



St Hilda's
Ashford

Weekly Newsletter

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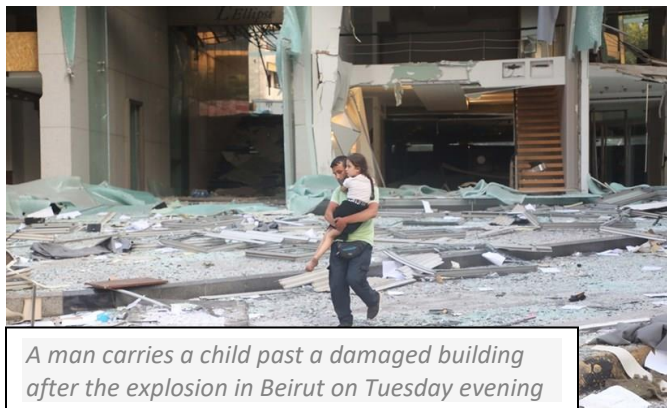
We are looking for more contributions from the St Hilda's community, if you would like to contribute, please either call, email or send an article to the Parish Office.

If you would like help or to speak to a member of the ministry team please contact:

- Parish Office Tel - 01784 253525
 Email - office@sthilda.org
- Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237.

www.sthilda.org

Beirut blast threatens hunger after deaths, injuries, and devastation



A man carries a child past a damaged building after the explosion in Beirut on Tuesday evening

THE Archbishop of Canterbury was “praying for all those affected by the terrible explosion in #Beirut today, and for the people of Lebanon”, he said on his Twitter feed on Tuesday evening.

The devastating blast in the Lebanese capital at about 6.30 p.m. (local time) is reported to have been caused by a fire in the port area which ignited 2750 tonnes of unsafely stored ammonium nitrate, an agricultural fertiliser that

can also be an explosive. Lebanese news media suggested that this had been confiscated from a Moldovan cargo ship, the *Rhosus*, in 2014.

The explosion and its shockwave felt 15km away left at least 100 people dead and more than 4000 others injured. Rescue workers in Beirut from the Red Cross and other organisations are searching for more than 100 people who are still missing. People have been left homeless after the widespread damage to buildings.



The picture shows the moment during a service in the church of St Maron in the Bauchrieh area of Beirut when debris falls from the ceiling around the altar. It is unclear whether the priest was hurt. An Anglican church in the main commercial area of the capital, near to the Corniche seafront, All Saints', also suffered damage from the blast.

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, also expressed sympathy for those affected. “All of us are aware of the fragility of human life, its survival and its integrity,” he said. “My prayer is for all the people of Beirut that they will find comfort at this time and that human dignity and respect will flourish in a situation where peace is a virtue and grace is neighbourliness.”

Pope Francis called for people to “pray for the victims, for their families; and let us pray for Lebanon so that, through the dedication of all its social, political, and religious elements, it might face this extremely tragic and painful moment, and, with the help of the international community, overcome the grave crisis they are experiencing”.

The high number of casualties has placed hospitals already stretched by the impact of the coronavirus under severe strain. Lebanon also imports most of its food. The large quantities of

grain stored in the port destroyed in the blast have increased concerns about widespread food insecurity.

The Lebanese President, Michael Aoun, said that the government would provide 100 billion lira (£50.5 million) of emergency funds. Aid agencies, however, have voiced fears that the impact of the blast could be long-lasting.



Effects of the blast on All Saints' Anglican (Episcopal) Church, Beirut

Christian Aid's senior advocacy adviser on Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, Máiréad Collins, said: "The Covid-19 pandemic has already exposed the Lebanese workforce to a steep drop in living standards. Now, the food crisis will deepen further. The grain stores in the port are completely destroyed. The port is the entry way for Lebanon's grain imports; they import 90 per cent of their grain for the staple Lebanese bread. This explosion has made a very dire situation worse — with a growing number of Lebanese vulnerable to destitution — and could not have

come at a worse time for the besieged country."

The chief executive of Embrace the Middle East, Tim Livesey, said in a statement: "This is a terrible body blow that can only aggravate an already deeply serious and deteriorating situation in Lebanon. The economy is in a slow-motion free fall. People are unable to support their families. Food is twice or three times as expensive as this time last year."

