



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

Coronavirus restrictions update – response from the Bishop of London

Following the Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus restrictions, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group, said:



“The confirmation of a delay in the next stage of lifting Covid-19 restrictions will be a blow to many people but I understand why this decision has been taken.

“I am hugely thankful for the success and speed of the vaccination programme which has undoubtedly saved many lives – but we do have to take the spread of the more transmissible Delta variant very seriously and do all we can to protect each other as Christians called to love our neighbour.

“I know from those on the front line that the pressures on the NHS are extreme and understand that a delay of a few more weeks in lifting restrictions could make a big difference in helping us all to get ahead in the ‘race’ against this virus which has caused so much death and misery.

“Thankfully church buildings remain open for public worship and prayer. While we look forward to restrictions on worship being lifted in the near future, I will continue to press for ongoing appraisal of choral and congregational singing.

“We will also update our guidance on public worship where necessary in light of today's announcement and I understand that the Business Committee of the General Synod will be looking at options for the planned July meeting of Synod in the next few days.

“The Prime Minister's comments about lifting the limit of 30 people attending weddings will be a relief to many. We will await the detail from the Government about what it means in practice and will update our guidance to churches accordingly.

“Most of all, however, we do have hope. This pandemic has been a trial for us all but we put our trust in God and have hope that there are better times to come.”

Churches mark fourth anniversary of tragedy at Grenfell Tower

Churches across the Diocese of London and further afield are marked the fourth anniversary of the tragedy at Grenfell Tower with a series of memorial events.

St Clement, the parish in which Grenfell Tower stands, opened its doors to allow parishioners and members of the local community to light candles in remembrance of the 72 residents who lost their lives.

At 3am on the night of the fire, St Clement opened a community response and evacuation centre in its building to serve those affected by the fire, remaining open for the days and weeks that followed.

In the four years that have followed, the church has remained a crucial fixture of the local community, offering itself a beacon of support to residents around Ladbroke Grove. In June 2018, to mark the first anniversary, a Garden for Peace and Healing on the north side of the church was dedicated by the Bishop of London and the Mayor of London.



On Monday, St Clement's church – together with over 100 churches in the Diocese of London and across the country – rang its bell 72 times at 7pm as an act of remembrance. The 72 rings marked the beginning of two minutes of silence, observed in the local community and elsewhere in memory of those who died in the fire.

Participating churches were invited by the Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, to join in the act of remembrance.

The Church of England national weekly online services came from the Revd Gareth Wardell, Priest-in-Charge of St Clement's with St Mark's, Notting Dale, and St James's, Norlands, said, together with the Bishop of Kensington. The service featured readings from children from St Clement and St James Church of England Primary School.

The Revd Gareth Wardell, Priest-in-Charge of St Clement's with St Mark's, Notting Dale, and St James's, Norlands, said:

“Ringing our church bells is a really important way to signal to our local community that those who died are not forgotten. We remember them, and they are forever in our hearts. We will continue to strive for justice for all those who lost their lives.”

The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, said:

“I know that this national act of remembrance was greatly valued by the Grenfell bereaved and survivors, and they 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.”

“My thanks go to all those that joined in the act of remembrance on Sunday, and to those who are praying for and celebrating the memory of the 72 victims of the tragedy, whose legacies live on.”

'G7 leftovers aren't waste, they're going to those in need' says Christian foodbank co-ordinator

Seven tonnes of leftover food from the G7 summit has been donated to one of Cornwall's largest independent foodbanks for distribution to those in need.



Don Gardner, the Christian co-ordinator of Camborne, Pool and Redruth Foodbank was contacted by organisers of last weekend's summit in Carbis Bay for help with delivering food not needed by the police and security services.

Don, who founded the facility 13 years ago at Camborne's Centenary Church, told Premier he received 3,000 breakfast bags, containing cereal bars, fresh fruit, yoghurt and a drink, along with frozen breakfast baps.

