



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

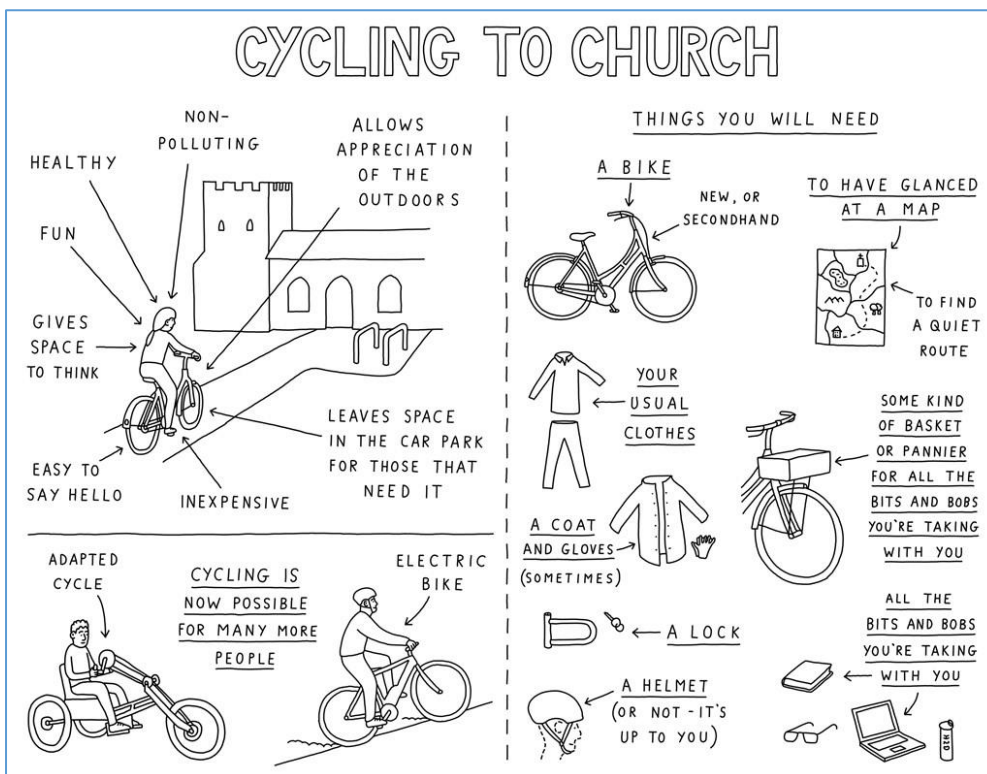
Off to church on two wheels

Climate targets will require more sustainable forms of transport. *Dave Walker* suggests that the Church take a lead

IT IS unusual to hear anyone talk about transport in church, but perhaps the way we travel around our communities is something that we should consider more often. We live in a car-dominated society, and motor vehicles don't do particularly well on the "loving our neighbour" scale.

Cars have a significant collective climate impact because of the sheer number of people using them; driving means we are inactive at a time when helping the NHS is a top priority; and there is the immense human cost of traffic collisions, as well as congestion, pollution, and noise.

Electric cars might solve some of these problems, but their manufacture on a large scale has huge climate and precious-resource implications, and replacing petrol by electric power does nothing to address traffic congestion or lack of physical activity.



Public transport is an excellent alternative, but, for many, there won't be a bus heading in the right direction in time for the 8 a.m. service.

The pandemic has also made people wary of public transport, and it could be tempting to rely on the perceived safety of cars.

So, as the Church of England commits itself to net zero carbon emissions by 2030,

perhaps now is the time for Christians to take seriously "active travel" alternatives — such as cycling and walking — and model the benefits.

The Vicar of St Peter and St Paul, Seal, in Kent, Canon Anne Le Bas, is among those finding that pedal-powered transport brings its own rewards. "Bikes slow you down enough to make a real difference to your mental health. They mean you can't rush from one thing to another, or fit as much in the day. They also make you more visible to others — a great asset for a parish priest."

CYCLING even has spiritual benefits. Margaret Pritchard Houston cycles to Hampstead Parish Church: “I find cycling to be a meditative activity, even when it’s physically hard. It gives me time before and after church to think, to process, to notice things about the city — human life and nature — and so it enhances my worship.”