Lebanon will observe an official period of mourning for three days from Wednesday. The country's Supreme Defence Council has also said that those responsible for the explosion will face severe penalties.

A prayer for the people of Lebanon

Merciful God,
 be with the people of Lebanon today.
 Comfort all who are distressed and anxious,
 protect the emergency services,
 restore the injured to health,
 and abide with all who mourn,
 for the sake of your Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Face masks mandatory, but not for leading worship

Exemptions apply, including bride and groom at weddings



THERE is new Church of England guidance on face coverings in places of worship, which will be mandatory for congregations from Saturday but not for those officiating at a service.

The move comes after the announcement last Friday by the Prime Minister that, from Saturday 8 August, the requirement to wear a face covering would be extended to “other indoor settings where you’re likely to come into contact with people you do not normally meet, such as museums, galleries, cinemas, and places of worship”.

Church of England guidance, issued on Wednesday, says, however, that there will be exemptions for those “who are leading services or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayer)”. Other worshippers will be required to wear masks.

The exemptions will also cover the bride and bridegroom at a wedding and those “officiating/leading”. They do not apply to “those observing the wedding, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space”.

In line with government advice, children under 11 and people with disabilities or certain health conditions are also exempt.

The Government had previously stated that, from 24 July, face coverings were only to be “encouraged” in places of worship, while C of E guidance was that masks were “strongly advised”.

The guidance in full: **Face coverings during worship**

In England, face coverings are currently required by law to be worn in shops, supermarkets, indoor transport hubs, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices and on public transport. From 8 August, face coverings are also required by law to be worn in a greater number of public indoor settings including places of worship, museums, galleries, cinemas and public libraries.

There are valid exemptions for some individuals and groups to not wear a face covering in these settings. In particular, those who are leading services or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayer) do not always need to wear a face covering, although one should be worn especially if physical distancing cannot be maintained (i.e. distributing consumables). This exemption does not apply to worshippers, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space.

Leader Comment: Hell 75 years on

TO THE Allies, they were just more bombing raids. The use of atomic weapons was novel, but the morality of visiting mass destruction on an almost completely civilian population warranted no new thought. After all, the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 1945 came five months after Operation Meetinghouse, the overnight incendiary attack on Tokyo which left an estimated 100,000 dead and reduced one quarter of the city to cinders. It was the deadliest air raid of the war, and yet seemingly had no effect on the bellicose Japanese leadership. Five years of casualties had dulled leaders' moral senses on both sides.

The attack on Hiroshima occurred on the morning of the Feast of the Transfiguration, ever thereafter giving a sinister shadow to the account of Christ's appearance to the apostles in a dazzling white light. Descriptions of the nuclear flash, so powerful that it burnt eyes and seared flesh, caused those on the periphery of the Manhattan Project to wonder whether something pertaining to the divine had been unleashed. Although an understandable reaction to an incomprehensible phenomenon, this makes the mistake of equating God only with great forces. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were no more sacrilegious than Tokyo, and Tokyo, ultimately, no more than the firing of a single bullet. All life is part of the divinely ordained world, and violence of any kind is the surest route to dishonour it.

Failing to learn lessons from past violence is the next surest. Teruko Ueno, one of the *hibakusha* — the survivors of the bombs — was interviewed for an anniversary feature next week. She had been 15 years old when the atomic bomb burst over Hiroshima: "I haven't been to hell; so I don't know what it's like, but hell is probably like what we went through. It must never be allowed to happen again." A similar view was expressed in the *Church Times* immediately after the explosion, on 15 August 1945: "The atomic bomb should be outlawed as soon as possible by general agreement, like poison gas." But this early determination, shared by many, was undermined by, first, Cold War fears, and, second, by a creeping complacency. A later *Church Times* leader, marking the 25th anniversary in 1970, was written at the height of the multilateral/unilateral disarmament debate. Yet even then, the leader-writer was prompted to remark: "One way and another, fears have been lulled or put to the back of the mind."

