



St Hilda's  
Ashford

# St Hilda's News

## Contents



- Understanding others' beliefs
- Church of England streamlines governance
- 9/11 Anniversary
- Sheep and Lambs Together
- Sponsor a church chair
- St Hilda's Parish News
- [Our thoughts and prayers](#) – Those from this weeks notices

*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.*

*The next St Hilda's News will be in 2 weeks and from October it will be monthly*

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

## **69% Britons think it's important to understand others' beliefs**

More than two-thirds of British adults said in a survey that it is important to understand other people's religious and non-religious beliefs for everyday life.

Just under half of Britons identify themselves as religious, but a new report has found that 69 per cent think it's important to understand other people's for school, work or talking to people socially.

The Savanta research, commissioned by education charity Culham St Gabriel's Trust who support RE teachers, found that nearly two-thirds (64 per cent) of adults also consider religious education to be an important part of the school curriculum. This figure is 68 per cent when asked to parents.

Assessing how important understanding people's worldviews was to different aspects of life, over 60 per cent of responders said it was important to each of these aspects: their relationships with friends and family, school, local community and workplace.

In the nationally representative group of 2000 UK adults, 71 per cent agreed that RE should reflect the diversity of backgrounds and beliefs in the UK today.

Ed Pawson, a former head of RE who was involved in commissioning the research, told Premier: "We're calling for a national plan for RE - to ensure that schools are teaching what we call a national entitlement to RE, which would help all pupils in schools get a better exposure...the thinking time, the discussion time in schools, with trained, qualified, experienced and confident teachers.

"Our polls show that there are many Secondary schools in particular which aren't delivering high quality RE and some don't have it on their timetable when actually it is a legal requirement."

Father,

We thank you for the gospel and those who taught us it.

We pray that RE does get taught well in schools so that young people have a chance to think about what they believe, learn about other worldviews so they can engage with people better and be more equipped to handle criticisms of their own beliefs.

Amen

## **C of E streamlines central governance as church giving drops post pandemic**

The Church of England is to undergo a major reshuffle of its central governance as it adapts to a "significant decline" in church giving, according to a member of General Synod.

An official review group chaired by the Bishop of Leeds has proposed the powers of the House of Bishops be scaled back and the activities currently overseen by the Church Commissioners and the Archbishops' Council be merged into a singular body known as Church of England National Services.

General Synod member Rev Jonathan Alderton Ford told Premier the move comes in response to a ten per cent drop in church giving following the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's best to see reorganisation in terms of a long-term development of our infrastructure as we adapt to a changing situation.

"It's been made more pertinent in recent years as over Covid 19 giving to the Church of England has declined significantly.

"This is meaning that we just haven't got the resources (in cash-in-hand terms) to maintain the same level of support that we had before."

Rev Ford explains that the merging of these two Church of England departments will help to boost efficiency and prevent the duplication of work across multiple departments.

"In some cases we have three, four or even five departments all doing overlapping work. We need to get people doing one job and doing it well."

Critics have raised concerns that the move will lead to Bishops becoming more like managers than spiritual leaders.

Rev Ford admits that there needs to be a healthy connection between Diocesan Bishops and their parishes to ensure they understand their needs but argues that this understanding has to extend to its accounts just as much as its people.

Central funding from the Church of England is granted to dioceses based on their social or missional needs which can put a greater pressure on parishes to be economically viable. Rev Ford explains that the Church is increasing the number of people being ordained on a part time or voluntary basis and releasing more laity into ministry roles in a bid to help support parishes in a sustainable way.

This story shows there is still kindness and love in this world. Thank you to Valerie Scott for sharing this with us at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11. This episode in history has now been captured by the musical 'Come from Away'

**Here is an amazing story from a flight attendant on Delta Flight 15, written following 9-11:**

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, we were about 5 hours out of Frankfurt, flying over the North Atlantic.

