection boxes at churches in the area.

And she tells Premier, it's absolutely right that the church should be at the heart of this sort of project :

"We know we're going to be meeting a practical need and sharing very practical love. Also, there's other benefits, which are kind of anticipated, but I've been blown away at how great it's been. Quite a few of our volunteers who've come alongside us are folk who aren't connected with church at all. They're mums, from school, who when I share the Word of this happening, they've wanted to come on board and help. And so we've got some fantastic connections with folk outside of our church walls, which for parish churches in Cornwall is a really big deal because that's not always easy. So there's been massive unseen benefits in terms of the church coming to life in a new way."

Almighty God,

Thank You for the gift and joy of new life.

We pray that all who are finding parenthood difficult find comfort and guidance in your Love

And that they are secure in the knowledge that You are beside them.

Thank You also for all those who work to support parents who are struggling at this time.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Number of church youth and children's workers almost halves over past decade

The number of people training for youth and children's ministry has almost halved over the past ten years.

A new report by the Christian Youth Work Consortium has revealed the number of trainees has fallen from 613 in 2011 to 336 in 2020.

Rev David Howell, the author of the report, told Premier that austerity measures in 2008, churches struggling to finance youth and children's workers and a general decline in youth and children attending churches are among the reasons behind the trend.

"Local Government in England drastically reduced the amount it spent on The Youth Service and therefore there was generally a feeling of 'it's not a not a worthwhile area to go into'," Rev Howell said.

"Churches were struggling financially, and therefore we're reducing staff ... I think that generally there were just declining numbers in terms of young people and children in churches and that decline in numbers then is reflected in the decline in those wanting to work in this area."

The number of colleges offering professionally qualifying programmes has also seen a decline. In 2018, the total number of programmes being offered dropped by 33 percent versus the previous year, from 184 to 123.

Rev Howell said that although there are now less programmes available, they are still running as colleges have taken different approaches to face the decline.

"Some colleges have moved into what we call 'dispersed campuses', which is where they'll put the training out in in various places around the country... Others, for example, are moving foundation courses completely online from next September.

"Some courses have consolidated and brought different courses together. There are now single courses as opposed to a specific one for children's work and a specific one for youth work."

Rev Howell believes there's "huge value" in having a youth and children's worker in a church, especially in a post-coronavirus pandemic society.

"I think so many churches are now realising that it is one of the things we're going to need as we come out of [the pandemic]. [These are] people with the energy who can actually take a tired and dispirited congregation and volunteers and actually enable us to say 'What is God doing in this new thing? What are the new ways that we can actually explore serving



young people, serving children, serving families, and seeing the gospel move forward?'," he said.

Rev Howell concluded by encouraging churches to recognise the importance of youth and children's workers as he believes it is "a key investment".

"If we do not change this trend, then it just ripples down through the generations and we'll see the decline generally. It is the best place to start because significant numbers of people reflect on their own coming to faith as being primarily within the years as children and young people. If we can reinvest in this area and begin a new work in the event, I think we have church ready for today and for tomorrow."

CAN YOU HELP?

Five and a half years ago I stood in front of the congregation of St. Hilda's and was blessed for what turned out to be an amazing adventure: taking part in the Pilgrimage to Paris. A group of people of all ages walked part or all of the way from St. Martin's in the Fields to Paris to take a petition to the Climate Change talks.

It was a wet November. We walked through wet streets and muddy fields and woods, sometimes into the dark evenings. And we experienced amazing hospitality from churches on the way: warm hall or church floors to sleep in with supper and breakfast provided (and in Burgess Hill the chance to visit homes to shower); morning coffee, lunch, or afternoon tea, and prayers and encouragement. Accommodation provided in France was mainly in people's homes.

I left the group at Newhaven, when we were told that in spite of the Paris bombings, which took place on the first day of the walk, the pilgrimage could continue. Others continued through the rain to Paris and meetings with politicians, faith leaders, and pilgrims from other countries.

Most of the pilgrims, however long or short their participation, have kept in touch, and have had an annual reunion - on Zoom last year.

Why am I reminiscing about this now?

- to offer you the chance to take part in something similar.

One of the Paris Pilgrims is helping organise a more ambitious pilgrimage this year for the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN). They are planning a relay starting at Carbis Bay in Cornwall on 13th June, to coincide with the G7 talks, and ending in Glasgow on 30th October for the delayed COP 26 talks, taking in 10 cities and more than 750 miles.



Why are they doing this?

"The climate crisis is a reflection, and a cause, of deep injustice in the world. This crisis arises from our abuse of God's creation, and our broken relationship with our neighbours worldwide who suffer most from its consequences. We are convinced of the Biblical mandate to care for creation, and lament its exploitation.

We are organising this Relay to COP26 to show we care about climate justice and creation care. We want to see systematic change on a global and a local scale. We hope that by running this relay, we can raise awareness of COP26 and our imperative as Christians to engage in creation care theology, individually and corporately."