And so to today. It is remarkable how firmly the idea of the "responsible" nuclear state has taken hold, perhaps encouraged by agreements that have lowered the number of active nuclear warheads from more than 70,000 in 1986 to fewer than 14,000 now. But to remember the destructive power of just two puts this total into perspective, especially when considering that the bulk of these weapons are at the disposal of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. It is not pleasant to be scared, but no other emotion makes sense until every warhead is permanently disarmed.

Confessions of a telly addict – Part 2

What else? There's Bergerac, of course, which those of you of a certain vintage will doubtless recall from a decade or four ago, when first broadcast! And of similar vintage, or even older, "Van Der Valk" is being repeated. Big lapels, flared trousers and little DAF cars abound. There was also recently a short series of new episodes of Van Der Valk. On a lighter note, "Shakespeare and Hathaway", about a couple of private investigators, set in Stratford-upon-Avon, is a very passable way of spending an hour.



That's probably enough policemen. So what else has been on the viewing agenda? A lot of half-hour comedies, mainly, I confess, American ones. The format, which used to be a staple of our TV schedules, seems to have fallen out of favour and those new ones that do come up mostly seem markedly unfunny. One recent bright (British) exception has been "The Other One", about a woman who, following the death of her father, discovers he had a secret second family and she has a half-sister of very similar age, though of very different character. Amongst the US offerings, the classic "Friends" and "Big Bang Theory" are ever present and evergreen. When they get to the end of the multiple series, they seem to start again from the beginning, so there are always episodes to be found somewhere. Beyond that, others that I find amusing are "Two and a Half Men", "How I Met Your Mother", "Rules of Engagement", "The Goldbergs", "Baby Daddy" and "The Good Place". I've even found myself watching the occasional episode of the 90's teen comedy "Sabrina the Teenage Witch". Interestingly enough, Melissa Joan Hart, the star of that show has also starred in a much more recent (2010-2015) comedy "Melissa and Joey", in which she plays a US local politician who ends up employing a bankrupt former commodities trader as a "manny" (male nanny). Americans didn't used to understand sarcasm. Several of these programmes suggest they've, most amusingly, more than got the trick of it now.



Classic films are another welcome diversion. A little while ago I caught up with Hitchcock's "Notorious", starring Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman. Recent viewing includes "Ladies of the Chorus" – a very early (1948) Marilyn Monroe movie; "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas", a rather dark story set in WW II Nazi Germany; "The Graduate" – one of my all-time favourites, not least for the Simon & Garfunkel soundtrack. And Bond films have abounded so I've succumbed to temptation with a couple of those.

I enjoy quite a few documentaries – particularly those that feature history, archaeology and travel. Bettany Hughes is a favourite presenter and her recent "Greek Odyssey" series is a gem. Her enthusiasm for her subject matter comes across throughout. Simon Sebag Montefiore's series "Blood and Gold – The making of Spain" was a bit more scholarly in its approach, but none the less interesting for that. Also some fascinating railway-related

offerings, including “The Architecture that the Railways Built” and some spectacular journey-based programmes showcasing, mountain, coastal and luxury railway journeys amongst others. Other current/recent presentations include a mini-series highlighting the key days of the Battle of Britain; experiences walking Britain’s Roman roads, and one on Captain Cook’s Pacific.

News, politics and current affairs are another interest. The “Andrew Marr Show” on Sunday mornings is a great accompaniment to breakfast. The current series about the Murdoch news dynasty looks highly interesting. And there’s loads more out there. Sometimes too much in these times of 24 hour news!

So what don’t I watch? I’m not a fan of horror films or “psychodramas”. So-called “reality television” mostly makes me cringe. “Soaps” are to be avoided at all costs (apologies to all you Corrie and ‘Enders fans). And I’m not big on sports at all, though I am very pleased to see the long-awaited return of the Test Cricket and Formula One highlights. And roll on the return of Rugby. I suppose it’s not a big surprise, though disappointing, that whilst football’s back, Rugby isn’t.



So that’s about it. Some of the films and programmes mentioned above may bring back memories for you, or inspire you to try them out for yourselves – either on catch-up where available or live where they are continuing. Hope you found at least some of that interesting and haven’t been too bored joining me on my lockdown journey through the ether. Happy watching - there’s always something if you look hard enough, even on Freeview, which is all I’ve got and I’m sure that those of you blessed with the thousands of channels accessible through Sky and the like will find even more!