Hannah Gill, a member of the Society of Women Organists, plays at St Nicholas’s, Harpenden. “Cycling to church to play the organ is a great way to combine two of my favourite activities. I’m not a morning person, but I definitely arrive at the organ console feeling more awake and refreshed after cycling than if I’d taken the train or bus. So, hopefully, the music benefits, too.”

For many — those with disabilities or older people — cycling won’t be an option, although some have found that a bike, often a three- or four-wheeled variety, doubles as a mobility aid, and opens up new possibilities in places where there is good-quality cycling infrastructure.

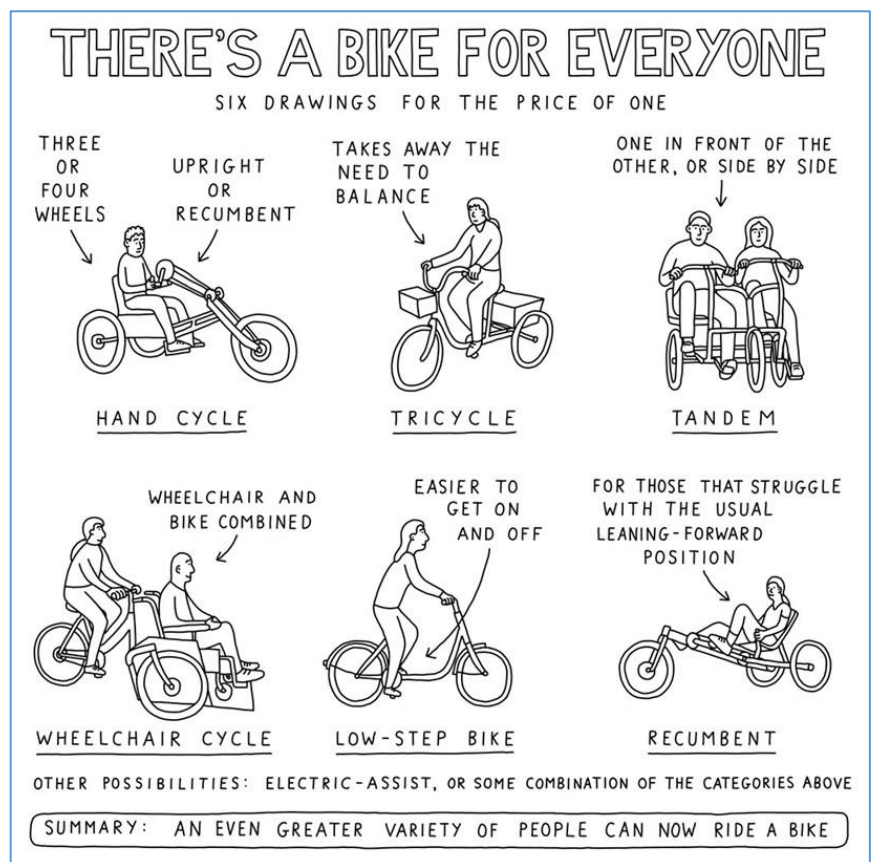
There is no denying that change can be difficult. But the Church could do a huge amount to model what is possible. A bold action — such as a free electric bike for all clergy who wanted one — would surely pay for itself in reduced mileage claims, and demonstrate, in every community, that the Church is taking a lead in changing how we think about how we travel.

With a bit of help and advice from those who are already doing it, the Church could play a significant part in being a catalyst for change.

How do you cope with wet weather?

The Vicar of St Paul’s, Boundary Road, Nottingham, the Revd Tim Fox, says: “Wet weather is not too much of an issue, with a decent rain jacket and waterproof over-trousers. By and large, the days when the weather is ideal (cool but dry) vastly outnumber the days where it is not.”

The Vicar and Leader of the Bro Gwydyr Ministry Area in Snowdonia, the Revd Stuart Elliott, says: “I have a cycling poncho, described as a ‘wet-weather chasuble’ by one parishioner.”



'I'm not fit enough to get up the hills'

Margaret Pritchard Houston has found that it gets easier. "With time, you get fitter, and that feels great. But also, take it slow, make sure your tyres are pumped up, and it's OK if you get off and walk for a bit."

Mr Elliott has to cope with the terrain of Snowdonia. "We have an awful lot of hills, some of them pretty steep. I have invested in an electric bike, which takes the sting out of them. Planning in the extra time to get around is crucial — so that you don't arrive in a wheezing mess (I have asthma)."

