



St Hilda's  
Ashford

# St Hilda's News



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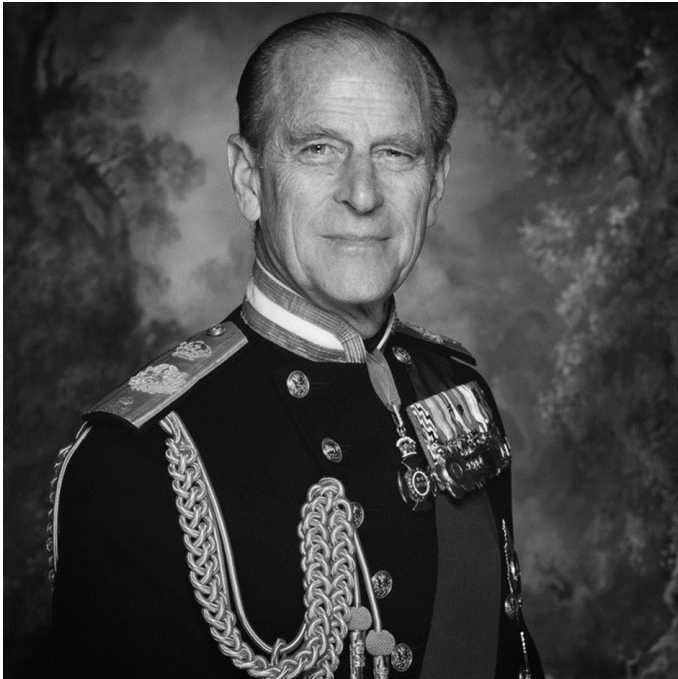
If you would like help or to speak to a member of the ministry team please contact:

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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.*

# HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh

10<sup>th</sup> June 1921 – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021



God of our lives,  
we give thanks for the life  
of Prince Philip,  
for his love of our country,  
and for his devotion to  
duty.  
We entrust him now to  
your love and mercy,  
through our Redeemer  
Jesus Christ. Amen.



## Prince Philip would not have 'over-spiritualised' says Archbishop Welby

A ceremonial funeral will be held at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, on Saturday



*The Duke of Edinburgh and members of the Royal family on their way to church in Sandringham on Christmas Day, 1999*

THE late Duke of Edinburgh would have been “the first to harrumph strongly at over-spiritualisation” of both the world and himself — as even the disciples required sight of the resurrection to believe in the new creation, the Archbishop of Canterbury has said.

He was preaching in Canterbury Cathedral on Low Sunday at a service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the late Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, who died at Windsor Palace, aged 99, on Easter Friday.

Archbishop Welby said: “For the Royal Family, as for every other, no words can reach into the depth of sorrow that goes with bereavement. . . Loss is loss. For each person it is felt individually and reaches into the heart variously.”

Yet for Christians, he said, there was hope in Christ and the resurrection; “for it is God who creates, God who calls, and God who sends. For His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, there was a willingness, a remarkable willingness, to take the hand he was dealt in life and straightforwardly to follow its call, to search its meaning, to go out and on as sent, to enquire and think, to trust and to pray.”

There was also hope and inspiration for the new creation of eternal life. “It is this new creation that inspires, and where we find lives that have prophetic aspects of foreseeing and practical applications of inspiring, as with Prince Philip, we see signs of this new creation — of the Spirit of God.”

But, Archbishop Welby continued, “We should not exaggerate. The Duke would have been the first to harrumph strongly at over-spiritualisation of the world he found, let alone of himself. The figures of the resurrection are fallible and normal. . . The reality of our life in this world is of old and new together — of strengths and weaknesses. We should not become hyper-spiritual or idealistic.”

With death came “deep loss and profound sorrow”, but also trust in eternal life. “Our lives are not completed before death, but their eternity is prepared. So we can indeed pray that the Duke of Edinburgh may rest in peace and rise in glory. We may pray for comfort. We may pray and offer love for all those who find that a great life leaves a very great gap — for the Royal Family and the millions who have themselves suffered loss.”



The Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, in his Sunday sermon, also reflected on the Gospel reading (John 20) in which the disciple Thomas asks to see the wounds in the risen Jesus.

“What the Queen has achieved through a lifetime of service has been built upon the foundation of a marriage, and to a man whose own values and character were formed, first through exile and then through the turmoil of war.

“Many things have been said about Prince Philip in the past few days, but one thing above others may be worth dwelling on as the Christian community in this land, is that the country that Philip served so faithfully was his adopted home.

“I wonder whether he could serve and become part of an adopted home, because his life was also formed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, who, when he stood among his disciples on that first Easter Day, and when in reaching out to Thomas reached out to each one of us, was forming a new household and a new humanity where the old boundaries and divisions no longer count.”

Pope Francis has sent his condolences to the Queen in a telegram in which he recalled Prince Philip's “devotion to his marriage and family” and “distinguished record of public service”. It was written on his behalf by the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

“Recalling Prince Philip's devotion to his marriage and family, his distinguished record of public service and his commitment to the education and advancement of future generations, His Holiness commends him to the merciful love of Christ our redeemer. Upon you and upon all who grieve his loss in the sure hope of the resurrection, the Holy Father invokes the Lord's blessings of consolation and peace.”

Tributes have flooded in from world leaders past and present, bishops, faith leaders, politicians, and charities and organisations, among others over the weekend. Eight days of national mourning were announced on Friday, and acts of remembrance have been organised across the land.

Services of remembrance and thanksgiving were held in cathedrals across England on Sunday, many of which were attended by invitation only, but live-streamed online. Bells were tolled 99 times, silences were held, gun salutes were fired, special prayers read, and churches were open for prayer and reflection and the lighting of candles, which can also be done virtually online through the C of E website.

Both the Royal Family and the C of E have opened online books of condolence (physical books of condolence are not recommended, owing to the risk of Covid transmission). The Royal Family have also asked that the public consider making donations to charity instead of buying floral tributes.

A ceremonial funeral will be held at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, at which point the period of national mourning will end. Owing to national coronavirus restrictions, only 30 people will be permitted to attend the socially distanced ceremony, excluding the pallbearers and clergy, and including close relations.

The Duke will lie in rest in the private chapel of St George's, a short distance away, before being taken to the State Entrance of Windsor Castle, and then the main chapel, where the coffin will be met by Archbishop Welby, who will conduct the service. Hundreds of members of the armed forces and police will line the streets.

Archbishop Welby also led a short a service of prayer, remembrance, and hope from the private chapel in Lambeth Palace on Saturday. The service was live-streamed on the Church of England website.

During it, he said of Prince Philip: "He did not see the world just as it was, but he saw what could be, and what should be. He was about innovation, possibility, potential. . . He knew the talents he had and what he could bring, and he brought them 100 per cent, at full throttle, right through his life."

In his *Thought for the Day*, broadcast on BBC Radio 4 that morning, the Archbishop said: "Prince Philip shows how someone dedicated to bringing people together and encouraging the journeys of others achieved so much more than we can ever hope to on our own.

"Like all of us, Prince Philip had visions and dreams. He was amusing and witty. He had remarkable intellectual gifts and a willingness to test his opinion against others and listen to them. He was impatient with complacency about bad things happening. Whether in wildlife conservation and climate change, in working with young people, in interfaith relations in a world where more than eight out of ten belong to a faith, he was 50 years ahead of his time. And he was criticised for that, but, sooner or later, others followed."

Prince Philip had set an example of the "essential but invisible" serving of others. "Above all, he served the Queen, for 73 years. That meant setting aside those things to which many people might have felt entitled. . . Perhaps the challenge which Prince Philip sets us is to look afresh at what we hold on to out of entitlement which, if humbly set aside, will make our lives transformative for others."

The diocese in Europe has organised a special service at 4.30 p.m. on Friday to mark the life and work of Prince Philip. It will be led by the Bishop in Europe, Dr Robert Innes, and livestreamed on the diocesan YouTube channel. "Contributions to the service will reflect HRH's European lineage and global links across our diocese," a note from the diocese explained.

