



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
- Father Joseph can be contacted on 01784 254237

YCCN Relay Reading to London

It was a very intense six days. The first challenge was getting to Reading quite early on Saturday with railway engineering works on the line. I reached Reading Minster in good time, met some of my fellow walkers, put my trainers with everyone else's footwear in front of the altar, and joined in *A Service of Lament and Recommitment to Climate Justice*. Bishop Olivia, in her homily (full text here - it's well worth reading:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/young-christian-climate-sermon-bishop-olivia/>) reminded us of the four asks of YCCN, which they are taking to Glasgow:

- For reinstatement of the foreign aid budget to 0.7% of national income.
- To get firm agreement from rich countries to double the commitment of \$100bn a year for climate finance.
- Work with other governments and international organisations to develop a loss and damage mechanism
- Push for the debts of the world's poorest countries to be cancelled.

She also quoted a senior academic scientist who recently said:

"I used to think that the top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems, but I was wrong. The top environment problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that."

Bishop Olivia continued: "But we people of faith do know how to do that. This is the greatest physical and spiritual challenge humanity has ever faced. And we have the tools and the understanding to go right to heart of it."

At the end of the service our footwear was blessed for our onward journey.

Then we had a brainstorming session: Alok Sharma (President for COP26) had been invited to the service. He was not able to come, but sent a video clip and a statement. The Bishop wanted our response to these, which was essentially "Yes, we support your work for this, but we need much more".

After the first of many photo shoots couple of dozen walkers, including the Bishop and her husband, set off through a showery Reading. The last of the rain interrupted our picnic lunch by the Thames. We walked by the river then through fields, were joined by a group



who had walked from a nearby village, and so reached St. Mary's Church, Twyford where we were welcomed with refreshments - the first of many generous receptions.

The local walkers drifted away, leaving the five of us who were walking the whole way to London. We were provided with a good supper, then left to bed down with our mats and sleeping bags in the church hall.

Next morning we packed, went to the local Health Club for showers, were given a varied breakfast back in the Church Hall, looked at the church and heard the music group practicing, and eight of us were sent off with a blessing. The weather was good, and the walk was through fields - with some vigorous brambles and nettles. Lunch was provided by the local Soroptimist Club at St. Mary's Church, White Walton. (The Soroptimists were created for women when they were not allowed to join the Rotary Club. They report on their work to the United Nations).

We continued to All Saints Church Dedworth, on the edge of Windsor, where after a quick visit to the church we were welcomed at a reception organised by Christian Aid volunteers at the nearby park. Two groups of young people who had walked there as their part of the relay had already arrived. It was a large, joyful gathering, and included a short service. Afterwards the five of us with some local guides continued to St. Agnes Church, Spital. Here we were given supper, and camp beds to sleep on (in non-Covid times these were used for the night shelter).

Morning brought breakfast, several young people (members of YCCN) to walk with us, and a short service in the church. The weather was again fine. We walked to Windsor Castle, where more walkers joined us, through the Great Park to Old Windsor, and along the Thames Path to Runnymede. Here members of St. John's, Egham, fed us soup and curry from a motor caravan, then two of them - with litter pickers - continued the walk with us. We visited all the monuments and art installations at Runnymede, including one I hadn't known about: an oak tree with yellow ribbons commemorating the Covid 19 deaths. Then we followed the Thames Path to Staines, where Staines Methodist Church provided refreshments, and some joined us for the last stage of the day along the High Street and across Shortwood Common to St. Hilda's. Here Bobbie and Mariane welcomed us with yet more refreshments (Elizabeth, thank you for the cake!) and Bobbie led us in a short service. Again, local walkers went home, and the five of us were fed supper to the accompaniment of Hatton Musical Theatre Group's rehearsal, and bedded down in for the night the hall. I'd forgotten that our emergency lights are so bright!