All of a sudden the curtains parted and I was told to go to the cockpit, immediately, to see the captain. As soon as I got there I noticed that the crew had that "All Business" look on their faces. The

the captain handed me a printed message. It was from Delta's main office in Atlanta and simply read, "All airways over the Continental United States are closed to commercial air traffic. Land ASAP at the nearest airport. Advise your destination."

No one said a word about what this could mean. We knew it was a serious situation and we needed to find terra firma quickly. The captain determined that the nearest airport was 400 miles behind us in Gander, Newfoundland.

He requested approval for a route change from the Canadian traffic controller and approval was granted immediately -- no questions asked.

We found out later, of course, why there was no hesitation in approving our request.

While the flight crew prepared the airplane for landing, another message arrived from Atlanta telling us about some terrorist activity in the New York area. A few minutes later word came in about the hijackings.

We decided to LIE to the passengers while we were still in the air. We told them the plane had a simple instrument problem and that we needed to land at the nearest airport in Gander, Newfoundland, to have it checked out.

We promised to give more information after landing in Gander. There was much grumbling among the passengers, but that's nothing new! Forty minutes later, we landed in Gander. Local time at Gander was 12:30 PM!...that's 11:00 AM EST.

There were already about 20 other airplanes on the ground from all over the world that had taken this detour on their way to The U.S.

After we parked on the ramp, the captain made the following announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, you must be wondering if all these airplanes around us have the same instrument problem as we have. The reality is that we are here for another reason." Then he went on to explain the little bit we knew about the situation in the U.S.

There were loud gasps and stares of disbelief. The captain informed passengers that Ground Control in Gander told us to stay put.

The Canadian government was in charge of our situation and no one was allowed to get off the aircraft. No one on the ground was allowed to come near any of the air crafts. Only airport police would come around periodically, look us over and go on to the next airplane.

In the next hour or so more planes landed and Gander ended up with 53 airplanes from all over the world, 27 of which were U.S. commercial jets.

Meanwhile, bits of news started to come in over the aircraft radio and for the first time we learned that airplanes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York and into the Pentagon in D.C. People were trying to use their cell phones, but were unable to connect due to a different cell system in Canada. Some did get through but were only able to get to the Canadian operator who would tell them that the lines to the U.S. were either blocked or jammed.

Sometime in the evening, the news filtered to us that the World Trade Center buildings had collapsed and that a fourth hijacking had resulted in a crash. By now the passengers were emotionally and physically exhausted, not to mention frightened, but everyone stayed amazingly calm. We had only to look out the window at the 52 other stranded aircraft to realize that we were not the only ones in this predicament.

We had been told earlier that they would be allowing people off the planes one plane at a time. At 6 P.M., Gander airport told us that our turn to deplane would be 11 am the next morning. Passengers were not happy, but they simply resigned themselves to this news without much noise and started to prepare themselves to spend the night on the airplane.

Gander had promised us medical attention, if needed, water, and lavatory servicing. And they were true to their word. Fortunately, we had no medical situations to worry about. We did have a young lady who was 33 weeks into her pregnancy. We took REALLY good care of her. The night passed without incident despite the uncomfortable sleeping arrangements.

About 10:30 on the morning of the 12th, a convoy of school buses showed up. We got off the plane and were taken to the terminal where we went through Immigration and Customs and then had to register with

the Red Cross.

After that, we (the crew) were separated from the passengers and were taken in vans to a [small](#) hotel. We had no idea where our passengers were going. We learned from the Red Cross that the town of Gander has a population of 10,400 people and they had about 10,500 passengers to take care of all the airplanes that were forced into Gander! We were told to just relax at the hotel and we would be contacted when the U.S. airports opened again, but not to expect that call for a while.

We found out the total scope of the terror back home only after getting to our hotel and turning on the TV, 24 hours after it all started.

Meanwhile, we had lots of time on our hands and found that the people of Gander were extremely friendly. They started calling us the "plane people." We enjoyed their hospitality, explored the town of Gander and ended up having a pretty good time.

Two days later, we got that call and were taken back to the Gander airport. Back on the plane, we were reunited with the passengers and found out what they had been doing for the past two days. What we found out was incredible.

Gander and all the surrounding communities (within about a 75 Kilometer radius) had closed all high schools, meeting halls, lodges, and any other large gathering places. They converted all these facilities to mass lodging areas for all the stranded travellers. Some had cots set up, some had mats with sleeping bags and pillows set up.

ALL the high school students were required to volunteer their time to take care of the "guests." Our 218 passengers ended up in a town called Lewisporte, about 45 kilometres from Gander where they were put up in a high school. If any women wanted to be in a women-only facility, that was arranged. Families were kept together. All the elderly passengers were taken to private homes.

Remember that young pregnant lady? She was put up in a private home right across the street from a 24-hour Urgent Care facility. There was a dentist on call and both male and female nurses remained with the crowd for the duration.

Phone calls and e-mails to the U.S. and around the world were available to everyone once a day. During the day, passengers were offered "Excursion" trips. Some people went on boat cruises of the lakes and harbours. Some went for hikes in the local forests.

Local bakeries stayed open to make fresh bread for the guests.

Food was prepared by all the residents and brought to the schools. People were driven to restaurants of their choice and offered wonderful meals. Everyone was given tokens for local laundry mats to wash their clothes since luggage was still on the aircraft. In other words, every single need was met for those stranded travellers.

Passengers were crying while telling us these stories. Finally, when they were told that U.S. airports had reopened, they were delivered to the airport right on time and without a single passenger missing or late. The local Red Cross had all the information about the whereabouts of each and every passenger and knew which plane they needed to be on and when all the planes were leaving. They coordinated everything beautifully.

It was absolutely incredible.

When passengers came on board, it was like they had been on a cruise. Everyone knew each other by name. They were swapping stories of their stay, impressing each other with who had the better time. Our flight back to Atlanta looked like a chartered party flight. The crew just stayed out of their way. It was mind-boggling.

Passengers had totally bonded and were calling each other by their first names, exchanging phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses.

And then a very unusual thing happened.

One of our passengers approached me and asked if he could make an announcement over the PA system. We never, ever allow that. But this time was different. I said "of course" and handed him the mike. He picked up the PA and reminded everyone about what they had just gone through in the last few days. He reminded them of the hospitality they had received at the hands of total strangers. He continued by saying that he would like to do something in return for the good folks of Lewisporte.

"He said he was going to set up a Trust Fund under the name of DELTA 15 (our flight number). The purpose of the trust fund is to provide college scholarships for the high school students of Lewisporte.

He asked for donations of any amount from his fellow travellers. When the paper with donations got back to us with the amounts, names, phone numbers and addresses, the total was more than \$14,000!

"The gentleman, an MD from Virginia, promised to match the donations and to start the administrative work on the scholarship. He also said that he would forward this proposal to Delta Corporate and ask them to donate as well.

As I write this account, the trust fund is at more than \$1.5 million and has assisted 134 students in their college education.

"I just wanted to share this story because we need good stories right now. It gives me a little bit of hope to know that some people in a faraway place were kind to some strangers who literally dropped in on them.

It reminds me how much good there is in the world."

"In spite of all the rotten things we see going on in today's world this story confirms that there are still a lot of good people in the world and when things get bad, they will come forward.

\*This is one of those stories that need to be shared. Please do so...\*

## Sheep and Lambs Together

### Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

**19<sup>th</sup> September      16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Read **Mark 9.30-37**

*The disciples were arguing about who was most important. Jesus asked them what was wrong, and they were quiet. He knew they had been arguing about who was the greatest.*

*So, Jesus told them that to be first they had to be last, and they had to serve others.*

*Jesus took a little child and put the child in the centre. He said, 'If you welcome one of these little children, you welcome me.'*

Think about the story and then think about ways you could serve others in the coming week.

Then get the youngest members of the family to serve the older members of the family at the next meal and do all the tidying up!



## Sponsor a church chair

We have selected some fresh, new replacement chairs.

During the last few years, as well as worship, the church has been used for concerts, educational activities, conferences and even a curry and carols evening. We need the building and its furnishings to support the developing uses of the church space and replacing the chairs is a big initiative.



The sale of the old chairs covered approximately half of the cost of the new ones. You can help us with the cost of the new chairs:

- ❖ £90 covers the cost of a chair
- ❖ £225 covers the cost of a stacking dolly or trolley

#### Features of the new chairs:

- They stack (up to 10 in a stack or 25 on a special dolly)
- They link together at floor level, making them safe and compliant with current regulations
- They are lightweight
- They are upholstered – for comfort and looking good
- The upholstery is wipe-clean
- They come with and without arms, so all the chairs will match
- The chrome finish is an upgrade and will not scratch (like the chairs in the hall)



We will recognise the sponsors of the new chairs in a memorial book / list which will be displayed in church – you can donate either in memory of someone or as an individual donation.

*Thank you*

If you are interested in sponsoring a chair, please complete a form that can be found:

- At the back of the Church
- On the Website
- Or Contact the Parish Office

Cheques are payable to St Hilda's PCC or you can transfer monies direct;  
St Hilda's PCC  
Sort Code: 60-01-22  
Account Number: 36290696

## Sheep and Lambs Together

### Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

**26<sup>th</sup> September**      **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Read **Mark 9.38-50**

*John spoke up, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to expel demons and we stopped him because he wasn't in our group." Jesus wasn't pleased. "Don't stop him. No one can use my name to do something good and powerful, and in the next breath slam me. If he's not an enemy, he's an ally. Why, anyone by just giving you a cup of water in my name is on our side. Count on it that God will notice.*



On a large piece of paper, using people-shaped cookie cutters and paint. Print people shapes all over the paper. When the paint is dry, across the banner write, 'Seeing God in others'. Or you could just draw different shaped people and colour them in.

## St Hilda's Parish News

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

### Peggy Pinfold Update



After just over two weeks in St Peter's then 10 days in Woking Community Hospital, Peggy has moved to the residential care home, Moor House in Staines for 4 weeks respite, and to evaluate what the future holds.

The family thank all the friends at St Hilda's for their good wishes, thoughts and prayers over the last month.

### Bishop's Teaching Evening

Bishop Graham will be holding a teaching evening on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Further Details will follow.

## Hatton Musical Theatre Society

### ELF The Musical

All through the past 18 months, those of us who enjoy either performing in or watching amateur operatic shows have eagerly awaited the all-clear for live entertainment to start up again. At long last, that time seems to be rapidly approaching. Hatton Musical Theatre are currently rehearsing their next production, Elf The Musical, for performance in October.

This is a jolly, lively, Christmas-themed show specifically intended to cheer us all up. It has everything we look for - plenty of singing, dancing and comedy interspersed with drama – providing great entertainment for all ages.

Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts, and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh reality that his father is on the naughty list, and his step-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

One very important thing to bear in mind is that, unlike other Hatton productions in recent years, this one will **not** be at the Magna Carta Arts Centre, Egham. Instead, it will be performed at the **Rhoda McGaw Theatre**, The Ambassadors, Victoria Way, Woking, GU21 6GQ.

Performances are in October at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>, with a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets at £15 (£14 for children aged 14 and under) can be booked through:

[www.atgtickets.com/venues/rhoda-mcgaw-theatre-woking](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/rhoda-mcgaw-theatre-woking)  
or by phoning 0333 009 6690

Come along and embrace your inner elf.