Steve Smith July 2020



Birthday Celebrations

This week there are 3 members of the congregation who are celebrating special birthdays.



Jenny Granger will be 99 on Saturday 8 August. Jenny was born in Montrose on the east coast of Scotland on August 8th 1921 but after meeting and marrying Raymond towards the end of the war she moved down south living first in Heston, then Isleworth and since 1961 in her current house in Fontmell Park where she still lives independently. Jenny's husband died in 2000 and she has

been on her own for a long time so it is quite a remarkable achievement. Joyce and her younger brother have between them produced five grandchildren and now six great grandchildren have been added to the family. Her grandchildren try and keep in regular touch with her although three live abroad but they email photos that she can look at on her iPad. Jenny also watches virtual church from St Hilda's on the iPad every Sunday and she has appreciated the regular 'phone chats' with friends from the congregation.

We can all look forward to celebrating with Jenny next year when hopefully we will all be back in Church together.



The other 2 special birthdays are:



Denise Buttigieg, who turned 50 on Wednesday 5th August, no big party this year, so she will be 50 again next year!

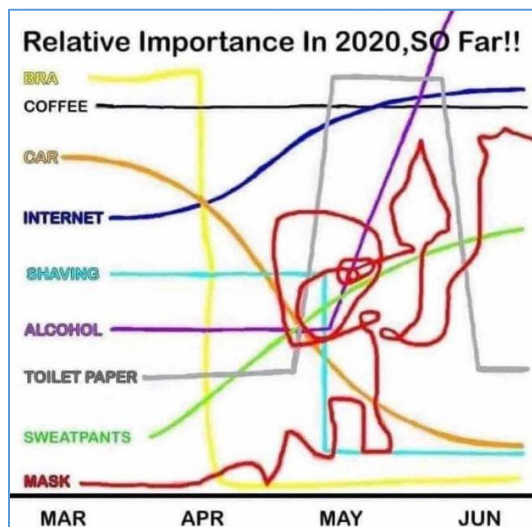
Rebecca Fernandes who is celebrating her 21st birthday on Sunday 9 August.



Happy Birthday to all 3 young ladies

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 9 August 2020 at 11.15am**. See below on how to join. Any queries 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
- Click – Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id – **999 8881 0263**
- Enter password - **838860**

2. Join via telephone – cost of a local call.

- Dial – 0203 051 2874
- Enter Meeting Id – **999 8881 0263** – and follow instructions (you will be asked to press # and 1)
- Password – **838860**

More Tea with The Vicar – Weekday Tea and Chat

The second of the weekly Tea and chat sessions where you are able to 'meet up' over a cuppa. In this weekly session, we have introduced a topic for discussion – this week's topic is **'something positive that has come out of lockdown'**.

If you haven't yet joined one of these sessions – give it a try, you can connect either on-line or via the telephone, we would like to see or hear as many of you as possible and encourage you to join us. We encourage all those who haven't yet joined one of the sessions to do so, and if you have any apprehension in doing so, please call the Parish Office and Denise will guide you through the process – it is quite simple once you've done it once.

This week the Tea and Chat will be held on **Tuesday 11 August @ 10.30am**

The codes are as per the following, to join follow the instructions above

- Meeting id – **966 3517 0234**
- Password - **924880**

Canaan Ministries have re-opened, and are following the latest government legislation in relation to the current guidelines on social distancing.

Please note, that due to the size of the shop we will only be able to allow a maximum of three customers in at any one time, and would ask that you limit your visit to a maximum of 15 minutes at a time, and of course ask you NOT to visit, if you are showing any of the symptoms of Covid 19. However, we will be open Monday to Saturday 10am – 5pm (closing during lunchtime 1pm – 2pm), so there will be plenty of time to see and serve everyone. **Free local home delivery is also possible.**

We would like to thank you all for your continued support, and we hope, your much needed support in the future.

Isaiah 41:10

do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Easy Fundraising

Raise funds for St Hilda's while shopping online at no extra cost to yourself.