Morning brought another dry day, breakfast (thank you again, Bobbie and Mariane), a trip to the Jolly Baker to buy lunch, a few more walkers, and departure with a blessing. The first part of the walk, to Hatton Cross via the A30 and Bedfont, was not very pleasant, but once we joined the Crane Valley walk it felt as though we were back in the countryside. We picnicked in an outdoor classroom in Crane Park, and later had refreshments at the café in Kneller Gardens. We reached Twickenham ahead of schedule and had another pause by York House Gardens by the Thames, then went to Dial House where Bishop Graham greeted us and joined us for the last section of the walk along the Thames and through the

grounds of Marble Hill House. We were again ahead of schedule, so he treated us to a drink at the café there before we crossed the park to St. Stephen's Church - for a welcome, with walkers who had come from Thames Ditton, - and supper! This time the five of us were taken to people's house for the night and breakfast provided by our generous hosts. We gathered in St. Stephen's churchyard, with half a dozen other walkers, and after a blessing set off to Richmond Bridge then followed the Capital Ring walk to Richmond Park, where people from a local church gave us yet more refreshments before joining us on the walk. It was another dry day. We followed the Capital Ring through Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common, where we had lunch at the Windmill Café (very popular with dog walkers), to Wimbledon Park and so to St. Barnabas' Church where we were greeted with cold drinks and joined by another walker, who led us through the local streets to Earlsfield Station where we re-joined the Capital Ring and followed it to Wandsworth Common. Eventually we came to Clapham Common and so to St. Paul's Church, Clapham and the most exuberant welcome yet - even with a ringing bell!

There were -guess what - refreshments, then a sung Evensong service with an emphasis on creation. In the middle of it, an enthusiastic black spaniel came in, bustled around investigating the sanctuary, and bustled out again. The relay boat (more on this later) had been brought to the church from Reading.

Then we went to the lower garden where the Clapham Community Choir entertained us with a variety of songs from Blues to a setting of Dona Nobis Pacem. Then we were invited to join in a couple of Scottish country dances - I'd forgotten how energetic that is! So back to the garden in front of the church for supper based on Ethiopian cuisine, during which we were encouraged to go and watch the sun setting over the Thames Valley; the light on the church and people was lovely. Finally we could bed down in the crèche at the back of the church while helpers cleared up.

In the morning those of us who had stayed overnight had showers and breakfast in the vicarage and joined the vicar at Matins. Then we disassembled the boat and took it to its transport - but the car was too small, so there was some confusion while alternative transport was arranged to take it to St. Paul's Cathedral.

About three dozen people gathered for the last stage. Another blessing, and we were on our way to Vauxhall and Lambeth Palace. The Palace staff greeted us, and cold drinks, cakes and fruit were laid on in the gardens. The Head Gardener gave us a quick tour of the gardens, then, joined by some young families, we continued.





The last section was chaotic! There were probably about 50 of us, who walked at very different speeds, and London was crowded. We crossed Westminster Bridge for a photograph on the green in front of the Houses of Parliament, then crossed back to the south bank which we followed to the Millennium Bridge. Here we were joined by walkers who had come from Canterbury. Together we collected on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral for

an event organised by Christian Aid, which included an address by John Sentamu.

This account only touches the surface of the week. I met lots of amazing people, especially the YCCN members. There were lots of interesting stories of the people, and of the buildings - I think there is another article there. I hope this experience will revive my enthusiasm to do something about the climate crisis - and to get St. Hilda's to do something. For instance, we need to start doing something about eco-church.

Finally, the boat. Its base is a wicker coffin, and its sides are decorated with material and pictures from countries which are already suffering from climate change. From the YCCN web site:

We are using a boat as a symbol of our relay. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been recognition that "We're in the same storm, but not in the same boat". As young people under 30, we are mindful that we are on the course of another storm too; over half of all emissions have been released in our lifetimes, and global average temperatures are set to rise by several degrees over the decades ahead. The consequences of this storm will not be felt equally, but they will be felt acutely.

This boat is a representation of our hope that we would #RiseToTheMoment and use this year to set sail towards a more just future.