2,700 of the breakfast bags have already been delivered to around ten local schools and the frozen items are now in storage in the foodbank's freezers. Don told Premier teachers were delighted when they saw the healthy nature of the food.

The frozen items are being distributed daily to foodbank clients and also to a local homeless shelter.

However, the amount of food leftover from the Summit has caused some people to criticise organisers for over-ordering food.

Ronitropic : "Question has to be ; how could the organisers manage to have over seven tonnes of leftover food?"

Becca Bell (ho is vicar of St Cleer) : "That was my thought. And we all know that the fact there is such waste is a part of the very complex problem that leads others to have not enough."

Writing on Twitter, the Bishop of Truro, the Right Reverend Philip Mounstphen says "Great it's been given, sad that it's needed."

However, Don Gardner told Premier it is very difficult for organisers to predict the amount of food needed:

"You imagine catering for 6,500 police officers, it's a logistical nightmare. If there wasn't enough to feed them there would be ructions. The leftover food is about 8% of what was ordered - and anyway, it isn't waste, it's going to feed those who need it. Every school has been delighted."

Don, who is due to have a Great Western Railway train named after him in recognition of his work with the vulnerable says his Christian faith is the inspiring force behind his mission.

As church singing ban extended, Woking church takes issue into their own hands

Woking United Reformed Church has found a creative way to sing during worship despite coronavirus restrictions currently preventing congregational singing.

At the beginning of the lockdown in March last year, the church established a 'signing project' with a Makaton expert who has been teaching the congregation a sign a week during each service.

The lessons paid off when the entire congregation used Makaton to sing at an all age service last weekend.

Rev Lucy Brierley, minister of Woking URC, said: "It was wonderful to see everyone but one of the things that made it really special and a positive experience for our members was being able to show what we've been learning during our signing project.



"With the service full of young people and children I had the challenge of ensuring the worship was engaging enough to 'keep' them even though they couldn't leave their seats or sing.

"I was delighted to see them all engaging with the songs through signs, and it was a beautiful sight to see those gathered joining in unison, signing the words along to the music."

Rev Brierley told Premier she hopes Makaton will now be a regular part of worship at the church.

"I think what we'll find in the church eventually is that some people will find this a really helpful way of adding to their worship," she said. "Just as we all learn in different ways, so we all worship in different ways and for some people using their hands as an expression of their worship, will be really useful going forward."

Makaton uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It is designed to help hearing people with learning or communication difficulties.

Almighty God,
Thank you for giving us so many ways to worship in your name.
Thank you for teaching us new ways of singing your Love
And thank you for uniting us with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Wherever we are in the world.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

This traumatised nation needs open churches

Keeping the doors unlocked shows pandemic-scarred parishioners that they are not alone, argues *Pip Martin*.

THIS past year, most church buildings have been closed. At the outset, there were plenty of voices to suggest that this might be no bad thing; that here was a reminder that Christianity resides in people, not in stone.



I recall our Archbishops, in one of several letters to clergy in which advice was couched in imperative if not threatening terms, expressing such a view (News, 27 March 2020). We were being recalled to a supposed better time, before church buildings, when Christians met together simply and faithfully in one another's homes, as we were about to do, albeit via Zoom.

I won't presume to speak about the Early Church, although I believe that sacred places were set apart for Christian worship almost as soon as synagogues were not. Instead, I plead a different lesson to be learned from the past 14 months: let us open the doors of our church buildings whenever and however we can.

Since my ordination in 1984, my ministry had always taken place in parishes where the churches were left unlocked: first, in the (then) mining town of Pontefract, followed by the market town of Wantage and its satellite estate of Charlton, and then in a large but still rural Dorset village. In each of those varied contexts, the open church was a place of prayer, a refuge for those with troubles, a meeting place — and, perhaps most of all, an architectural parable: the open doors a vivid and practical symbol of Christ's arms opened wide for us in life and in death.

My present ministry is exercised in an urban area of Poole, and it was, on arriving in 2017, my first experience of having a church that was locked, except for services or other occasional uses. Opening the doors was the most significant change that I was able to initiate during my first 12 months; its effect has been profound and positive.

