

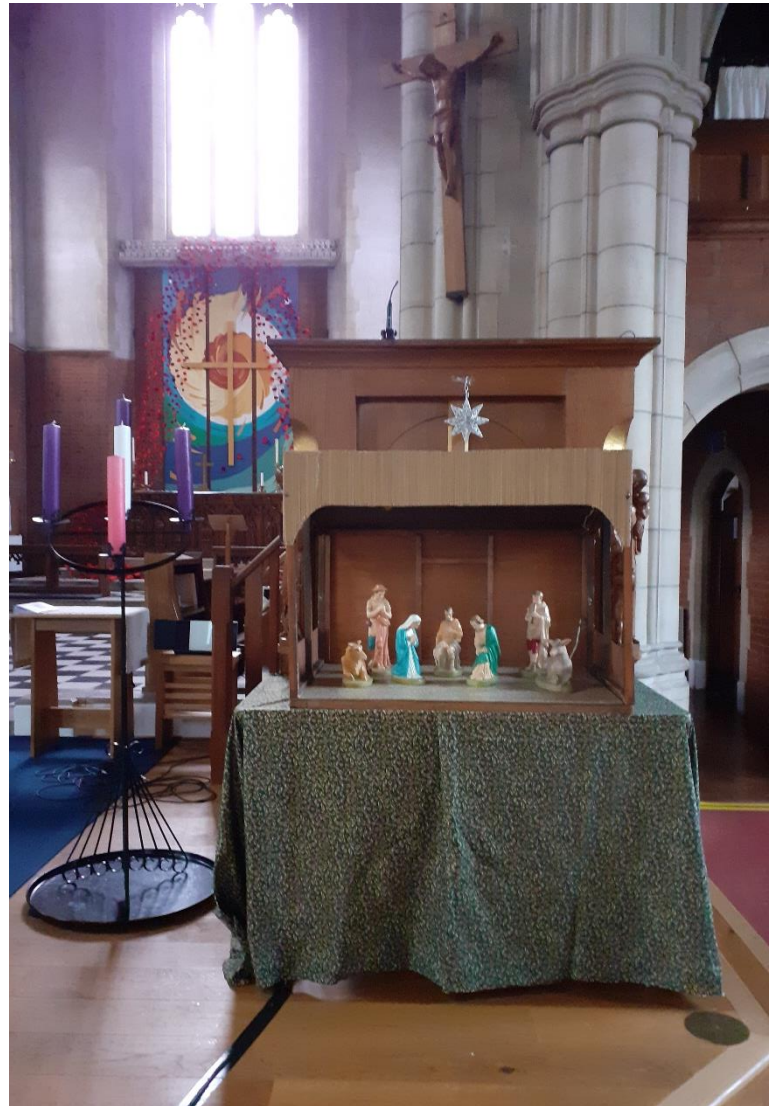


St Hilda's
Ashford

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:

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

Welcome to the January issue of St Hilda's News and we hope that you all had a lovely Christmas.

Thank You to those who have contributed articles. As always, we want to hear from you, so please tell us about your hobbies, activities, big birthdays and other celebrations.

Send all contributions to the Parish Office either by email or post.

Please check out the diary page for details of services and events happening this month.

The Editors

New Editors Needed

During 2022 the current editors are planning on leaving the area so we are looking for someone to take over the reins at St Hilda's News.



The Life of your Ordinand Part Four

Advent came and advent went. Christmas came and Christmas went. An old year has passed, and a new year have just begun. We are still living with the pandemic, and nothing seem to have changed very much or seem to be pointing to a definite end. Still, the year we just left behind has been filled with an endless number of moments. Moments of worry and sorrow, moment of doubt, moments of nothingness but also moments of fullness, moments of joy, moments of surprises, new experiences and hope.