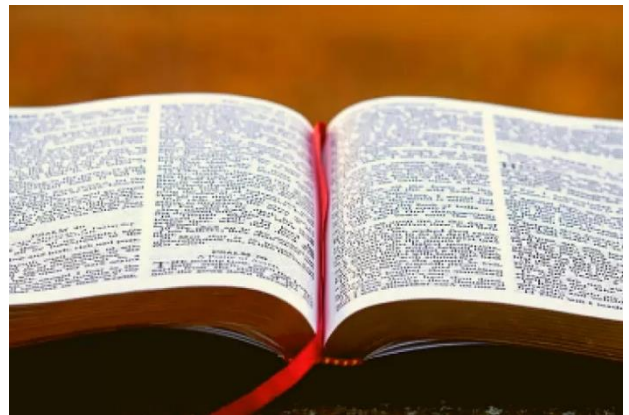
Rosemary Greenwood

Govt urged to 'take notice' as hundreds more opt for Religious Studies at A-level

The Government is being called to put more funding into Religious Education following a rise in A-level entries for the subject.

There has been a 6.1 percent boost in the number of Religious Studies A-level exam entries this year with over 16,600 RS A-level entries recorded in England and Wales.

16,645 RS A-level entries were recorded in 2021, compared with 15,690 in 2020.



The Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC) says this increase shows candidates see Religious Studies as a valuable subject and a relevant, essential life skill in society today.

RE consultant and REC spokesperson Ed Pawson tells Premier Religious Studies helps students to develop their own world view.

He said: "A level reflects what pupils really want to study themselves - they have free choice over that.

"Religious Studies encompasses topics like ethics, philosophy and theology - all those areas are very relevant and very much discussed today in terms of what people believe and how does it make a difference to the way we live."

Together with the National Association of Teachers of RE, the REC are urging the Government to fund a National Plan to ensure the subject is well resourced and properly taught.

"RE has been neglected over many years, we want to see a 'religion of world views curriculum' which would be what RE has taught about over years but a more inclusive version that would be relevant to every pupil, not just for religious pupils.

"The Government needs to take more notice of this subject and provide funding for a National plan," Pawson added.

The overall number of A-Level entries in England and Wales increased this year by 5.1 percent from 750,173 in 2020 to 788,421 in 2021.

Jenny Grainger's 100th Birthday



Mum's 100th started the week before the big day with the postman and many local friends delivering cards and gifts including the special one from the Queen.

On the day before her birthday a huge and beautiful bouquet was delivered from the family of St Hilda's. My brother John took her back to his house at Ringwood at lunchtime on Saturday together with all the as yet unopened cards and the magnificent

bouquet. We joined them later along with his family Heather and Lucy, and our youngest son Simon.

On Sunday morning we all awoke to rain but nothing could dampen the sense of occasion, starting with bacon baps, always Mum's favourite. Early in the day a FaceTime call came through from Gemma (my brother's younger daughter) and her partner Milo and son Jack who all live in Australia. They chose the moment to share the very special news that Mum is to gain a new baby great granddaughter next January.

Next to arrive was Jonathan our middle son and his partner Rosie, and his children Elodie and Tristan who were almost as excited as Mum. They helped their Great Grandma to open her presents and cards and arrange around the church flowers and the cake. During the day another call came from Jeremy, our eldest son, who is living in Tanzania with his family. They all sang and performed happy birthday. Chris arrived straight from a week of singing at Exeter Cathedral and the party was complete. The sun came out in time for a late barbecue lunch.



Mum never stopped smiling all day. I am sure she will have many happy memories that she will enjoy sharing with friends when she is back home after a few days away.

A big thank you to everybody who sent the cards, gifts and good wishes that helped to make the day so special."

Joyce Rouse

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 dolley or trolley

Features of the new chairs:

- They stack (up to 10 in a stack or 25 on a special dolley)
- 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

Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

15th August **The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Read Luke 1: 46 – 55

*“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for He has been mindful
of the humble state of His servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is His name.
His mercy extends to those who fear Him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with His arm;
He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as He promised our ancestors.”*

Why do you think Mary wrote that song?