Dr Innes said: "For our European diocese, we remember that Prince Philip was born in Corfu, and his links across our continent were extensive. When he lived in Malta, he and the then Princess Elizabeth worshipped every Sunday he was not at sea at St Paul's Pro Cathedral in Valletta, where he remained the Royal Patron of the Friends of St Paul's Pro Cathedral."

## Changing the narrative on racism

*A message from the London College of Bishops, in response to the report published by the Government's Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities.*



Changing the narrative on racism: a long, but hope filled, way to go

As we emerge from Easter, the Christian festival right at the heart of our faith, we continue to reflect on Jesus Christ's triumph over death. In the light of the resurrection, we are reminded of how the narrative of our lives has been changed for eternity by the events of Good Friday and Easter Day.

Over the past few weeks, the narrative around the report published by the Government's Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities has rightly given rise to concern and anger. The Report claims that institutional racism is not a significant issue affecting the life opportunities of many in our country, and that the United Kingdom is a beacon of good practice for the world. These claims are significantly at odds with the findings of four major inquiries on race in the UK since 2017.

The Report has created confusion and anger in many of our households, churches and communities. It has also added to a sense of despair that the lived experience of so many within our country is being ignored and dismissed.

The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities makes 24 recommendations under four broad themes: to build trust, promote fairness, create agency, and achieve inclusivity. We do not demur from most of these proposals. What the Report signally fails to do is to address the underlying problems which have afflicted our society over decades.

**On Trust:** there is no understanding in the Report of why people of colour don't trust the repeated promises that have been made to root out racism and discrimination in our society; why there is so little trust in the Police; why people of colour continually find that employment practices discriminate against them.

**On Fairness:** the Commission seems to imply that better research, targeted funding and "levelling up" – procedural solutions – will make a difference, whereas procedural intervention arguably works properly only where there is a level playing field. Fairness does not achieve justice.

**On Agency:** the Commission fails to recognise that empowerment, while good in itself, does not work for those who are inhibited or structurally denied the possibility of taking up the opportunities offered.

**On Inclusivity:** the Report espouses a particular understanding of "Britishness" which seeks to rewrite the narrative of colonialism and paint a picture of a UK at ease with itself. In doing so, the Commission brushes evidence to the contrary under the carpet and denies the lived experience of many people of colour in our society. It attempts to undermine the

critique of our public life and our institutions which is rooted in the insistence that structural and institutional racism exists and is a force that prevents the flourishing and achievement of many people of colour.

As Christian leaders in an intercultural Diocese of the Church of England, we are concerned that the Report has failed to deliver a diagnosis and a remedy that will bring about the lasting change in the culture of the UK for which we long, work and pray. Our sisters and brothers deserve better.

One of the priorities of the Diocese of London for the next decade is to strive for racial justice within its own structures. This followed the admission by the Archbishop of Canterbury at General Synod in 2020 that the Church of England is “deeply institutionally racist.” We recognise that our own record leaves much to be desired and that we need to change.

Those who seek to change the narrative by simply stating that they want a different world, a different reality, and a different consciousness will be sadly disappointed. Our own recent history as a Church shows us that taking this approach will not work. Instead, we need to recognise both the individual failings and the structural injustices which mean that people of colour are discriminated against in their everyday lives. Through conversation, relationship building, and theological study together, we need to change our culture so that we are acting justly, in our governance, in our appointments, in the way we allocate resources, in the language we use and the way we treat each other, in all aspects of our shared life.

We bring to the table our own experience of lived diversity in the Church in London and our understanding of the radical nature of human sinfulness, which permeates our structures as well as the lives of individuals. We also bring our desire to live out our daily prayer – to imitate our God who exalts the humble and lowly and challenges elites and power as we serve the Common Good of society, so that both individuals and society at large experience and share in the fruits of their labours.

