



St Hilda's  
Ashford

# Weekly Newsletter



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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 the office on 01784 253525 or [office@sthilda.org](mailto:office@sthilda.org) Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237.

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## Statement from the Archbishops of York and Canterbury

*Joint statement by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu and Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby*

Recent events in the United States of America have once again drawn public attention to the ongoing evil of white supremacy. Systemic racism continues to cause incalculable harm across the world. Our hearts weep for the suffering caused – for those who have lost their lives, those who have experienced persecution, those who live in fear. God's justice and love for all creation demands that this evil is properly confronted and tackled. Let us be clear: racism is an affront to God. It is born out of ignorance, and must be eradicated. We all bear the responsibility and must play our part to eliminate this scourge on humanity.

As Dr Martin Luther King Jr said, "In a real sense, we are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Therefore, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

We pray that God's abounding wisdom, compassion and love will guide leaders across the world to forge a better society.

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## Lockdown could change the Church permanently

HOW things will look for the Church when we emerge from this experience will depend on what we do now. Is mere survival our aim, or are we excited by the surprising things that we discover as we strive to be true to our vocation in dramatically changed circumstances? Being prevented from "going to church" might liberate us from our habitual routines to "become church" all over again — or, perhaps, for the very first time.

Such rejuvenation may help to release us, at last, from the prison of our [church building](#), which, for many, have become shrines to the past which not only soak up energy and resources, but also perpetuate concepts of division and hierarchy harmful to a mature understanding of who we are.

Although this awakening is to be grasped by all God's people, it is at this point that the clergy, set apart and trained not simply to "take services", but to pastor, train, and mobilise the community of faith, who must rise to the occasion. This will demand not just a complete rearrangement of the diary, but also a totally new set of priorities: nothing less than a reinvention of the part played by the priest.

TO MOVE away from the perception that the parish priest is there to take services and to serve as caretaker, the focus will need to shift to:

**Formation.** Freed from over-indulgence in churchiness, we can get down to some basic teaching about who we are and what our task is. Whereas getting busy people to give time to group study, training, or preparation has always been hard work, the present crisis changes everything.

This time of isolation and restricted movement clears a space in our lives to embrace new ways of communicating and learning which will potentially transform the Church for a very long time. We might not merely survive this crisis: we might come of age. We shift from going to church to living the faith.

For example: the sermon could be transformed into a dialogue with several participants rather than a monologue delivered “from on high”.

**Prayer.** This period of lockdown allows new disciplines of prayer and rediscovery of old ones to flourish. Although the concept of a virtual eucharist can be problematical, the daily Office can come into its own.

At certain set times each day, agreed beforehand, a parish community could jointly participate in morning, evening, or night prayer by means of one of the many platforms available, such as Zoom. These times could equally be suitable for extempore prayer, or silent prayer together. The pastor could provide a phrase from one of the set readings, with a brief comment, as “soul food” for the day. We shift from saying prayers to engaging with God.



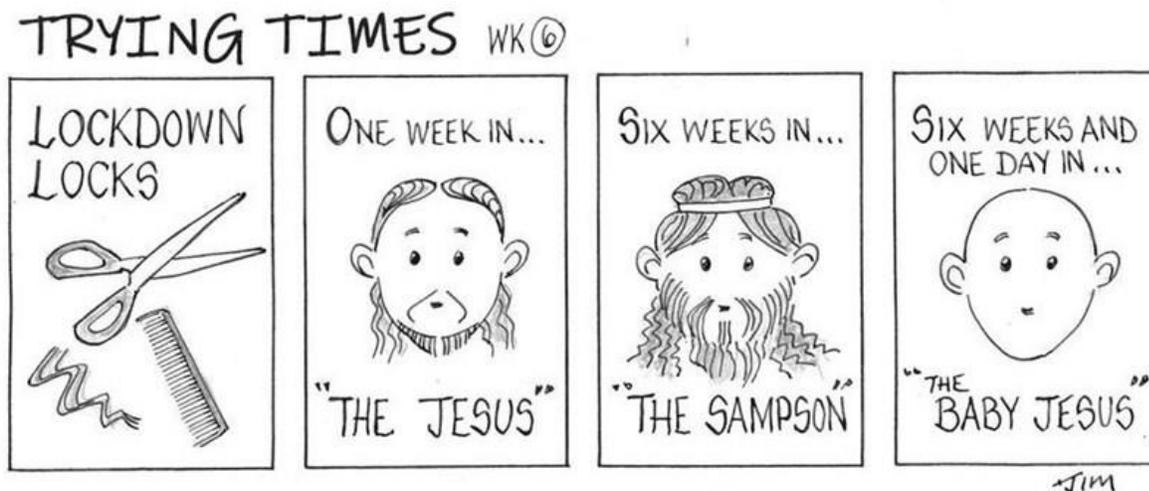
**Pastoral care.** Clergy visiting of people in their homes was in decline and, in its traditional form, is now not permitted. But here is a great opportunity for the Church to nurture mutual pastoral care, by means of virtual groups through which people check in regularly with each other, prayer triplets, or phone calls to those without an online connection. We shift from meeting needs to helping each other into wholeness. For example: prayer, support, and reflection triplets could be established online, co-ordinated with the parish priest.