She praises God and thanks him. Perhaps you could write your own prayer, or even a song, thanking God for all that is good in your life and in the world around you.



St Hilda's Parish News

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

Seating update

As the restrictions ease there are more changes in church.

The chairs are set out in a standard configuration of rows in the centre aisles. This means that going forward you will be able to choose where to sit and with whom to sit and we will not continue to implement “bubbles”. However, we will continue to ask everyone to wear a mask and sanitise on entry and exit. We will of course, also continue to maintain ventilation. We will also still ask you to continue to book – so that there is a track and trace list just in case it is needed.

We recognise that there are some people who would feel more comfortable to maintain social distancing and we will therefore have some seats in the side aisles which are separate for those wishing to maintain a distance.

It is hoped that this moves us forward towards some level of normality, and will also keep everyone feeling comfortable about returning to church and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Spelthorne Deanery Confirmations – Sunday 19th 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 2nd, 9th and 16th September.

Soup and roll

Starting on **Wednesday 29th 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 – 11th September

Women's Breakfast – 16th October

Gardening Working Party

Thanks to Bobbie, Susan and Christine M for braving the weather for our first attack on the gardens on Saturday!

We had originally decided to cancel due to the heavy rain, but at 11am the sun appeared and we decided to take a chance. In an hour and a half we cleared 3 bin-loads of weed and creeper and gave some much-needed attention to the garden outside the boiler house. We collected so much that in order to make space in the garden waste bins we had to get into the bin and jump up and down to compress the contents. (Christine and I risk assessed this



before we did it). The rain beat us in the end and when it rained, we got very wet, very quickly. We will meet again to do some more work on the next 2 Saturdays at 10.30, please feel free to come and join us if you enjoy gardening or just being together in the open air.



Thank you to Nick Gething and Jon Bate – who, armed with digeridoos (long sticks) and waders, cleared the accumulated flood water in the car park following the very heavy rainfall this week.

Paula

Hope Into Action

Thank you, to everyone who has used the blue bins to donate clothing. Our first collection will be week commencing 23/8. 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.

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

Large Baby Doll

Does anyone have a large baby doll which could be adopted by Junior Church? They will be loved and well cared for!



















Thank you, Christine Taylor

Mothers' Union Election for London Diocesan President:

Voting is by post this year. The deadline for forms to be received at the office has been extended to 31 August.

If you need a voting form, contact Sally Goulden 07970 824367.

Every vote counts! I encourage you to vote.

THE MEDAL TABLE			
	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
COFFEE ROTA VOLUNTEERS	 34 GOLD-LIPPED TEACUPS (ETC)	 A STAINLESS STEEL TEAPOT	 THREE PACKETS OF GINGER NUTS
FLOWER ARRANGERS	 23 GOLDEN CHRYSANTHEMUMS	 FOUR SILVER URNS	 A COPPER WATERING CAN
HOLIDAY CLUB CHILDREN	 EVERYONE GETS A GOLD MEDAL (X 17)	 FOIL-COVERED CRAFT ITEMS (X 17)	 CHOCOLATE MOSES (X 17)
VESTRY SAFE	 LOST PROPERTY: UNCLAIMED GOLD EARRING	 FIVE DONATED ANTIQUES	 THREE BRASS CANDLESTICKS
MUSIC GROUP	 A FRAMED GOLD DISC	 BRIAN'S TUBA	 TWO CYMBALS
CLERGY	 NO GOLD WATCH FROM PREVIOUS PARISH	 A HOME-COMMUNION SET	 CURATE ON HOLIDAY ON THE BEACH

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/

Psalm 28 : 7

The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

This weeks services

Sunday Eucharist – 15th August @ 9.30am

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

Wednesday Eucharist – 18th 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 Paul Harvey

Prayer

O God, you declare your almighty power
 most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
 mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
 that we, running the way of your commandments,
 may receive your gracious promises,
 and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
 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