Are electric bikes a good solution?

Canon Le Bas is an

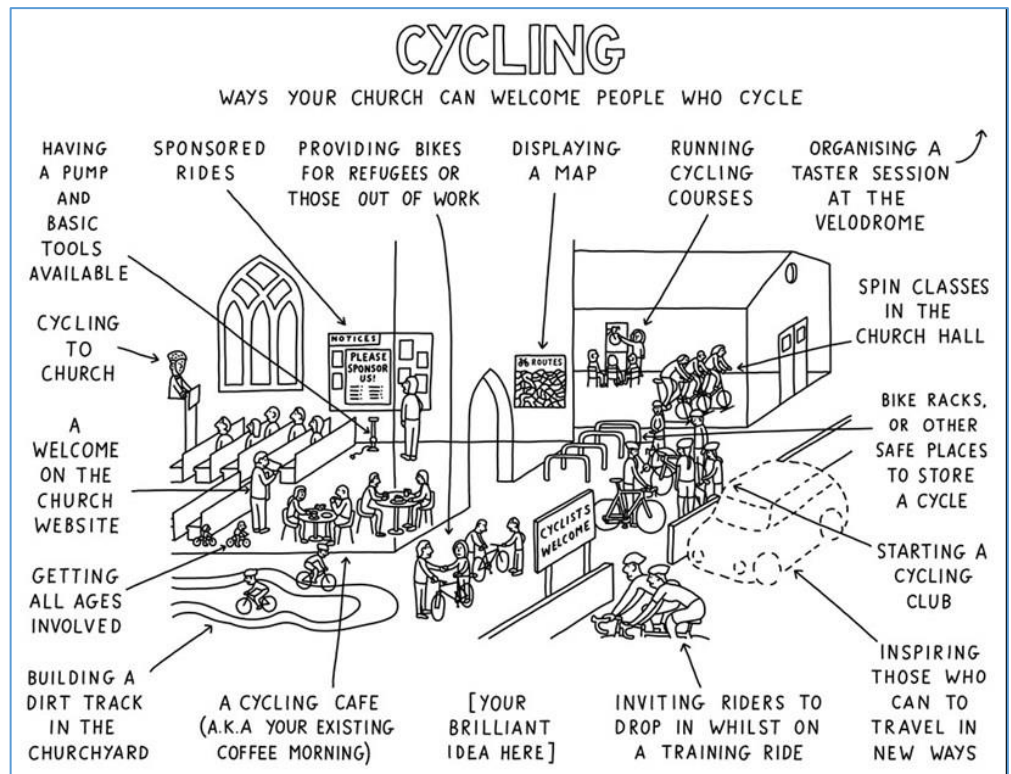
enthusiast. "Yes, yes, yes! When we moved to Sevenoaks, I took one look at the hills and knew I couldn't possibly manage them. I am on my third electric bike now, and it enables me to get wherever I need to be without being all sweaty at the end."

The Archdeacon of West Ham, the Ven. Elwin Cockett, agrees. "I can ride anywhere without getting hot and sweaty. I can get to the Bishop's house — four or five miles — more quickly and easily by electric bike than by any other form of transport, including car."

'I don't feel safe on the roads'

This is probably the main reason that people don't cycle. Cycle mapping sites and apps can help in finding quiet routes. Canon Le Bas acknowledges that safety is a significant issue. "I try to use back roads wherever possible, and can usually find quieter, safer routes. I try to avoid cycling at night if I can, but have no hesitation in declining evening visits — people can phone, Zoom, or come to me."

The Vicar of Marsden and Slaithwaite with East Scammonden, the Revd Graeme Holdsworth, recommends training. "If you feel unsafe because of your own ability . . . it will help you grow in confidence."



Is it really practical for clergy to cycle between churches?

Mr Elliott says that it can be done. “We’ve arranged our Sunday rota around being able to cycle between services. It means you need an efficient team of wardens so that you can just roll in and get on with it — which empowers them to do it.”

How do you carry everything you need?