"We may be leading the relay but it isn't 'ours' - it is an offering to UK churches to join and own this journey"

The route as currently planned has a night stop in our Ashford arriving Monday 2nd August. Fr. Joseph has agreed that we can offer St. Hilda's for accommodation and an evening service, which gives us the opportunity on our doorstep to provide hospitality such as I received five years ago. We don't yet know how many walkers there will be - it depends on how many volunteer between now and then!

It would be good if we could offer our homes as better accommodation than the hall floor, but maybe that is a bit much to ask with Covid around. Someone is needed to organise the "Meet and greet" as walkers arrive.

They also need people with their own transport to offer on-call support. This involves supporting the practical needs of walkers: being on-call to transport walkers off-route if they become injured during the day, but also potentially transporting bags, food and other supplies.

And they want walkers - of any age. The most local part of the route is Reading - Twyford - Windsor - Ashford - Richmond - Central London. I have signed up to walk for these five days, and also to do the detailed route planning for Windsor to London (I've already enjoyed exploring some local by-ways).

To find out more about the YCCN and the relay, see their website www.yccn.uk/, or ask me.

If you can help, please sign up on the web site (on the second page of the form, tick "join us on the route" even if you don't plan to walk, to get the necessary options displayed). The sooner they know what help is available the better. Also please let me know so I can keep track of what we are offering.

You could also help with publicity, engaging with politicians and decision-makers, with digital support - again, see the web site for details. And pray!



This is a chance to demonstrate that we care about God's world and want to improve the way we are caring for it. Please help if you can.

Rosemary Greenwood (rsygreenwood@btinternet.com)



**MONDAY 14TH JUNE
MARKS THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE GRENFELL TOWER FIRE**

We will join with other churches across the country to remember this tragedy by ringing our church bell 72 times at 7:00pm, once for each victim of the fire.

Then, at 7:03pm, there will be two minutes silence, as we remember those who died, and pray for all those still affected by the fire, four years on.

There will then be four more rings, one for each year since the fire itself.


DIocese OF LONDON
 KENSINGTON AREA
GRENFELL FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

27 May 2021

Dear friends,

As you will know, June 14th will mark the 4th anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire, which was a major event in the recent history of London and the entire nation.

You may remember that last year, many churches across the nation rang their church bells 72 times at 6pm on 14th June. I know that this national act of remembrance was greatly valued by the Grenfell bereaved and survivors, and they have asked if it might be repeated this year. There is a sense that until some measure of justice and closure has been achieved through the Grenfell Public Inquiry, and particularly bearing in mind those who continue to be affected by the Cladding Crisis, it is important to keep the memory of Grenfell in the public consciousness, particularly as public acts of remembrance are still limited this year due to the restrictions on gathering due to the pandemic.

If you would like to take part in this act of remembrance, the idea is to ring church bells 72 times at 7 pm. This would initiate two minutes silence, after which there would be four more rings, one for each year since the fire itself. This will serve as a reminder to stop, reflect and remember those who lost their lives that day.

Of course, there is no compulsion to do this, and it is entirely optional. To help us keep a record of parishes doing this, please sign up on Eventbrite [here](#) to let us know if you are planning to join in.

If you plan to join in, we attach some resources which you can use to let others know that you're taking part:

1. We attach an A4 and an A3 poster that you can print out and put outside your church if you wish, or on your website to advertise the ringing of the bells, or just use the wording on the poster in your own way. We also attach a Facebook and a Twitter graphic for you to use. If you can use whatever social media channels you have to advertise that you are doing it, that will help people realise what the bells mean – please use the hashtag #RingforGrenfell
2. Different bells ring at different rates, so some will take longer to ring 72 times than others. The rough idea is to have the two minutes silence at 7.03 pm followed by the 4 final rings 2 minutes later. So you may have to work out how long it will take to ring your particular bell 72 times and that may mean starting slightly earlier than 7.00pm. I don't think we need to worry if the timing is not exactly right, but if we can aim for the silence at roughly 7.03 that would be ideal.

Many thanks again for considering joining in this event which hopefully will be a fitting way to continue to remember this tragedy, to honour those who died, and to keep alive the search for justice and resolution for all those affected.

With very best wishes

+Gasha Kensington

The St Hilda's bell will be rung by Nick and Paula Gething as they did last year.

