



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](mailto:office@sthilda.org)
  
- Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237

[www.sthilda.org](http://www.sthilda.org)

## Christian holiday company warns this summer is 'the last hope for many companies' as Gov reviews travel

The director of a Christian holiday company has told Premier this summer "is the last hope for many companies" to survive as the Government is set to review the restrictions on travel this week.



Adam Playfair, the director of Richmond Christian Holidays, said the industry was "very grateful" for all the support it has received so far but feels they were "the first to be hit and the last to be able to return to whatever the new normal looks like".

"We have been drawing down on funds, because of course travel industries haven't just been able to go into hibernation and furlough. We have been in the offices taking the calls, trying to figure out when we can restart holidays, trying

to defer bookings, refund guests who've had to cancel.

"And the reality for us now is that we've all seen zero income since last March, yet we had those ongoing costs, and it's only so long that can last and this summer - it is the last hope for many companies," Playfair continued.

He was speaking as pilots, cabin crew and travel agents protested against the Government's restrictions on foreign travel on Wednesday. The industry wants to see the green list expanded and exceptions from quarantine granted for fully vaccinated passengers from amber list countries.

"Loads of companies have got a lot of bookings, ourselves included, for this summer. We've got guests who are desperately keen to travel. But unfortunately, there is a mix of confusion and fear over the restrictions and the traffic light system and what is legal," Playfair said.

Currently, popular holidays destinations such as Spain, Greece, or Italy are in the amber list which means passenger must self-isolate on their return.

The Government says it will continue to follow data coming from those countries but their priority on the international travel policy is "protecting public health."

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told PA news that other countries are "catching up" with the UK's coronavirus vaccination programme and was optimistic about the world "opening up".

"What happens in the UK is people say 'well everyone I know or a lot of people I know are vaccinated'. People will say that, but of course, as soon as you go abroad you find that's actually not the case.

"So balancing the opening up whilst preserving people's safety and security at home is absolutely at the forefront."

Playfair urged Christians to pray for wisdom for both the Government and company directors.

"Pray for us to make wise decisions that aren't putting anyone's anyone in danger. And yes, pray for those countries to either be green listed or for the countries on the amber lists to be made more accessible, whatever that might look like."

The Government's travel list is expected to be updated on 24th June.

## **Politicians urged to work with churches and Christian groups to tackle root causes of poverty**

Politicians and policymakers should examine the work of churches and Christian action groups if they want to tackle the root causes of poverty in the UK.

That is the conclusion of research led by Coventry University's Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, which found that Christian groups serve a broader audience than their name suggests and have built direct relationships with disadvantaged groups, gaining valuable insight into the causes of poverty.

Dr Chris Shannahan and Dr Stephanie Denning, spent three years working on an Economic and Social Research Council funded project entitled "Life on the Breadline".

The project analysed the scope and impact of Christian engagement with urban poverty in the UK in the context of austerity since the 2008 financial crisis.

The research, conducted across the UK with national and regional Church leaders, shows faith groups are running social action projects, campaigning and looking at wider causes in an attempt to tackle the structural issues surrounding the causes of poverty.

Dr Shannahan said: "We have found that churches and Christian action groups have relationships with excluded and disadvantaged communities that politicians might not be able to reach.

"This is not about Christians working with Christians, but Christians working with everyone, across the whole of society and we want policymakers to try and partner with these groups when it comes to issues relating to poverty, because the churches and groups are on the ground, trusted and have track records of helping."

He told Premier that the nature of Christian social action in our communities is a valuable resource for policymakers:



"The church remains a major force in the UK. Churches are rooted deep in local communities up and down the land, they are much more deeply rooted than policymakers and politicians. The church provides immense invaluable pastoral care, support and immediate help for people who are hungry, living out those gospel mandates to feed the hungry and preach good news to the poor.

"Many of the headlines in the mainstream media about the church focus on attendance at Sunday worship. But what we have encountered is an immense amount of Christian action on poverty, which is far more varied than many people might imagine - the food bank, the soup kitchen, the Breakfast Club, the night shelter. We've also encountered churches who are campaigning, first for structural change, for political and economic change, for a living wage, for a universal basic income for housing justice. "

Dr Shannahan says they have also developed an anti-poverty charter which they hope congregations will sign up to in order to think about what it means to act upon poverty in their local area.

Dr Denning believes increased communication is key - highlighting how Notting Hill Methodist Church developed links with local and national government in the aftermath of the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire.

She said: "They did not just care for people who had nowhere to lay their head with food and shelter, but they also campaigned with local and national government for changes to the quality of social housing."