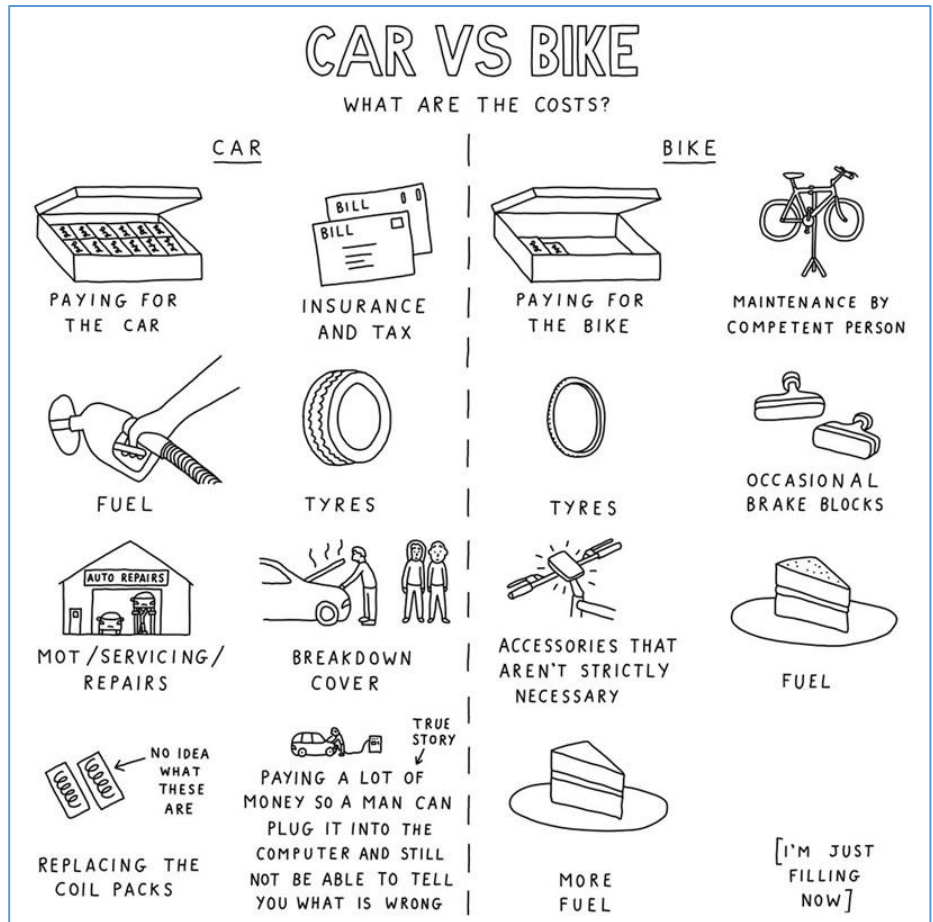
Mr Holdsworth has a collection of different luggage options, from a rucksack to a full set of front and rear panniers. “I have bought a cassock alb for each church; so, on Sunday, all I need are a copy of my sermon and a stole.”

The Revd Janet Appleby, is retired, with PTO, and covers in the Tynemouth deanery. “I have two large panniers on the back, and a flat top that a third bag can be fixed to. I can also carry a rucksack if necessary. I bought a large weatherproof cover for my robes, and roll it up into one of the panniers.”

Can you really cycle to church with children?

Kez Appleton cycles to St Mary and All Saints’, Cundall, in Yorkshire. “Cycling to our church enhances the experience, seeing the seasons change in our parish, and gives us a chance to reflect on where we’ve been that morning. And the toddler on the rear seat belting out the three words he liked in a hymn over and over again is much more bearable on a bike!”

Heather Lawson and her husband use cargo bikes to cycle to King’s Church, Durham, every week, with their three children. “Our kids always enjoy the bike more than the car, and it’s much quicker than driving and having to find somewhere to park at a city-centre location with no dedicated parking. It [also] means we can easily stop and talk with people we know on the way home.”



How do you choose a bike?

Finding a good bike shop is key, unless you feel confident buying secondhand. Archdeacon Cockett says: “Try out several before you buy. Borrow friends’ bikes, discuss the options. Be prepared to get it wrong first time.”

Mr Holdsworth recommends spending more — if you can. “There is a difference in price between a bicycle-shaped-object (BSO) and a bicycle that will fit, last, and be repairable and reliable.”

How do you keep your bike secure?