TO PRAY daily in church is the great bonus for a priest who lives close by, but locking the door afterwards felt like a denial of the words of the Angelus with which I concluded. How can a church's closed doors proclaim that the Word dwells among us? Now, leaving the doors open as I leave, my usually solitary morning prayers are but the overture to the day's quiet symphony of intercession, made by people of all kinds, most of them not regular worshippers, and many perhaps unable to articulate why they come.

Prayer requests, always heartfelt and sometimes deeply moving, are left, now more than ever, and I share these with two reliable, wise souls. We promise to remember all of them

each day for a month. Thus, intercession has become a daily work of the church. Most passers-by, as may be expected, do not enter, but still they notice. When asked which is my church and I describe it, people now are as likely to exclaim, “Ah, the one with the ‘Open for Prayer’ sign!” as they used to with the realisation, “Oh, that place opposite Lidl’s, I always wondered what it was.”

Opening the doors has also profoundly affected the congregation. I had noticed, before, two distinct groups — those who (for current or historic reasons) had keys, and those who did not. Now, all have equal access. I attribute to that, and their sense of renewed pride in the building and its benefits for others, both an improved atmosphere when we gather for worship and a much greater willingness to help improve the fabric and the church grounds.

THERE will, naturally, be worries about theft, rough-sleepers, and vandalism; and, in a very few individuals, a holy place can provoke a macabre or unpleasant response.

Against that, consider the insurance companies’ advice that a locked church, in which an intruder is safe from disturbance, is less safe than one that is open and often visited. Note, also, that donations by visitors more than compensate for occasional damage. Making discreet use of CCTV (or placing signs suggestive of it) may help. Have a clear-out of the vestry to make secure space for precious items. Advertise that the church is open, so that both more will visit and the local community to whom you are entrusting the church will rally to help if “their church” is abused.

Some readers will, none the less, consider it impossible to open the churches to which they belong. They may be correct, but all I plead is that opening the doors should be seen as the norm and keeping them locked as a reluctant decision made only after exploring every alternative option.

As England emerges from a period of indescribable trauma and untimely death for so many, our closed buildings convey the message that our parishioners are on their own: God has retreated and may, at best, be encountered via Zoom. Oh, that our church buildings might proclaim a different, more welcoming, inclusive, and hopeful assurance: these doors are open as a sign that Christ’s arms are open for you!

The Revd Pip Martin is the Vicar of St Aldhelm’s, Branksome, in the diocese of Salisbury.

Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

20th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity

Read Mark 4 : 35-41

Talk about how we sometimes have stormy times in our lives, when things go wrong and we feel sad. Hold the edges of a large piece of fabric or paper together and make waves. Invite everyone to make sad faces, and then call out 'help'. As you do this activity, encourage them to stop shaking the fabric as you explain that God hears our cry for help. On your own – then shake the bed sheet about and think about the stormy times of life and as you stop think about the times God has heard your cry for help.



St Hilda's Parish News

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

Daphne Clement Roberts RIP

It is with great sadness we share the news that Daphne Roberts passed away last Sunday 13th June, aged 94.

Daphne was a resident of Ashford after moving here in 1963, Church was always part of her life, a member of Mothers Union and fully involved in the life and activities of the church throughout as well as other charities supporting those in need. Please hold Daphne and her family in your prayers.



Update on Sheila West.

I received an e-mail from Sheila's son Peter regarding Sheila's progress. Sheila is now home from hospital and has carers in 4 times a day, including 2.30am just to check on her. She is doing well.

Bobbie

Wanted

If anyone has any spare threads, embroidery threads and wools, please place in the box at the back of the church for use by a local charity. Thank you

Children's Society Boxes

Thank you to all St Hilda's Children's Society Box Holders for returning your collecting boxes for emptying.