Our Easter faith is one that changes the narrative not by wishful thinking or selective memory, but by embracing at one and the same time the horror and pain of Good Friday and the joy and hope of Easter morning. As a Church and a nation, we need to own our failures and, in the power of the Spirit, work together for change so that throughout society, people of colour are treated with dignity and respect and play a full and valued part in our common life. We must be intentional and willing to be vulnerable as wounds are exposed, and yet still hold on to the radical hope that healing will come and transformation will remain.

In the Diocese of London we therefore affirm the words of the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, that as a Church and a country we still have a long way to go in this work, and we commit ourselves to work for change:

“When I walk into large establishments, or any establishments, for that matter, and I don't see black people only sweeping the floors, doing the cleaning and the catering ... when I see

black people sitting around every table up and down this land. When I see black people in leadership in all walks of life, then we will be able to say – and I will happily say – that Britain can become a model country. We're not there yet."

The London College of Bishops

- +Sarah Londin
- +Graham Kensington
- +Joanne Stepney
- +Jonathan Fulham
- +Robert Edmonton
- +Ric Islington
- +Pete Willesden

## Learn lessons of Covid-19 or society will suffer, warns Welby

Archbishop addresses effect of pandemic in new edition of his book *Reimagining Britain*  
SOCIETY must learn the lessons of the pandemic "or suffer and even perish in our differences", the Archbishop of Canterbury has written.

In a new introduction to the second edition of his book *Reimagining Britain*, published on Thursday, Archbishop Welby writes: "The impact of Covid 19 has been as dramatic as a tyre blowing out on a car travelling at speed. It demands urgent action and it reveals the need of essential and often equally urgent change. It has shown us in close-up of time and distance inequality, injustice and the capacity of nature to pose an existential threat beyond the power of any one country to face.



"If we do not learn the lessons and act on injustices of ethnic discrimination, lack of solidarity, neglect of the common good and most of all the even greater danger from human caused climate change then these already terrible results of Covid-19 will seem as little compared to what is to come. We must learn together or suffer and even perish in our differences."

The opportunity to reimagine society comes rarely, he writes, and "requires society-wide leadership and imagination to grasp it. It is not achieved by ample resources, but by a change of mood, a decision or a historic change. It cannot be forced but may be seized or missed."

The effect of the pandemic, "as well as changes wrought by the growing US/Chinese tension", has been "infinitely greater" than that of Brexit, he argues, making the effects of Brexit "impossible to disentangle from everything else".

Changes will be required, he says, in the ways Britain relates to the rest of the world. "The danger is of having a rootless and self-protective society without generosity, arising from a



lack of confidence and an inward-looking and self-centred reimagining of what it is to be British.”

Brexit and the pandemic also mean that “the need for a new economy is clear,” Archbishop Welby argues. “That need by itself requires a change in education and in the infrastructure of the country. It also requires a renewal of values, a reinvention and reshaping of national purpose that is deliberate and integrated with actions at every level, which is reflective of the technological, social, moral and religious contexts.”

In a new conclusion to the book, Archbishop Welby addresses the issue of freedom of speech, which he defended in the wake of the dispute at Batley Grammar School, where a teacher was suspended after showing pupils a cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad.

“Free speech, even the freedom to abuse precious beliefs, has diminished out of fear of offence,” the Archbishop writes. “Universities should not be permitted to ban groups other than those manifestly advocating hatred or violence. Tenure for those who express controversial views should be introduced. We need an equivalent to the Bill of Rights that makes most views that do not advocate, promote or lead to violence, even abhorrent ones, permissible so that they can be equally robustly rebutted.”

*Reimagining Britain: Foundations for hope (Revised and Expanded Edition)* by Justin Welby is published by Bloomsbury at £12.99

## Sheep and Lambs Together

### Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

#### 18<sup>th</sup> April Third Sunday of Easter

Read Luke 24.36b-48

*The disciples hear about the appearance of Jesus to those on the Road to Emmaus*

Knowing that the disciples experienced times of anxiety in their journey of faith can be encouraging to us, and offers an opportunity to explore how we respond, emotionally, in different situations. What would help our minds to be open, when we are distressed, to know the peace of Christ, and to trust in his word?