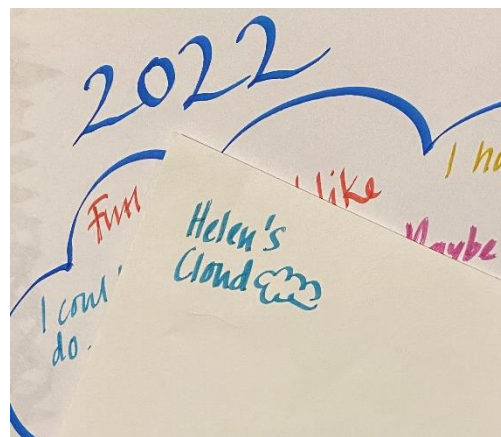
When I was walking home from the midnight mass on Christmas night it reminded me of the first lockdown, back in 2020. I remember how amazed I was, and how weird it felt, with everything closed, empty streets and a silence that you normally only experience on Christmas day. There was a tension in the air, a notion of complete uncertainty. This night, walking home under drizzling rain, it was almost the same sensation. Apart from the fact that there was no lockdown, and we are definitely in another position today then back in the early days of the pandemic. There is still a portion of uncertainty, but I would like to believe that we have started to learn to live with this uncertainty and have found ways to cope with it too.

It was a 40 minutes' walk from the church to my house and the peacefulness and silence was all that surrounded me. Not a single vehicle on the roads and not a single soul out in the streets. It was literally me and the rain. Almost like the first Christmas: no commerce, no fuss, no panic and no crowds. Just a miracle happening in the quiet somewhere simple and very anonymous. So significant in the middle of its insignificance there and then. Like the life given to each and one of us. A life given by the same infinite love of God that came to live among us all those years ago in Jesus Christ. Each life today, a miracle in the midst of the messiness of the world.

Just after new year I was in the middle of essay writing when the kids of the house came knocking on the door. They had spent the holidays with their nan up in the North. Full of energy, restlessness and with millions of things to share.

They nailed me with their big brown eyes and in chorus asked, demandingly: "Helen, have you made your cloud yet? You MUST make your cloud!" I probably looked like a living question mark, because I had absolutely no idea what they were talking about: "The cloud? What cloud? I'm sorry guys but I have no idea what the cloud is." They looked at me like I was a complete fool and alien and then eagerly explained:

“You draw a big cloud on a piece of paper. Over the cloud you write 2022. In the cloud you write everything you want to do this year. It can be anything. Like fun stuff, things you want to learn, something you wish for, something you hope for or toys you like for your birthday. You know, anything.” They stood there with their arms in the air and with big smiles on their faces. “And you know, when you have finished your cloud, you put it in an envelope and then... you have to wait ALL the way to next year. And THEN you can open and see what you wrote.” Finishing off with “and then you can make a new cloud”, they trotted off to look for snails at the back of the garden.



The cloud... I like that. We have a tradition of making new year resolutions. Promise ourselves to make changes to make our lives better, more meaningful or make up for things we wished we had done earlier. We are all familiar with this. Beach 2022, better diet, spending less time by the screen, reading a certain number of books, quit sugar, taking up a new hobby, cleaning out the wardrobe... whatever it is. And we are good in starting, full of energy. A new year, a perfect time to start over, to start fresh, this year it's going to be perfect.. Most of the times we stop somewhere on the way. It was just too much: too much pressure, too ambitious, not enough time... I stopped new year resolutions long ago. It just didn't make sense to me.



But the cloud does, and I did make a one. I like the idea of writing down things you want and wish and hope for. Whether it is going to happen or not. That's not the point. It's more important to have a direction. It's not a checklist that can stress you for not being able to tick off. You don't need to tick anything. It's simply a cloud with thoughts, ideas and dreams.

The cloud is like a prayer. Addressed to God. You can leave your cloud in the hands of God and trust you will be cared for and nurtured even this year. Like every year and every day.

When the next year is coming, and you open the cloud and look at what you wrote and look back on what you actually got. There will be things that most likely will transferred to the next cloud. Or will it? Maybe it will not be as important as you thought. Maybe there will be new things, new hopes, new dreams.

And I'm sure there will be a lot of things that is added which you didn't count on or expected. But that is not for now. All we need to do now is allowing God to care for us and our clouds.

Until till next time, why not make a cloud?!

Helen

Feed My Sheep

We are back - unless regulations change before our first meeting on Tuesday 25th January from 2.30 - 4.00pm.

The theme is PICK AND MIX.

Turn up, sign in, put a £1 in the pot. Join in and also enjoy cake and tea.