The Vicar of Sacred Trinity, Salford, Canon Andy Salmon, advises: “A strong D-lock is essential in the city. A good rule of thumb is that the lock should cost ten per cent of the cost of the bike; and always lock it to something secure.”

Churches can do much to help, with bike parking racks or indoor space for bikes. There are organisations, such as Parkthatbike and Life Cycle UK, that supply free bike racks in some areas of the UK; but consider approaching local councillors to ask if funding is available.

‘Should I give it a go?’

A final word from the Revd Grace Thomas, Assistant Curate of Whalley Range and St James with St Clement, Moss Side, and joint-diocesan environment officer. “Even on the days when I really would rather not get on my bike, I find that, by the time I have arrived, I feel so much better. It’s also started many conversations with congregation members and people I meet. I always remind them that this time last year, I was wobbling nervously around my drive. If I can do it, anyone can.”

SOCIAL JUSTICE

[QUITE A BIG CAR]

[LOVELY]

PEOPLE WITH LOTS OF MONEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO OWN A CAR

AND LIVE IN A PLACE AWAY FROM BUSY TRAFFIC, NOISE AND POLLUTION

1.5 METRES

AN OPTION FOR SOME

CARS ARE EXPENSIVE

AN OPTION FOR MANY

BIKES COST FAR LESS

* THE SITUATION - MARCH 2021

ANY SYSTEM WHICH PRIORITISES CARS OVER WALKING, CYCLING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT FAVOURS THE RICH AND PENALISES THE POOR

WE NEED TO BUILD A TRANSPORT SYSTEM THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE

Christians mark 100 days until COP26 with call for leadership



Campaigners hold a banner marking 100 days to go until the COP26 summit, in Parliament Square, London, on Friday

CHRISTIAN groups have marked the 100 days that are left until the UK hosts the COP26 climate-change summit. They have called on the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak,

to show greater leadership.

Record-breaking heatwaves in North America, extreme flooding in Europe, China, and London, and a hunger crisis in parts of Africa, have highlighted the issues to be faced by the UN summit in Glasgow in November.

On Friday, campaigners in Parliament Square, outside the Palace of Westminster, asked what had happened to UK leadership, with only months to go until the world leaders' arrival in the UK.

Christian Aid's CEO, Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, said that COP26 was the biggest diplomatic event on British soil since the end of the Second World War: "The responsibility on the shoulders of Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak could not be higher, and yet they appear to be missing in action.

"COP26 needs to deliver the long-promised climate finance for the world's poorest people, a proper process for addressing the permanent loss and damage caused by the climate emergency, and much more urgent emissions reductions to put us on track to limit global heating to 1.5C. There's still time, but it's running out, and we need to see the occupants of Downing Street putting their shoulder to the wheel to make COP26 the success it needs to be."

To mark the 100-day countdown to the talks, a coalition of Christian groups has called for churches to hold a "Climate Sunday" service in the run-up to the summit, commit themselves to practical action, and sign a petition for more urgent action by the Government. More than 1500 churches across the denominational spectrum in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland have signed up so far.

A milestone in the campaign before COP26 will be a national Climate Sunday event in Glasgow Cathedral on 5 September. This will celebrate the commitments made by churches

to that point, and present the Government with a list of those commitments and the signatories of all churches who have signed the declaration “The Time is Now”.

The CEO of A Rocha UK, Andy Atkins, who chairs the Climate Sunday Coalition, said: “The climate crisis is accelerating alarmingly; but we have the unique opportunity in rich countries to accelerate the solutions by directing Covid recovery funds towards building a new, green economy. At present, the Government is in danger of ‘building back worse’; so there has never been a more crucial time for UK churches to come together to pray, act locally, and speak up nationally on the climate crisis and on the need to ‘build back greener’.”

Hannah Eves, a member of the Young Christian Climate Network from Northern Ireland, which is also a supporter of the coalition, said: “It’s five to midnight on the ticking clock to avoid catastrophic climate change. We’re thrilled to see churches now acting on the concerns of my generation. But the grand statements we hear from the Government are so often undermined by contradictory actions.

“Boris Johnson says ‘We’re committed to Net Zero,’ then launches a massive new road-building programme, for example. The whole world is watching. Our government needs to put its own house in order fast, to have a fighting chance of delivering a successful COP for the world and my generation.”