Streets of London Wordsearch by Terry Rickson

V	A	G	C	B	R	T	E	X	B	Z	O	D	N	T
Z	F	Y	F	P	I	C	C	A	D	I	L	L	Y	Y
J	L	W	J	R	Z	S	D	B	E	P	J	F	M	W
S	E	Z	O	T	N	D	F	J	G	T	C	G	I	Z
O	E	B	H	L	O	N	D	O	N	W	A	L	L	B
S	T	R	A	N	D	G	H	C	F	G	L	H	L	E
N	S	J	Y	Z	L	K	J	D	J	I	S	L	B	H
J	T	P	M	N	O	L	E	G	H	Q	S	P	A	I
Q	R	R	A	B	N	J	J	N	L	U	X	A	N	O
S	E	T	R	D	G	N	R	G	T	B	W	R	K	R
S	E	S	K	H	A	O	P	K	O	R	M	K	P	Q
W	T	T	E	F	C	U	V	S	N	V	O	L	S	V
M	D	S	T	J	R	T	S	H	O	E	L	A	N	E
Y	E	X	K	Z	E	V	W	Z	P	W	J	N	D	T
O	J	E	D	I	S	P	A	E	H	C	Q	E	R	Z

- CHEAPSIDE
- CORNHILL
- FLEET STREET
- HAYMARKET
- LONDON WALL
- LONG ACRE
- MILLBANK
- OLD KENT ROAD
- PARK LANE
- PICCADILLY
- SHOE LANE
- STRAND

War Stories by Derek Scott

An Unusual Reunion

An American B17 bomber was returning from a daylight raid over Germany. It was badly damaged and gradually losing height. As much as possible was thrown out. Two crew members were badly injured.

Suddenly a German fighter plane flew along the starboard side of the bomber but did not attack. The fighter plane then appeared on the port side and its pilot pointed in the direction of neutral Sweden. The American pilot shook his head. The action was repeated with the same response. The German then waved and flew off.

The B17 landed safely in England and the wounded crewmen were taken to hospital.

After the war the B17 pilot moved to Canada but attended reunions in the US. One year a German fighter pilot attended and the B17 pilot told him the remarkable story and wondering if the fighter pilot was still alive. The German promised he would include the story in the next veteran pilots magazine which he published. Months later a letter arrived in Canada. It was from the German pilot. He invited him to the next reunion where they met and became life long friends, visiting each other with their wives.

Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

30th May Trinity Sunday

Read John 3 : 1- 17

You'll need a kettle, a bowl of water and some ice! These can be used to explain the Trinity – They are all water - but in different forms – steam, frozen and liquid.

Cut open a Mars bar and look at the three layers But there is only one bar of chocolate. Of course you can then enjoy eating the chocolate!

I am a daughter, a mother, a sister, a teacher but there is only one me. I behave differently around each of these people but there is still only one me.

What about you? Think of all the different people you are, and how you interact with different people in your life. Now think about God. God reveals himself as Father, Son and Spirit, but there is only one God.

There is no easy way to explain the Trinity – but hope this gives you something to think about.



St Hilda's Parish News

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

Thank you from Rosalyn

Firstly, thank you to Father Joseph for the blessing on my ministry as a Reader/ Licensed Lay Minister in last weeks service. Secondly a big thank you to the St Hilda Family for the flowers and the kind words extended to me as I marked 25years since being admitted to the Office of Reader.

Jumble Trail – Sunday 30th May

St Hilda's is going to take part in next week's Jumble Trail. As it is half term and many of you will be visiting family or out and about, there aren't many of us that are able to man the stalls. With this in mind we are only going to have a few tables out, Cakes, Books and Toys.

The only donations we are asking for are cakes, please do not bring any jumble etc. as we do not have either the space or able bodies to deal with it. However, if you are able to give some time between 11am and 4pm all offers of help will be gratefully received.

Kindly bring along any cake donations on Sunday morning. Many thanks.

Rota's

With the end of lockdown restrictions in sight, we are starting to plan for a sense of normality and will be resuming the after service refreshments at the end of June. We need a number of volunteers to help with the serving of tea/ coffee each week.

Secondly, we need more volunteers to help with sideperson roles - meeting, greeting and helping members of the congregation as well as welcoming and guiding newcomers.

If you are interested in being on either rota, please contact Denise in the Parish Office.

Driving Miss Daisy.....

If anybody is willing to help driving members of the congregation who otherwise would be unable to attend a Wednesday or Sunday service, could you please let Denise know.

Canaan Ministries are open for any of your 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/

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist – 30th May @ 9.30am

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

Wednesday Eucharist – 2nd June @ 9.45am

Corpus Christi – Thursday 3rd June @ 7pm

Tickets can be booked for this week's services via the links on our website and Facebook page or by contacting the Parish Office by 5pm Friday for Sunday's service and 12pm Tuesday for Wednesday's service.

Please remember a face mask must be worn whilst in the church.

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 30th May**

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There is no Tea and Chat after the service on Sunday 30th May.

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

The Recently Departed

Alec Holloway	Margaret Reid	Rev John Congdon	Gillian Shepherd
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Prayer

God, who as at this time
 taught the hearts of your faithful people
 by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
 grant us by the same Spirit
 to have a right judgement in all things
 and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
 through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
 Amen