Future dates and topics:

Feb 22nd Whose Bible is it?

Mar 22nd Dead Sea Scrolls and Qumran

April 26th Prayer and Praying

May 24th Popes

Rosalyn Young

Signs and Symbols



This is a simple cross with arms of equal length and the letters for the Greek word meaning "victory" or "conqueror". It can also be spelt NIKE



Nike is used in the Greek New Testament, particularly at Romans 8:37, which says, "We are more than conquerors through Christ Who loved us."

Jesus Christ the Conqueror



The cross with the accompanying Greek letters conveys that Jesus has conquered sin and death. IC are the first and last letters of the Greek word for Jesus; XC are the first and last letters of the Greek word for Christ; and NIKΑ is the Greek word that means “to conquer.”

2nd January - 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Sheep and Lambs Together Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

Read John 1: 10-18

John wanted to get the news out about the special parson JESUS. If John lived today how would he get the story out today. And what would that message be?



6th January - Epiphany

Sheep and Lambs Together Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

Read Matthew 2: 1-12



Wait till it is dark and then go out and look at the stars. If you have a telescope; why not use it.

Then find out how you could travel using stars to show you your way to travel. Why do you think the wise men/ kings wanted to travel to meet Jesus? Then think what would you do to get to something special.

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

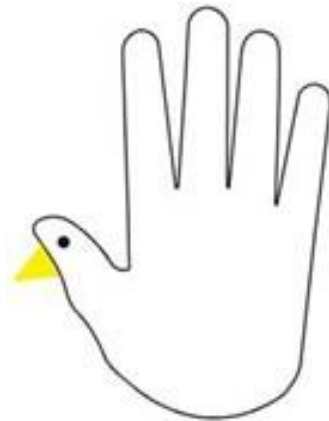
9th January - 1st Sunday of Epiphany

Sheep and Lambs Together **Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages**

Read Luke 3.15-17,21,22

Make a simple dove by drawing round your hand. Draw a small black circle on the thumb as an eye, and a yellow triangle attached to the outside of the thumb as a beak. On the dove wings write: 'You are my child, my beloved.'

Put it on display somewhere in the house as a reminder that all of us are a beloved child of God.



Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen

16th January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Sheep and Lambs Together Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

Read John 2.1-11

you will need: plate, small jug of milk, three different colour food dyes, cotton buds, small bowl of washing-up liquid.

Pour milk onto the plate, then add and one drop of each of the three dye colours.

Look at the milk, noticing how still and unchanged it is, and thank God for the ordinary things in your lives.

dip a cotton bud into the washing-up liquid. Then dip the tip of the bud into the middle of one of the three colours, and hold it still.

Watch as the colours transform and change the milk

Take time to think of all the things that have been transformed in your lives by God.



See the experiment here : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hr6dZ6aWpF4>

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

23rd January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Sheep and Lambs Together **Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages**

Read Luke 4.14-21

Act out:

Jesus stood up to read in the Temple.
(stand up)

He unrolled the scroll and started to read.
(mime unrolling a scroll)

He read God's word. The good news.
(mime reading out loud)

Jesus said he had come to support those in need.
(hold one hand out and then clasp with the other)

And he asked us to do the same.
(hold hands with those either side of you)

Then think how you could support those in need.



God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Amen

30th January - 4th Sunday of Epiphany

Sheep and Lambs Together Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

Read Luke 2: 22-40

Explore the idea that the words we use are important and can have a huge effect on other people. Lay all the sentences in front of everyone and ask which of the loose words might fit in the blanks.

Ask what difference changing the words round has on the meaning of the sentences.

See if you can think of any other examples of words that completely change the sentence.

1. You are _____ kind
'quite', 'very', 'incredibly', 'not'
2. God _____ loves you
'kind of', 'sometimes', 'always', 'really'
3. It is important to be _____
'friendly', 'selfish', 'helpful', 'angry'
4. I find challenges _____
'easy', 'hard', 'difficult', 'fun'



Jesus has the strength and sense to walk away from the challenging voices in today's passage. Open a conversation about when it might be right to walk away, and when it's best to say something.

God of heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Sponsor a church chair

If you would like to sponsor a chair or trolley, please complete the form at the rear of the Church.