British athlete credits faith in God for overcoming injury and qualifying for Olympics

Abigail Irozuru has credited her faith in God for ending her injury woes and wait for an Olympic debut.

The 31-year-old is preparing to make her Games bow in the long jump in Tokyo.

Her dream is nine years in the making after being left out in 2012, despite making the standard, before a ruptured Achilles forced her to miss Rio.

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Irozuru retired after her injury before making the decision to return in 2019 with her faith helping her to reach Japan.

She said: “I do go to church and believe in God and genuinely had a conversation with God and I felt compelled to come back.

“I didn’t want to look back with regrets. I felt so tugged back into it but in my head I was like ‘there’s no way I can put myself through this, it’s torture.’”



"I said 'God, please keep me healthy and allow this time round to be better'. I remind myself of that promise God made with me, or I made with God.

"In 2016 when I ruptured my Achilles, that was the second Olympic cycle I'd missed out on. I thought my dream was done but coming back a couple of years later, knowing it would be a fight, I just had to keep the faith.

"There are moments when I've had doubts, my capability and, particularly with the extra year, you question your age and ability to recover but I've been so thankful for the team I've had."

A jump of 6.69m at the trials in Manchester last month booked her Olympics spot behind Jazmine Sawyers and they will be joined by Lorraine Ugen when the competition starts next Sunday.

"When I first qualified in Manchester it was relief but now I'm just excited and it does mean so much because it has been such a long, arduous, stressful journey," the 2019 British champion told the PA news agency.

"Every athlete has a story and a journey but it does make it that bit more precious.

"I want to enjoy every moment as much as I can, despite the Covid chaos because that is important right now."

A Roman Catholic church in Glasgow has been destroyed by fire.

Emergency services were called to St Simon's Church in Partick Bridge Street after the alarm was raised at just after half past two this morning.

One person was rescued and given treatment at the scene as the blaze tore through the building. Around thirty firefighters fought to control the blaze with a fireball shooting out of a window and flames extending through the roof.

Residents in neighbouring properties were evacuated and others told to keep their windows and doors shut.

A Facebook post says it is a "sad end" for St Simon's which is "a much loved parish church and spiritual home to Glasgow's Polish community."



A spokesman for the Archdiocese of Glasgow said: "The destruction of St Simon's church by fire will be a blow to people far beyond the west end of Glasgow. Though small in size, St

Simon's was well-frequented and was the spiritual home of the Polish community in the west of Scotland who had established a shrine there.