The team is now working with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty to develop a joint event in Parliament about the findings.

Dear Lord,

Hear our prayers for all who are struggling and desperate.

May they feel comfort and hope in your Love.

And we give thanks for all those who support the vulnerable

Living out the Gospel in your name.

Amen.

## **‘My passion is for reaching out to people who don’t come to church’**

Emily Emmerson-Finch’s journey started when she got the bus.

Not catching a bus though: at the age of 22 she took the extraordinary decision to spend her savings buying a double decker bus and transforming it into a youth and community centre.

A church youth worker, Emily drove the bus around the York and later the Scarborough coastal areas. She hosted sessions for young people on board the bus, with the



opportunity to pray afterwards, as well as drop-ins for families and youth work training to churches.

When she left to move to Newcastle in 2018, its work had touched the lives of 5,000 young people and the Bus Stop charity had been established. She remains a trustee of the charity and it is still going strong on the North Yorkshire coast.

Now she is embarking on a new journey – of training to become a distinctive deacon

in the Church of England.

“The young people I met through working on the bus called it their ‘second home’ and a place where they felt that they really belonged,” she said.

“They described the bus as their church and they challenged preconceptions of what church is. I started exploring ordination four or five years ago. It was when I was on the bus that I felt that God was maybe calling me.

“But I was confused at that time as I thought then that a vicar was very much inside the church. My passion is for reaching out to people who don’t come to church.

“Then I found out about the diaconate – I am going to be trained as a distinctive deacon and my focus as a distinctive deacon can be described as being at the door of the church, welcoming people in and also encouraging the church to go out into the world.”

## Mission that is led by nature, not marketing

A mixed-ecology Church is not instrumentalised in the service of a declining institution, says *Paul Bradbury*

IN HER book *Wildling: The return of nature to a British farm* (Picador, 2018), Isabella Tree tells the story of the “rewilding” of the Knepp estate, in Sussex. Intensive arable farming ceases, the machinery is sold, the staff are laid off, and, over the course of 20 years, the land is reclaimed by scrub and trees and recolonised by an extraordinary diversity of different species. Nightingales return, and turtle doves and white storks start to breed in unprecedented numbers. The story of Knepp and the concept of wilding has caught the imagination of landowners around the world.

The wilding movement reflects a wider shift in humanity’s disposition to the environment. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about wilding is the relinquishment of human design and mastery in favour of a process led by nature. It advocates a co-operation with the emergent properties of ecology rather than the imposition of a particular use on the land.



In the light of this, the Church of England's recent vision for a Church "where mixed ecology is the norm" is fascinating. It may be a small shift from Archbishop Rowan Williams's popular term of "a mixed economy of church", but its theological implications are

significant; for encouraging a different and more diverse sort of ecology requires a radically different disposition than, say, filling a particular niche in the wider economy, or trying to market yourself to a particular audience.

THEOLOGICALLY, there is a strong connection with wilding's commitment to a humble disposition towards a deeper, mysterious, and hidden power and agency at work, which invites human agency to participate.

In the past ten years or so, as significant sums of money have flowed into mission and church-planting, there has been little room for mystery or humility. Those wanting to negotiate a slice of the pie must be clear of their vision, their strategy, their objectives, and their outputs. With little theological reflection, mission has been joined at the hip with growth (for which we mean numerical growth). Mission has been instrumentalised in the service of reversing church decline. Our communities, at times, have been looked on as repositories of the raw material necessary to stabilise a declining institution.

Ecological language invokes a relationship of co-agency with God's missionary Spirit. It invites the Church into a theological vision for mission which is about *joining in* with the flow of self-giving life from God into the world, and for the fulfilment of Jesus's vision of the Kingdom of God.

The Church becomes a key agent in the midst of this process, whose part is to listen, to participate, to discern what is taking place, and to guard and protect what is emerging.

This is the New Testament vision and practice: a movement of a community of disciples constantly seeking to keep up with the flow of the Spirit in the building of the Kingdom of God for which the Church is an embodiment and foretaste. As Stephen Bevans and Roger Schroeder argue in their study of Acts, *Constants in Context* (Orbis, 2004), the "purpose of the church is not the church itself"; rather, "the point of the church is to point beyond itself, to be a community that preaches, serves and witnesses to the reign of God."

IN OUR work supporting pioneer ministers in various contexts, Tina Hodgett and I have witnessed the diversity that occurs when people bravely respond to the call of Jesus in their lives, and seek to follow God's Spirit of mission wherever they are.