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 trolley

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

If you are interested in sponsoring a chair, please complete a form that can be found:

- At the back of the Church
- On the Website
- Or Contact the Parish Office

Cheques are payable to St Hilda's PCC or you can transfer monies direct;
St Hilda's PCC

Sort Code: 60-01-22

Account Number: 36290696

Hope Into Action

Thank you, to everyone who has used the blue bins to donate clothing. The bins will remain in place, please feel free to continue to leave clothing, belts and shoes. The money raised will be put towards the work of Hope into Action locally.

Please – clean clothes, paired shoes, and belts only. We cannot do anything with bedding, towels, curtains, and other soft furnishings.

St Hilda's Presents

Charley Brighton returns for another series of Euphonium Recitals starting on Saturday, January 15th, 2022 at 12 noon.

This will be no.3 in 'The Richard Scholar Recital Series', a tribute to his very first brass teacher at Longford School in Feltham.

The programme will feature another premiere, 'The World Without You' written for Charley by Rob Wiffin, former Director of Music of the R.A.F.

Also included will be variations on the traditional Irish melody The Mountains of Mourne, Sunrise, Sunset from Fiddler on The Roof and Tonight, from Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story.

Gareth Green will be at the piano.

Many of the solo items will be played on vintage & historic Euphoniums, dating back to 1891 and including recent additions to his treasured collection.

The concert will last for around 45 minutes with refreshments served afterwards.

Admission is £5 at the door.

For more details;

www.euphoniumcollective.co.uk

Facebook and Twitter (@CharleyBrighton) and listen to previous performances on Soundcloud (www.soundcloud.com/highams)



Dance Classes – From 9th January there will be swing dance classes in St Hilda's on a Sunday afternoon led by professional dance teacher Denise Steele (denisesteele.com)



Swing Line Dance (3-4pm)

No partner necessary, £30 for 4 weeks – all levels, family fun!

Rock n Roll Swing (4.30-5.30pm)

Learn the fabulous Swing dances of the 30's – 50's. Partner required, £60 (per couple) for 4 weeks.

Tea Dance – Last Sunday of the month 7 – 10pm (*more details to follow*)

Gardening from my perspective – January 2022

Happy New Year everyone.

I have been asked to write another article on gardening so here goes...

January, due to both low temperatures and lack of day light, is not one of the busiest times in the garden but nevertheless there are still jobs you can do.

1. Although late it's not too late to plant tulips in January (preferably by mid-January) and you can often pick up a few bargains in garden centres at this of year. Tulips can either be planted in the ground or in pots. Personally I choose the latter so that I can move the pots around either on the patio or to where there are gaps in the beds to provide colour in early spring.
2. Prune fruit trees by removing any crossing or rubbing branches. Cut back any overlong or straggly branches to a bud to promote vigorous multi-stemmed regrowth. Monty Don recommends that a good guide is to establish a framework of permanent branches spaced widely enough so that a pigeon could fly right through them!
3. Cut back foliage of hellebores before the end of the month to ensure that emerging flowers are not obscured by old leaves and this will also help control leaf spot disease.
4. Clean tools and pots – this is an ideal time of year to clean and sharpen tools and to clean trays/pots so that you are ready to plant in the spring. Use a non-toxic disinfectant such as Citrox or hot soapy water.
5. The three Ds – remove any dead, damaged or diseased stems on trees and shrubs.
6. Start planning for the year ahead, what changes you might want in the garden, which plants you want to replace, or a change in colour scheme, perhaps plants which need less maintenance and of course to bear in mind that, with climate change, to consider planting drought tolerant plants: Lavenders, Ceanothus, Eryngium (sea holly), Cistus (rock rose), Perovskia and Sedum are but a few examples.
7. Finally don't forget to feed the birds, particularly the smaller ones, as their food sources can be limited at this time of year.



As I mentioned in my previous article when I visit Garden Centres I always look out for 'Hospital Corner' the area where you find plants which are discounted because they are

slightly damaged or past their best. In my experience most just need a prune and/or to be fed and repotted. For me, one of the joys of gardening is saving such plants and bringing them back to life with a spot of TLC. I find this very rewarding.