**Mission.** The present crisis lays bare many needs in communities and presents the Church with an opportunity to develop its social action. Authority to take initiative in this field will need to be delegated to individuals who are equipped to discern and analyse problems, match resources to needs, and recruit help. We shift from capturing minds to enhancing lives. For example: a “card-drop” (a street or two at a time) to offer phone contacts, shopping, or help with practical matters, as a small practical step towards communicating something of God’s love.

THE examples listed above will not fit every setting, but are intended to provoke thoughts about alternative actions that would be appropriate in any particular setting. In the aftermath of the execution of Jesus, his close followers, their hopes shattered, were to be found frightened and isolated in a lockdown of their own. The future was empty and fearful, and many of them would have wanted to go back to safer, more predictable times.

The challenge and opportunity of lockdown calls us beyond the church building and the familiar. It is a call into life-giving focus on the nurturing of formation, prayer, mutual pastoral care, and mission. It is these that will renew the life of the Church to be an engaging faith community.

*The Revd Richard Giles, formerly Vicar of St Thomas's, Huddersfield, and Dean of Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, is a liturgical consultant, and author of Re-pitching the Tent (Canterbury Press, 2004). The Revd John Sadler has been ordained for 42 years, working predominantly in socially deprived communities. Canon Robert Warren was formerly Vicar of St Thomas's, Crookes, Sheffield, and National Officer for Evangelism.*



## Appeal for Bronzefield

Thank you to everyone who responded to the appeal for any CDs, Books (including dictionaries), Puzzles etc. for weekend packs for the Residents of Bronzefield. We are still collecting, so If you would like to donate anything, please contact the Parish Office, so we can arrange collection/ drop off and onward delivery. Thank you.

## Gardening from my perspective

What an exciting time of year it is in the garden! Everything is now putting in a spurt of growth and suddenly the perennial plants you forgot all about make a fresh appearance.

As we know gardening is good for our health and particularly at the moment it's better to be outside rather than inside.

I love gardening because I like growing things that I have never grown before both for my own garden and also for our two daughters who live fairly close by. I invested in a Rhino greenhouse a few years ago so I now have the capacity to grow more than before.

Growing from seed is always exciting, depending upon the viability of the seed. It's truly amazing how many plants you can get from one packet of seed. Sometimes I try plug plants which are generally successful and good value for money.

When I do visit Garden Centres I always look out for what I refer to as 'Hospital Corner' where you find plants that are heavily discounted because they are slightly damaged or past their best. In my experience most just need a prune and/or to be fed and repotted. One of the joys of gardening, in my view, is saving such plants and bringing them back to life. I find this very rewarding.

Gardening is all about experimentation to see what works in various parts of the garden as well as what works best for you.

It's worth bearing in mind that as our summers are getting warmer and with hosepipe bans as well it's wise to look for drought resistant plants. For example last year I grew Lychnis



Coronaria (Rose campion) from seed and now they are in bloom in the front garden. It's a long flowering perennial.

Also remember "Right plant, Right place". What does this mean?

Well avoid planting a shade loving planting in the sun and vice versa.

Also avoid planting acid loving plants in alkaline soil and vice versa.

If you want to know what type of soil you have in your garden soil testing kits are available from most garden centres.

When I am asked such a question, particularly from people who have just moved into an area, I advise them to walk around the area and look to see what is growing well in other gardens.

That at least will give you a clue as to what might work best in your garden.

But as above gardening is all about experimentation and with our changing climate the need to adapt to reflect that change. There is always something to do in the garden even if it's just deadheading to ensure that your blooms continue blooming!

Finally, top tip, remember the three D's. Remove anything which is dead, damaged or diseased.

Enjoy your garden.

Alan Sloan

## Lockdown – What Lockdown?

Believe it or not, I must have been the only person in the country ...or one of them...who was unaware of the Lockdown looming up on 23rd March.