A total of £278.50 has been sent to the Children's Society for their work with young people. If you do not have a Children's Society Collecting Box, but would like to have one to support this very worthwhile cause, please let me know.

Chris Davenport.

Supporting Homelessness

Homelessness has been a key element of St Hilda's missional engagement, mainly through supporting the Upper Room charity in London, including donations from the food box donations and also the Saturday Knitting group, who knitted thousands of hats, scarves and gloves since its inception in 2013.

More recently, St Hilda has started to support Hope Into Action:

"We provide not just shelter and housing know-how but also friendship. Together with over 50 churches we provide direct support to people whom others have often given up on. The original home had a real heart for men coming out of prison. Homes are now available for a wide range of "homeless", people in recovery from addiction, people sleeping rough, women and children fleeing domestic violence, people coming out of rehab, former prostitutes, refugees, those suffering mental health issues and survivors of human trafficking... Our vision is for every church to lovingly provide the homeless with a home. The tragedy of homelessness is in every community"

Many of you will have met Simeon Sturney who works at HMP YOI Bronzefield as a Through the Gate Chaplain, and can be seen walking the women down to the railway station each week. Simeon is also affiliated to Hope into Action. We have directed our prayers and to support a partnership with Hope Into Action in the parish. As you have contributed very generously for many years, this is an opportunity to continue to do so.

Two blue wheelie bins will appear in the next few days. One will be in church and one in the church hall. Donations of clothes, belts and shoes will be sold and the proceeds donated towards the partnership with Hope Into Action.

We may also find items that would do well in a jumble sale and save them for that purpose. With charity shops unable to accept donations during the covid crisis there must be a surplus of unwanted clothing so please spread the word.

As lockdown continues to ease and the church can be open more, it will be easier to accept donations. For now, please bring your donations when you attend church, we will be sending a similar message to hall hirers.

Please – clean clothes, paired shoes and belts only. We cannot do anything with bedding, towels, curtains and other soft furnishings.

Thank you in advance for your invaluable help and contribution.

Rota's

With the end of lockdown restrictions possibly in sight, we are starting to plan for a sense of normality and will be resuming the refreshments after the Sunday service. We need a number of members of the congregation 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 guiding any 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 our congregation who otherwise would be unable to attend a Wednesday or Sunday service, please let Denise know. Thank you.

TABLE OF FEES

MARRIAGE 	⌘⌘⌘⌘	ORANGE SQUASH (ROOM TEMPERATURE, PER BEAKER) 	-
BAPTISM 	-	THAT HYMN BOOK YOU ACCIDENTALLY TOOK HOME 	--
FUNERAL 	⌘⌘⌘	FILLING YOUR WATER BOTTLE FROM THE CHURCHYARD TAP 	--
CERTIFICATE TO MARK ANY OF THE ABOVE 	⌘	USING THE CHURCH CAR PARK WHILST POPPING INTO THE SUPERMARKET 	---
MONUMENT TO MARK ANY OF THE ABOVE 	⌘⌘⌘	ENTIRELY FORGETTING TO TURN UP FOR A MEETING WITH THE VICAR 	---
SEARCHING THROUGH OUR ARCHIVES FOR INFO ABOUT YOUR ANCESTORS 	⌘⌘		
KEY	⌘⌘⌘⌘ ----- QUITE A BIT ⌘⌘⌘ ⌘⌘ ⌘ ----- NOT VERY MUCH	- NO CHARGE AT ALL -- NO, IT'S FINE, REALLY --- OK, JUST A DONATION TO CHURCH FUNDS	

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/

Psalm 33:5

He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist – 20th June @ 9.30am

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

Wednesday Eucharist – 23rd June @ 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 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 20th June 2021 at 11.15am.** See below on how to join.

The meeting is hosted by Zoom.

- Download the Zoom app – www.zoom.us
- Click – Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id – **968 1333 9738**
- Enter password – **442956**



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

The Recently Departed

Daphne Roberts	Kenneth Wingrove	Alec Holloway	Margaret Reid
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Prayer

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen