



St Hilda's  
Ashford

# St Hilda's News

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

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

- Parish Office      Tel      01784 253525  
   Email    [office@sthilda.org](mailto:office@sthilda.org)
- Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237

[www.sthilda.org](http://www.sthilda.org)

## London diocese reports rising number of candidates from diverse ethnic backgrounds recommended for ordination training



Thirty percent of the candidates recommended for ordination training in the Diocese of Southwark this year are from UKME or BAME backgrounds.

Five out of a total of 17 candidates were put forward between January and July of this year.

Four out of the five candidates have also been recommended for leadership positions - incumbent status, meaning their potential to lead a parish has been recognised.

Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Deputy Director of Vocations, Rev Raymond Baudon, spoke to Premier: "The most recent comparable figure was in 2016, where the percentage was 25 percent. So we're seeing a slow, but steady increase, which is great for us, really."

In March this year, the Diocese's Synod unanimously approved the Diocese of Southwark Anti-Racism Charter.

Moving forward, Rev Raymond said the Diocese is aiming to build on the successes of this year:

"First of all, whatever we've achieved this year could easily roll back in future years. So we absolutely need to maintain the position that we're in, but also consciously build on it as well. And I think that word confidence is key there, that it takes a lot of confidence to be able to put your hand up and say, actually, I think God's calling me to ministry. And if you're somebody who has consistently throughout their life received feedback that somehow they're not quite part of society, in a way, then, to have that confidence is very difficult. I've seen it myself in candidates that I've been working with, just to be able to say, 'No, actually, you're able to do this, no matter what other people have told you, you're as much a child of God and as much loved by God as anybody else'. And so having a place in the church is as much there for you as it is for anybody else. So we can't rest on these results from this year. We have to keep building on them."

Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, who is the Diocesan Lead on Racial Justice, said in a statement: "The Diocese of Southwark has committed itself to an anti-racism strategy across all aspects of our diocesan life together. A key part of the Southwark vision is the identifying and training of future church leaders, lay and ordained, so that the leadership better reflects the people and parishes we serve.

"Therefore, it is good news to learn that 30 per cent of all the candidates who have been recommended for ordination training beginning in autumn 2021 come from a UKME background. This figure is close to the number of people from UKME and global majority origin and heritage in our churches and in the wider parish also. It is also good to hear that the majority of those recommended will be training for incumbency status and their gifts for leadership in the Church recognised. We are thankful for all who have encouraged and enabled these candidates and look forward to their blessing the Church through their service in years to come."

## Salvation Army warns that homelessness in London could 'skyrocket' in autumn

The charity and church The Salvation Army is warning that government Covid support that ends in the Autumn could cause rough sleeping to increase massively, even though figures showed a drop in homelessness since last year.



A report released this week shows that 1,177 people in London were new rough sleepers between April and June 2021 - 45 per cent of the total number, 2,589.

This is a drop of 56 per cent in new rough sleepers compared with the same period last year. However, The Salvation Army believes the underlying trend is for figures to rise after Covid-19 support measures like furlough end in

the autumn, which could cause a rise in unemployment and home repossessions.

At the start of August, the furlough scheme began tapering off, with the expectation that there will be redundancies.

Hilarie Watchorn, The Salvation Army's assistant director of Homelessness Services, said: "The Government has made a good start by investing over £3 million to help people transition from the 'Everyone In' emergency accommodation scheme to stable accommodation but there is an urgent need for more investment.

"If the Government is to meet its commitment to put an end to homelessness by the end of this Parliament it must invest in services to help people tackle the reasons they have been made homeless in the first place which can include unemployment, poor physical or mental health and addiction."

She added that many night shelters will be unable to operate because of the need for single rooms to help stop the spread of Covid.

The church and charity is calling for stable, long-term shelter for those who were helped last year as part of the 'Everyone In' campaign, support for those with a complex history to help them with poor mental health or addiction and consistent funding to help local authorities plan.

The Salvation Army also wants to see official recording methods for rough sleeper numbers across the country.

Father,

We pray for an end to homelessness.

We ask that politicians make it a priority to work out the root problems, provide solutions and ways back into work.

Please help those who are living rough, please provide shelter for them and thank you for the many churches and places that do.

We pray that the practical witness of the church will help all turn to Christ so they can be provided with an eternal home.

Amen.

## **Prison Fellowship partners with Bible translation ministry to launch audio Bibles for inmates in 65 countries**

Prison Fellowship International and Bible charity Faith Comes by Hearing have announced a strategic partnership to make audio Bibles more accessible in prisons worldwide.

According to Prison Fellowship International (PFI), 15 million people are imprisoned annually around the world and, in many cases, the prison systems are not capable of providing proper rehabilitation methods or offering prisoners the tools to improve themselves.

PFI and Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) hope to provide 100,000 audio Bible programs across 65 countries, hoping to reach one million inmates by 2027.



"This partnership takes God's Word directly into dark places, bringing hope to men and women; equipping those who have lost all hope to return to their communities and families, with light," said Jonathan Huguenin, vice president of global partnerships and language recordings at FCBH.



PFI believes that having access to religious content is highly beneficial for inmates. Early findings from a Baylor University study of PFI's 'The Prisoner's Journey', an eight week course, and its influence over prisoners have led researchers to believe that increasing prisoners' religious engagement "inspires their increased motivation for identity transformation, helps them grow in virtue and gain a sense of meaning in life."

Prison Fellowship International is the ministry founded by Chuck Colson in 1979 to provide prison reforms and spiritual transformations to prisoners across America and the world.

Faith Comes By Hearing is a ministry dedicated to ensuring that "everyone on earth has access to the Gospel in a format they can understand." FCBH is currently partnering with 400 different organisations to record Scripture in every language of the world by 2033.

## Tests on Canterbury Cathedral's stained glass find links with ancient Egypt and Imperial Rome



*The great south window: David and Nathan are highlighted.*

SCIENTISTS have “discovered” Britain’s oldest large-scale stained-glass works of art in Canterbury Cathedral.

Their tests reveal that stained-glass figures portraying four ancestors of Christ were made for a rebuild of the eastern half of the cathedral in the early-to-mid-12th century. The discovery is allowing

art historians to reconstruct theoretically, for the first time, an important aspect of the internal decor of the Norman cathedral, England’s most important ecclesiastical building.

Before the scientific tests, experts had no way of determining the age of the figures. All that was known for sure was that they had been created in or before the early 13th century. Now their true age has been revealed.

The new scientific and historical research also tells a story involving aspects of ancient Egypt, Imperial Rome, and English Puritan iconoclasm.

Although the stained-glass figures were created in the first half of the 12th century (perhaps in or around 1130), tests on other ecclesiastical stained glass from England and France suggest that parts of the Canterbury figures were made of re-melted ancient Roman glass, manufactured about 1000 years earlier.

Six different colours — red, pink, purple, yellow, green, and blue — are featured in the newly identified Norman glass. The tests reveal, however, that the blue pigment is cobalt: a mineral for which, in the 12th century, no natural sources were known to European glass-makers.

They (or their suppliers) had, therefore, almost certainly obtained their cobalt by melting down thousands of Roman blue-cobalt-coloured glass cubes used in Roman wall mosaics, many of them located in Italy.

The cobalt found in the newly dated glass almost certainly derived originally, in Roman times, from currently unidentified mines in the Balkans or the Middle East. The Canterbury glass probably also contains a crucial component from ancient Egypt.

Evidence from tests carried out on blue cobalt stained glass from medieval church windows elsewhere strongly suggests that the flux (the glass-melting additive) used by the Romans to make the original glass, ultimately re-used in Canterbury, was soda (sodium carbonate).

The soda with which the Romans made their cobalt-blue glass mosaic cubes was obtained from salt lakes in the Wadi el Natrun area of northern Egypt. Soda had originally been extracted from those lakes and salt flats because the ancient Egyptians needed it to mummify their dead.

The four newly dated figures portray four of the traditional Old Testament ancestors of Christ; but it is regarded as almost certain that they originally formed part of a series of about 40 around the interior of the east end of the cathedral, in more or less every window in the upper part of that portion of the building. Most of the original Norman-period figures were, it is thought, destroyed in a fire in 1174.

After the fire, the four surviving Norman-made ancestor figures — King David, Prince Nathan (King Solomon's brother), King Rehoboam (Solomon's son), and King Abijah (Solomon's grandson) — were relocated to new windows created in the early 13th century. Historical evidence shows that they stayed there until the very late 18th century, when the four were split up: two figures were inserted into the cathedral's great south window, and two into its great west window. Space there had been created by Puritan iconoclastic activity during the English Civil War.

"It's extraordinary that Canterbury's newly redated first-half-of-the-12th-century stained glass has survived through the centuries," Professor Tim Ayers, of the University of York, an expert on medieval stained glass, said.

Canterbury Cathedral's senior stained-glass conservator, Leonie Seliger, said: "The 12th-century masterpieces had, in a sense, been hiding in plain sight."

The redating was made possible by a new portable testing method, developed at University College London by an archaeological scientist, Dr Laura Adlington.

Professor Ian Freestone, a UCL archaeological scientist involved in the Canterbury project, said: "The technology is particularly exciting because it demonstrates how science is contributing to solving historical and art-historical questions."

The redating makes these figures the world's earliest known stained-glass masterpieces portraying a series of the Old Testament ancestors.

After the 1174 fire, the other figures were recreated in a later style and increased in number during the rebuilding of the cathedral. Thirty-one of these recreations survive.

Together with the four surviving earlier figures, they are by far the largest series of medieval portrayals of Christ's traditional ancestors anywhere in the world.

## **'It was wonderful': Dan Walker rejoices for being able to sing 'out loud' in church again**

Christian BBC presenter Dan Walker has taken to social media to express his joy over being able to sing again in church.



Walker, who is currently hosting the BBC's Olympic Breakfast, posted on Instagram his experience of being allowed to sing in church for the first time in more than a year.

"I hope you've all had a lovely Sunday. I went to church this morning and was able to sing - out loud and with other people - for the first time in 18 months.

"It was wonderful."

Congregants were banned from singing hymns or songs in church buildings in England last year as a measure to avoid the spread of covid-19 in places of worship, as the country came out of its first national lockdown.

Music could only be played via a sound system and worship bands could only perform with a limited number of members whilst maintaining minimum social distancing requirements. However, the singing ban was removed last month with the relaxation of all coronavirus restrictions in England.

The BBC breakfast presenter has always been very open about his Christian faith and on many occasions has created controversy by not working on Sundays and making comments about creation.

Earlier this year Walker told Premier's Christianity Magazine he would describe himself as someone "with a strong faith" and shared how he started thinking about Christianity when he was a teenager.

"When I was a young lad, in my early teens, really, that's when I first started thinking in great depth about my place in the universe. I know that's a bit of a deep question to think about when you're only twelve or thirteen, but for me it was an understanding of who I was; who God was; what my relationship with Jesus Christ was and what I wanted it to look like. "



*Happy 100<sup>th</sup>  
 Birthday to  
 Jenny Grainger*  
 From all your friends at St Hilda's

## Sheep and Lambs Together

**Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages**

**9<sup>st</sup> August      10th Sunday after Trinity**  
**Read John 6.35,45-51**

**Living Bread Matching Game**


You will need to print out this sheet twice so that you have two of each picture.

Cut out the pictures individually and mount them onto pieces of card so that no part of the picture can be seen from the back.

Mix the cards up and turn them face-down. Take it in turns to choose two cards. If your cards match, swap them. If not, turn these back over and wait for your next turn. The person with the highest number of pairs at the end of the game is the winner.

Talk about:

- Can you name the different types of bread?
- Which one do you like most?
- Which have you never tried?
- What do we use the different types of bread for?
- Why do we eat bread?
- Why do you think there is a picture of Jesus here?
- What do you think Living Bread means?
- What do you think eternal life is like?

These questions might help to open up a discussion about how bread feeds us physically, but Jesus strengthens and feeds us in other ways



## St Hilda's Parish News

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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.*

### 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.

The first get togethers are:

Men's Breakfast – 11<sup>th</sup> September

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

## YCCN Relay



On Monday afternoon, Mariane and I welcomed 13 people who were taking part in the YCCN Relay. Well they arrived footsore but happy, we served them tea and Lemon Drizzle cake kindly made by Elizabeth Bate. After they were refreshed, we had a short welcome service in church after which they all took time to have a look around.

Some of the group then left for home and we were left with Rosemary and 4 other stalwart walkers. We gave them a hearty evening meal and left them to spend overnight in the small hall.



At 7am on Tuesday morning Mariane and I arrived to supply a cooked breakfast to set them up for the day. After breakfast a few new people joined the group and we waved them off at 10am.

It was a little disappointing that there were no others from St Hilda's to either welcome them or wave them off the next day. A big thank you to Elizabeth for her cake and to Mariane, I couldn't have managed without you.



*Bobbie*

## Gardening Working Party

There will be a posse working in the gardens for up to 2 hours for the next three Saturdays starting at 10.30. All welcome, please bring gloves and your own tools.

## Hope Into Action

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.

## Wanted

If anyone has any spare threads, embroidery threads and wools, please place in the box at the back of the church for use by a local charity. Thank you

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

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

### **Psalm 16:5**

Lord, you alone are my portion  
and my cup;  
you make my lot secure.

## **This weeks services**

### **Sunday Eucharist – 8<sup>th</sup> August @ 9.30am**

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

### **Wednesday Eucharist – 11<sup>th</sup> August @ 9.45am**

Tickets can be booked for this week's services via the links on our website and Facebook page or by contacting the Parish Office by 5pm Friday for Sunday's service and 12pm Tuesday for Wednesday's service.

**Please note we asking for the safety of yourselves and others that you continue to wear a mask whilst in the church.**

## **Tea and Chat after Sunday Service**

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

**Please hold in your prayers and thoughts this week those who are affected by the Corona Virus as well as the family and friends of those below.**

### **The Sick**

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

### **The Recently Departed**

Marion Muggeridge	William Loveridge	Ronald Winslade	Paul Harvey
Daphne Roberts			

### **Prayer**

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,  
 be open to the prayers of your humble servants;  
 and that they may obtain their petitions  
 make them to ask such things as shall please you;  
 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