Finally, as a top tip remember to avoid disappointment in the garden it's "Right plant, Right place". What does this mean? Well avoid planting a shade loving planting in the sun and vice versa and avoid planting acid loving plants in alkaline soil and vice versa. If you want to know what type of soil you have in your garden soil testing kits are available from most garden centres.

I hope that's helpful, the long dark days of winter will soon pass and spring will be upon us before you know it. So have fun and plan your garden for 2022, the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Enjoy your garden.

Alan Sloan

Food & Fellowship

Joint Men and Women's Breakfast – 12th February

There will not be a breakfast in January, however, we will be holding a joint breakfast in February where our guest speaker will be The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Member of Parliament for Spelthorne.

Kwasi was born and raised in London. He studied Classics and History at Cambridge University, and then attended Harvard University on a Kennedy Scholarship. He completed a PhD in Economic History at Cambridge in 2000. Before becoming a Member of Parliament, Kwasi worked as a financial analyst in the City, and as an author.

Kwasi was elected as the MP for Spelthorne in May 2010 and in January 2021 Kwasi was appointed as Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.



Kwasi has written several books, and continues to have a keen interest in history, as well as in music and languages

Tickets can be booked via the ticket tailor links on our website or Facebook page or by contacting the parish office. There is a suggested donation of £5 to attend the breakfast. Spread the word, all are welcome.

Community Lunch

The community lunch is being paused until 2nd February, whilst the infection rates for Covid are high so that we can maintain everyone's safety.

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/

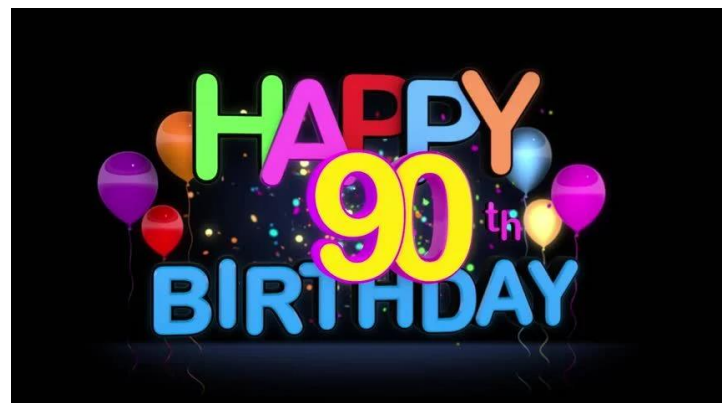
St Hilda's Kneelers



We aren't currently using the kneelers, if anyone has a sentimental attachment to a particular kneeler and would be interested in having it back, please contact the office by 31st January. Otherwise, they will be used for art project, as shown in the picture, which recently won an award.

John Hunt - 11th January

Wishing you a very Happy Birthday from all your friends at St Hilda's



Services Times for the month of January

Sunday Eucharist – 9.30am

Wednesday Eucharist – 11am

From February, we will be holding a 8am Book of Common Prayer service on the first Sunday of each month.

The Sunday service is livestreamed and can be viewed via our Facebook page and YouTube channel (St Hilda's Ashford).

Tickets can be booked for the 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.

Dates for your Diary

January in St Hilda's

6 th	7.30pm	Epiphany Service
7 th	5.30pm	FACT – Time Together-Jesus as a refugee
15 th	12pm	Euphonium Recital
25 th	2.30pm	Feed My Sheep
30 th	7 - 10pm	Tea Dance

Bible Study – Every Wednesday at 7.30pm

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	Alison Griffiths	Pat Parish	Philip Willerton
Darren Burkin	Vicky Hall	Peggy Pinfold	Chick Wilson
Robb Clarke	Jean Iddiols	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Peter Wilson
Ann Considine	Jane Johnson	Delphine Scrivener	Jo Wood
Julia Cowley	Pat Kyle	Riley Shaw	Izzy
Michael Dixon	Pauline Lewis	Elsie Stone	Nic
Anna Elwell	Chris Maddock	Roy Stone	Baby Reuben
Jack Everett	Mrs McCammon	Rev. Peter Taylor	Bob
Peter Garner	Libby Mills	Carla Wells	Margaret
Juliet Griffith	Raymond Nation	Sheila West	