**HATTON MUSICAL THEATRE** presents

Book by **Thomas Meehan & Bob Martin**  
Music by **Matthew Sklar**  
Lyrics by **Chad Beguelin**

Based upon the New line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum

**elf**  
The Musical

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
at 7.30pm & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

**Rhoda McGaw Theatre**  
The Ambassadors, Victoria Way, Woking GU21 6GQ

**BOX OFFICE** [www.atgtickets.com/venues/rhoda-mcgaw-theatre-woking](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/rhoda-mcgaw-theatre-woking)  
0333 009 6690

Tickets: £15 Concessions (Under 14s): £14

*Mike Davenport*

## Garden Tools

If anyone has some gardening tools that they no longer need, please see Frances as they will be gratefully received to help with the upkeep of the Church properties gardens.

## Spelthorne Deanery Confirmations – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September

The Spelthorne deanery confirmation service is taking place at St Hilda's at 3pm on Sunday, if you would like to attend please book via the link on our website or Facebook or by contacting the parish office.

## Women's and Men's Breakfast



We are planning to hold individual breakfast get togethers for Women and Men separately. The aim of these is to create a new time for fellowship, followed by a full English breakfast, and a talk by a guest speaker.

### Women's Breakfast – 16<sup>th</sup> October

The guest speaker for the first Women's Breakfast is Amanda McLean from the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Tickets can be booked via the ticket tailor links on our website or Facebook page or by contacting the parish office. There is a suggested donation of £5 to attend the breakfast. All are welcome.

## Junior Church Breakfast

There will be a sharing breakfast on 26<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30am, the children are welcome to bring a friend with them, please book an extra ticket (s) when booking your child.

## Soup and roll

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

*There's something spiritual about breaking bread together. After the Eucharist, we will gather for soup and roll. It will be an excellent way to get to know each other better, to share in fellowship, meet some new faces and enjoy a delicious home cooked soup with a bread roll.*

## Hope Into Action

*Thank you, to everyone who has used the blue bins to donate clothing. The bins will remain in place, please feel free to continue to leave clothing and shoes. The money raised will be put towards the work of Hope into Action locally.*

Homelessness has been a key element of St Hilda's missional engagement and St Hilda has started to support Hope Into Action:

*"We provide not just shelter and housing know-how but also friendship. Together with over 70 churches, we provide direct support to people whom others have often given up on. Our vision is for every church to lovingly provide the homeless with a home. The tragedy of homelessness is in every community"*

There are two blue wheelie bins, one in church and one in the church hall to take donations of clothes, belts and shoe. It will all be sold, and the proceeds donated towards the partnership with Hope Into Action. Please – clean clothes, paired shoes, and belts only. We cannot do anything with bedding, towels, curtains, and other soft furnishings.

**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/)

### **Romans 15: 7**

Welcome one another,  
therefore, just as Christ has  
welcomed you, for the glory of  
God.

## Upcoming services

### **Sunday Eucharist – 9.30am**

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

### **Wednesday Eucharist – 9.45am (22<sup>nd</sup> September) then 11am from 29<sup>th</sup> September onwards**

Tickets can be booked for the 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.**

**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	Jane Johnson	Elsie Stone	Izzy
Darren Burkin	Pat Kyle	Roy Stone	Nic
Robb Clarke	Mrs McCammon	Rev. Peter Taylor	Baby Reuben
Ann Considine	Libby Mills	Carla Wells	Bob
Julia Cowley	Raymond Nation	Sheila West	Margaret
Michael Dixon	Pat Parish	Philip Willerton	
Peter Garner	Peggy Pinfold	Chick Wilson	
Juliet Griffith	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Peter Wilson	
Alison Griffiths	Delphine Scrivener	Jo Wood	
Jean Iddiols	Riley Shaw		

### **The Recently Departed**

Sandra Swain	Marion Otieno	Joan Andrews	(Auntie) Kath Brown
Clifford McCammon			

### **Prayer**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers  
of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know  
what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Amen