For the previous two weeks all I could think about was clearing the front bedroom, disposing of the furniture, setting up hospital equipment, re-organizing the house, and then arranging to send it all back again when Roy died on 1st March. I did not pick up a newspaper or listen to any broadcast so when Father Joseph rang up to advise me about the restrictions being imposed, I was quite taken aback!

However due to the devoted care of Father Joseph and the St Hilda's community and Holmes and Daughters, we had a beautiful funeral service and Committal. For this Heather, Ian and I offer our sincere thanks.

Now about that equipment. In January I bought:

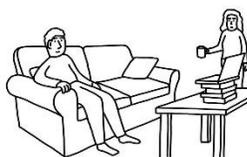
- A Days 100 large rollator walking aid, the one which is walker and seat combined.
- A support frame for the lavatory.

Both are brand new. If anyone would like them, free, please inform the Parish Office. I have a large vehicle and I can bring them to your door. I do hope someone can make use of them.

With very best wishes to everyone in these weird times.  
Frances Gilbert.

## THE ONLINE SERVICE

HOW TO MAKE IT FEEL LIKE NORMAL



ARRIVE A FEW MINUTES LATE, CARRYING COFFEE



SCOWL AT THE PERSON SITTING IN YOUR SEAT



WHISPERED DISCIPLINING OF CHILDREN (UNSUCCESSFUL)



USE YOUR PHONE TO 'READ THE BIBLE'



STAND UP AT ENTIRELY THE WRONG POINT



SHARE A PLATE OF STALE BISCUITS

## Church Spring Clean

We are starting to think about making plans to return to church. Right now we can only plan, but we are following the advice of the Church of England closely and hope that we will be able to return to church safely at some stage. Whatever we do it will be wonderful to be together again.

Part of the planning process is to do the spring clean we normally do before Easter. It is likely we will need to do this in small groups, observing social distancing and possibly with face coverings. Right now we don't know, but an indication of who might be available, and on which days would be helpful.

### Who can clean?

Current guidelines from The Church of England advise, that if anyone falls into one of the following categories, then we encourage them to remain at home and not assist in the cleaning at this time.

- Considered as in the vulnerable category
- An underlying health condition
- or anyone over the age of 70

If you don't fall into any of the above categories and will be willing to spare a few hours in assisting with the clean, please email the Parish Office with your name, contact details and the days you may be available. As we progress the planning further, Frances will contact you to discuss the details and the safety measures we will be taking to ensure everyone involved feels comfortable and safe.

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office and these will be forwarded onto Paula and Frances. Thank you in advance.

## Stewardship/ Donations

### CAF On-Line – Single Donation (via our Website)

If you wish to make a single donation, you can now do so via the Website

- Click on 'Donations'
- Scroll down a little to the single donation section until you see via CAF online, and click 'Donate now'
- Enter the required details – it is easy to follow

Any questions please call the Parish Office for assistance

## Parish Giving Scheme

A reminder of an easy way to continue to 'give' to the Church during lockdown.

The Parish Giving Scheme has launched a new telephone service, designed to enable donors to set up a regular Direct Debit donation over the phone.

- Call 0333 002 1271
- The phone line is open 9am – 5pm Monday-Friday
- An administrator will talk through the process
- The following information will be required:
  - Personal Bank Details
  - Name of the parish – Ashford St Hilda
  - Confirm whether the gift should increase with inflation each year
  - Confirm whether you are eligible for Gift Aid – they collect on our behalf
  - PGS Code for St Hilda's - **230623270**

## Tea and Chat after Sunday Service

Following the success of the after service Tea and Chat last Sunday, where over 20 members of the congregation joined, this will become a regular event.

We would like to invite you to join us for a virtual Tea and Chat after the service on Sunday 7 June 2020 at 11.00am. See below on how to join. Any questions please call the Parish Office.

The meeting is hosted by Zoom.



There are 2 ways in which you can join the Tea and Chat session

1. Join via a computer or tablet, for a video style experience (like Skype)
  - Download the Zoom app – [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)
  - Click – Join a Meeting
  - Enter the Meeting id – 854 7239 0298
  - Enter password - 597828
2. Join via telephone – cost of a local call.
  - Dial – 0203 051 2874
  - Enter Meeting Id – 854 7239 0298 – and follow instructions (who will be asked to press # and 1)
  - Password – 597828

## A Reflection by Fr Joseph

“You would not believe if you were told”

### Habakkuk 1:2-5

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you “Violence!”  
and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.

<sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

<sup>5</sup>Look at the nations, and see!  
Be astonished! Be astounded!  
For a work is being done in your days  
that you would not believe if you were told.