Use [easyfundraising.org](https://www.easyfundraising.org) and choose St Hilda's as your cause and a percentage of your purchase will be paid to us. Over 4000+ retailers including John Lewis, Argos, M & S, Amazon and Aviva.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/sthildasashford>

Electoral Roll

If you consider St Hilda's to be your regular place of worship, why not complete an application for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll. Forms are available from the Parish Office.

Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com if you have anything to be included in the parish magazine. The July/August edition is now available on our website.

This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist – 9 August @ 9.30am

This service can be viewed via our Facebook page, our new YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford), and Twitter for those of you who are unable to attend in person

Wednesday Eucharist – 12 August – there is no service as Fr Joseph is on annual leave

To attend either service please book a ticket on Eventbrite (link on the website), or call the Parish Office.

Please see our website (www.sthilda.org) for updates and the weekly service sheet.

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	Jim Hennessey	Delphine Scrivener	Shirley Warrender
Pamela Claridge	Libby Mills	Riley Shaw	Chick Wilson
Robb Clarke	Raymond Nation	Anne Shenton	Peter Wilson
Rebecca Cohen	Michael O'Hagan	Elsie Stone	Jo Wood
Ann Considine	June Prentice	Roy Stone	Nic
Chris Davenport	John Radford	Sandra Swain	Martyn
Michael Dixon	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Rev. Peter Taylor	

The Recently Departed

Prayer

Dear Lord,
as we rise to meet each new day, please let us be filled with Your spirit.

Wherever we go, let us spread love, joy, peace, goodness, and faithfulness.

Let us desire to become more like you and to worship you in all we do.

Help us desire these things so much more than the sin that entices us.

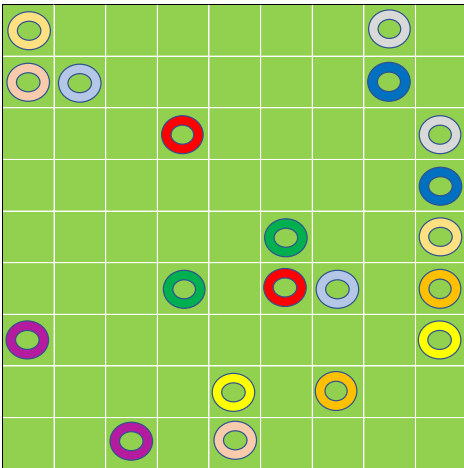
Thank you for always going before us. In Jesus'

Name,

Amen

Puzzle Page

Circuits



Instructions

Connect the coloured circles with each other without crossing paths. All boxes must be used.

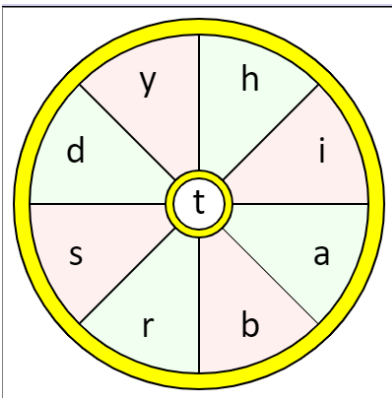
Wordsnake

T	N	H	E	T	U	O	L	L
R	R	O	N	E	L	F	C	E
U	M	H	O	O	B	O	E	P
E	P	P	O	X	A	C	C	I
T	T	L	A	H	S	O	L	O
O	R	O	I	A	T	E	N	C
M	T	U	V	R	P	S	I	L
B	E	B	P	R	C	I	R	A
O	N	A	H	A	H	O	R	D

Instructions

Can you find 13 words relating to the subject 'Instruments' Start at the Red letter and follow a path, until all the letters are used. The first word is 'Cello'.

Word Wheel



How many words can you find using the centre letter?
There is one 9 letter word, 3 special one's this week.

Riddle

What singular word becomes plural if you add one 'S' but remains singular if you add a second 'S'?

Answers from last week

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

Riddle

A stamp

Word Wheel

9 letter word – Endeavour

Seven Little Words

1. Produce goods by machinery
Manufacture
2. Dawdler Slowcoach
3. Hard to understand Baffling
4. Scared Fearful
5. Without attracting attention
Unobserved
6. Had a little taste of Sampled
7. Irish-born actor Brosnan Pierce