If you have building bricks make a roller coaster and have fun playing with it.

If you have ever been on a roller coaster, how did you feel? Does this make you think of the ways in which life can throw us about. And how can you respond to it?



## St Hilda's Parish News

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

### **A Reminder to book your seat for services early**

It was so lovely to see so many attending the Easter week services, whether in person or taking part in the live stream. I'm sure you will agree that the services were wonderful, from the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, the beautiful candle light watch on Saturday night to the joyful Easter morning celebration.

On Sunday we had more than 80 people attending our service which was fantastic, we had so many wanting to join with us that we had a waiting list.

As you can imagine the logistics of seating everyone safely within the Covid guidelines can take some time. In order for seating to be arranged in good time, would you kindly book your seat for the Sunday service by **5pm on Friday**.

If for some reason you are unable to attend would you kindly e-mail or call the Parish Office, we will then be able to re-arrange the seating to accommodate someone who may be on the waiting list. Thank you. Bobbie and Frances

### **A busy week of activity at St Hilda's**

Over the last week, there have been various groups of people who have been rather busy within St Hilda's.

- The Church has been opened during the morning and afternoon each day to allow anybody wishing to pay their respects to HRH Prince Philip. Bobbie and Denise put the plans into action very quickly on Friday on the announcement of his passing, and on page 2 you will see the memorial table set up, unfortunately due to covid restrictions we weren't allowed to lay out the book of remembrance.
- The church floor has received its annual polish to ensure we preserve the appearance.
- The old church chairs have been sold
- The storeroom has received phase I of a clear-out, following the jumble trails last year we accumulated a lot of items. Paula and Chris D have started to work their way through the remaining items and dispose of a number of things, donations and sale.
- Jon has performed some urgent maintenance on the Church Hall – re-pointing of the brickwork. Also moss clearance from the roof, Jon and Steve.

There are many people who need to be thanked for all the above hard work (apologies if I miss anyone) Bobbie, Carolyn, Chris D, Chris H, Christine T, Denise, Elizabeth, Frances, Jon, Kieran, Paula, Rosemary, Steve.

In the meanwhile Fr. Joseph was taking a well-deserved few days holiday with his family.

**Canaan Ministries** are now open for any of your needs. Just simply phone or email them and they will look after you. They also offer a delivery service if you are unable to visit the shop.

Any other information can be found on their website [www.canaanchristianministries.co.uk/](http://www.canaanchristianministries.co.uk/)

**Matthew 23:11**

The greatest among you will be your servant.

## This weeks services

### Sunday Eucharist – 18<sup>th</sup> April @ 9.30am

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

### Wednesday Eucharist – 21<sup>st</sup> April @ 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.

**Please remember a face mask must be worn whilst in the church.**

## Tea and Chat after Sunday Service

We would like to invite you to join us for a virtual Tea and Chat after the service on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 11.15am**. See below on how to join.

The meeting is hosted by Zoom.

- Download the Zoom app – [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)
- Click – Join a Meeting
- Enter the Meeting id – **942 6378 3894**
- Enter password – **129012**



**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	June Prentice	Chick Wilson
Michael Browne	Jim Hennessey	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Peter Wilson
Robb Clarke	Jean Iddiols	Delphine Scrivener	Jo Wood
Rebecca Cohen	Jane Johnson	Riley Shaw	Erin
Ann Considine	Pat Kyle	Elsie Stone	George
Michael Dixon	Libby Mills	Roy Stone	Joey
Jackie Forsbrey	Raymond Nation	Sandra Swain	
Peter Garner	Pat Parish	Rev. Peter Taylor	

**The Recently Departed**

Patsy Forsbrey	Joyce Small	Michael Orchard	Daphne Leader
John Radford	Peter Richardson		

**Prayer**

Almighty Father,  
 you have given your only Son to die for our sins  
 and to rise again for our justification:  
 grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and  
 wickedness  
 that we may always serve you  
 in pureness of living and truth;  
 through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

Amen