As we read these words from the prophet Habakkuk, we realise the timelessness and relevance of Scripture, which continues to speak into our lives. Recent events in the United States are a stark reminder that in the twenty first century, racism is still prevalent. When the misuse of power and the law become slack and justice does not seem to prevail, instead of working towards the common good, they become an instrument of oppression and hatred, social structures collapse and those who feel helpless, invisible, voiceless, and voided of justice, decide to take action, often through violence. If anything we can learn from History, is that it does repeat itself. Christians are not the “good ones” in every story, for under the guise of God, and his Word, much suffering has been inflicted. “” Apathy and “by-stander” Christianity are forms of complicity in face of injustice and hatred. Christians are called to denounce and stand up for the weak, the rejected, the persecuted. Christianity was born out of persecution, “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church”. The wicked do surround the righteous, but God is not absent from the suffering of his people. Be astonished and astounded, for God’s mission is being done and is bringing people together in solidarity, standing alongside one another in a shared humanity, which does not discriminate on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation or religion. These are the true signs that you would not believe if you were told. Fr Joseph

### Appeal for sleeping bags and tents

St Hilda is committed to help those who find themselves homeless, for whatever reason, by providing sleeping bags and tents. So far it has relied on donations from the local community, but due to Covid-19 it has run out. Although more invisible than ever, homelessness has not gone away. If you have some which you no longer need, or are able to make a donation to purchase new ones, please do get in touch. It is a small step for one person, but a big step for our community, to pull together in order to help those who do not have the security of a place to stay. Thank you so much in advance.

### Deuteronomy 31:8

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

### Weekly Newsletter

Please email Denise at [office@sthilda.org](mailto:office@sthilda.org) or Fr Joseph at [Vicar@sthilda.org](mailto:Vicar@sthilda.org) if you have anything to be included in the weekly newsletter.

### Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at [crossroads\\_ashford@hotmail.com](mailto:crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com) if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The most recent edition is available on our website.

### Sunday Eucharist

The 9.30am Sunday Eucharist can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford), and Twitter. Please see our website ([www.sthilda.org](http://www.sthilda.org)) for updates and the weekly service sheet.

### Eucharist – Corpus Christi

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June @ 7pm – can be viewed via Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

### Anniversary Celebration

Carolyn and Gordon Clark celebrated 30 years of marriage this week. Congratulations and wishing you both a Happy Anniversary from us all.



A big thank you from Carolyn and Gordon for the beautiful flowers (pictured)

**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	Penny Howell	Delphine Scrivener	Rev. Peter Taylor
Pamela Claridge	Libby Mills	Riley Shaw	Chick Wilson
Robb Clarke	Raymond Nation	Anne Shenton	Peter Wilson
Ann Considine	Michael O'Hagan	Elsie Stone	Jo Wood
Michael Dixon	June Prentice	Roy Stone	Nic
Jim Hennessey	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Sandra Swain	

### **The Recently Departed**

Alex Nare	Joyce Butcher	Stuart Vincent	Nigel Freeman
Eileen Musk	Peter Sheldon	Margaret Kerr	Doris Searle

### **A prayer**

Loving God,  
strengthen our innermost being  
with your love that bears all things  
even the weight of this global pandemic  
even the endurance of watching for symptoms  
of patiently waiting for this to pass  
watching while we pray,  
keeping our gaze fixed on you,  
and looking out for our neighbours  
near and far.

Instil in our shaken souls  
the belief and hope that all things  
are possible with your creative love  
for strangers to become friends  
for science to source solutions  
for resources to be generously shared  
so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need.  
May your perfect love that knows no borders  
cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.

May your love that never ends  
be our comfort, strength and guide  
for the wellbeing of all and  
the glory of God.  
Amen.

## Puzzle Page

### St Hilda Wordsearch

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

- ALTAR
- AMMONITE
- BRONZEFIELD
- CAKE
- CHOIR
- COMMUNION
- CONGREGATION
- DIOCESE
- FELLOWSHIP
- FR JOSEPH
- JESUS
- MOTHERS UNION
- PRAYER
- PULPIT
- SERMON
- STEWARDSHIP
- ST HILDA
- UPPER ROOM
- WHITBY
- WORSHIP

### Sudoku

6					4			
	1				3			7
	4			8		5		
	2						1	9
					1	8		
		5		7		4		
		7	5			1		
9		4				7	8	2

### Crossout

Choose one letter from each square to make 6 words.

O	E	C	U	H	G	H	T	S	T
I	U			R	O			A	L
G	N	E	A	S	E	O	D	S	I
C	R			A	T			M	T
N	E	N	A	S	T	F	R	Y	N