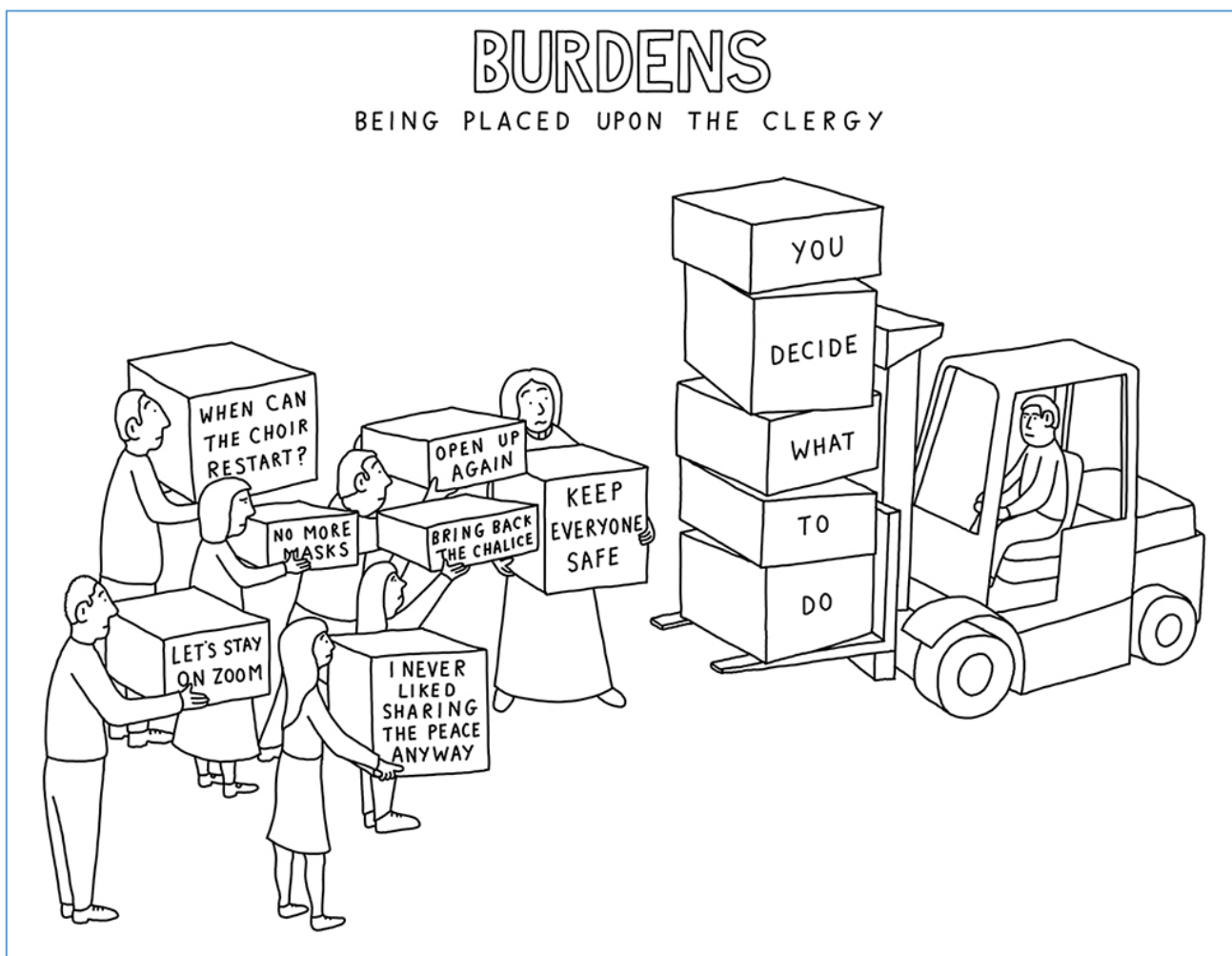
"It was also a focal point for the local community, and especially the homeless who benefited from a café on site which had to be suspended during the pandemic.

"The church of St Simon's is linked to the larger parish of St Peter's in Partick and worshippers will be accommodated there.

"The cause of the blaze is not immediately apparent, but we will work with the Fire Service as they investigate the site.

"St Simon's was a much-loved landmark at Partick Cross and its loss is a heavy blow."

St Simon's was a B listed church built in 1855. After temporary closure due to lockdown restrictions it has been operating in recent weeks with daily services and Masses for the Polish community on Sundays.



Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

1st August 9th Sunday after Trinity

Read John 6.24-35

Have a picnic – which includes some bread. We need food to live in this world. But think of ways in which you can feed on the heavenly bread which is Jesus, which feeds us spiritually.



Or



Find some cardboard tubes, string, sticky tape and stickers, and make and decorate a pair of binoculars, with which to go 'looking' for Jesus, as the crowd did.

St Hilda's Parish News

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

Spelthorne Deanery Confirmations – Sunday 19th September

Spelthorne deanery confirmation service is taking place at St Hilda's at 3pm.

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized. If you were baptized at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At the confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be here to promise to support and pray for you.

Bishop Graham will lay his hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life. If you would like to find out more, please do get in touch with Fr Joseph.

Confirmation preparation for adults will run on Thursday the 2nd, 9th and 16th September.

Soup and roll

Starting on **Wednesday 29th September**, after the 11am service and continuing on the last service of each month.

For more details, see
the web site: <https://www.yccn.uk>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YCCNetwork>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YCCNetwork/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/yccnetwork/>

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

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/

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist – 1st August @ 9.30am

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

Wednesday Eucharist – 4th August @ 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 note we asking for the safety of yourselves and others that you continue to wear a mask whilst in the church.

Tea and Chat after Sunday Service

The Sunday Tea and Chat is taking a short break for the summer, we are currently looking at holding this at another time as following the lifting of restrictions, refreshments will restart at the end of the Sunday service this week.

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

The Recently Departed

Marion Mugeridge	William Loveridge	Ronald Winslade	Paul Harvey
Daphne Roberts			

Prayer

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
 we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
 both our hearts and bodies
 in the ways of your laws
 and the works of your commandments;
 that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
 we may be preserved in body and soul;
 through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

Amen