What emerges is a spectrum of different and often unexpected expressions of the Kingdom, from congregational plants and missional and neo-monastic communities, to social enterprises such as bakeries or coffee roasteries, embodying the values of the Kingdom.

We sought to describe what we were witnessing in an article and diagram known as the “pioneer spectrum”. These, and the online tool that we have now developed, are designed to support and facilitate the development of a mixed ecology. We invite the Church to start by being attentive to its context, and then to trust the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the leadership of those called there, to facilitate the expression of the Kingdom.

At Knepp, years of investing in the newest technologies, and amalgamating farms to look to generate economies of scale, all failed to solve the estate’s financial problems. A new beginning started when they stopped the machines, listened to the land, and began to co-operate with nature.

Trying to save the Church by looking to a vision of its former self will not work. Mission cannot be instrumentalised in the service of a declining institution. Mission is the overflow of the life of God. Worship is our motivation for mission, not the Church.

“Mixed ecology”, rather than being just a new slogan, may well help us espouse the theology that we need to find our way again.

*The Revd Paul Bradbury is leader of Poole Missional Communities in Salisbury diocese.*

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‘TRANSFORMING LIVES’

WITH A CAREER IN THE SALVATION ARMY

RECRUITING NOW FOR

EARLY YEARS SETTING MANAGER

Ashford, Surrey



JOIN OUR TEAM...

A vacancy has arisen in our Ofsted registered Pre-School in Ashford, Surrey, for an Early Years Settings Manager, to take on the day to day management of the provision from September.

The purpose of the role is to plan, organise and manage the established setting and maintain and develop its ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted rating, as well as to lead end of term Christian Celebrations and to explore spirituality with young children.

The position involves leading a team, working in partnership with staff, volunteers and Salvation Army Headquarters to provide a high standard of service to our community. Excellent people skills, supervisory and management skills are needed.

The successful candidate will have experience and knowledge of safeguarding, welfare requirements and health and safety in Early Years and current recognised qualifications and experience of working in Early Years.

The candidate will also be willing to undertake training and be sympathetic to the Christian aims and ethos of The Salvation Army and the mission of the local Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army is the largest and most diverse provider of social welfare in the UK after the Government, working across the UK and Ireland. The Salvation Army responds to immediate local needs such as services for children, older people, homeless people and people affected by addictions.

**SALARY:**  
£12.87 per hour

**WORKING HOURS:**  
35 hours per week, 39 weeks per year

**CONTRACT:**  
Permanent

**DETAILS:**  
25 days annual leave + bank holidays (pro rata for part-time); a contributory pension scheme; season ticket loan; an employee assistance programme

**CLOSING DATE:** Midnight 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**INTERVIEW DATE:** To be confirmed likely week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021



For further details and to apply please visit: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/jobs](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/jobs)

Appointment subject to satisfactory references, proof of right to work in the UK and DBS check  
CVs will not be accepted. Promoting equality in the workplace.

## Sheep and Lambs Together

### Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

**27<sup>th</sup> June    4th Sunday after Trinity**

**Read Mark 5 : 21-43**

pens/pencils, paper, scissors, lolly sticks, sticky tape, glue.

Draw around both hands onto paper and cut them out.

Attach a lolly stick, or an old pencil, or twig from the garden, to the back of one of the hands and then glue the other hand over the top.

Hold the hands with 'Help me' facing up and pray that God will help you.

Flip the hands over so 'Help you' is facing up, and pray that God will help you to find ways to help others.

Don't want to cut out – put a glove on one hand and then hold your hands together in prayer – Turn the glove side towards you and this is your "Help me" side. Then turn your uncovered hand towards you and this is your "Help you" side.

May be there are things you want to pray about for yourself and for others now. Share them aloud or silently with God.



## St Hilda's Parish News

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

### **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

### **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.

**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/](http://www.canaanchristianministries.co.uk/)

### John 11:26

and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

## This weeks services

### Sunday Eucharist – 27<sup>th</sup> June @ 9.30am

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

### Wednesday Eucharist – 30<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 11.15am**. See below on how to join.

The meeting is hosted by Zoom.

- Download the Zoom app – [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)
- Click – Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id – **984 0262 8918**
- Enter password – **658706**



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

### **The Recently Departed**

|                |                  |               |               |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Daphne Roberts | Kenneth Wingrove | Alec Holloway | Margaret Reid |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|

### **Prayer**

Almighty God,  
 you have broken the tyranny of sin  
 and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
 whereby we call you Father:  
 give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
 that we and all creation may be brought  
 to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
 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 forever.

Amen