

Welcome to the August issue of St Hilda's News. After a short break, we are back in publication. We have a new editor!

Thank You to those who have contributed articles to make this your Parish newsletter. We want to hear from you, so please tell us about your hobbies, activities, big birthdays and other celebrations.

Please send all contributions to **Karen Roach** by emailing **kmroach45@gmail.com**

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

The Editor
Karen Roach

The Life of an Ordinand - Part Seven

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under the sky.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Autumn came and autumn went. Winter came and winter went. Spring came and spring... well, eventually spring went after a stubborn cold, slow change and endless weekends of rail works and bus replacements. Then finally summer came, and summer is still here. Sitting by my kitchen table in the midst of the current heatwave writing, it brings back memories from my first time working in the Holy Broken Land.

In the middle of the summer in the occupied territories of the Westbank, deep in the Jordan valley, I was hiking together with my teammates on the mission to reach some Bedouin villages under the threat of demolition. Already by sunrise, the temperature was way over 30 degrees. There were no roads and no arrows directing us, all you knew was by which tree it was time to descend and start looking for goats and sheep with bells tied onto red or blue yarn. How to find the way was handed over from team to team placed in the village of Yanoun. You did it once with the handover person from the leaving team, and then it was you who carried the knowledge to pass on when the new team came. A tradition that had been passed since the placement of international presence had been established in Yanoun.



The Bedouin villages were not very far away, something you learnt after doing this once a week for months, but it was definitely not a flat landscape. When standing by the tree from where the descending started, it looked just like any desert. A stretch of brown landscape which didn't look difficult to take on. Climbing down (and up on your way back) amongst giant rocks and tricky trails is a challenge I tell you. And even if you could see the top

of the tents of the village of Khirbet Tana, it still took about 3 hours to reach the bottom of the valley. I think back on our Khirbet Tana hikes with great joy and love despite the heat and challenge it was, both physically and emotionally - considering you never knew

whether you would face a demolition in action, military harassment or worse... It was the hike itself. For every step there was always something new to discover. The bare and what looked like a dead nature always surprised you with beauty in the details. Like the one morning we for some reason started our hike late in the morning. Our pace was naturally much slower under the sun and at one point we needed a break trying to find a spot of shade.

When sitting down gulping iced water which was almost melted by then, we suddenly saw that one of the big rocks was not just a simple rock. There was an opening at the bottom. We found a cave! Crawling in we found shelter and it was so wonderfully cold in there. Catching our breaths we started guessing what temperature it possibly could be. It felt like a fridge, and it was indeed refreshing. One of my



teammates had a thermometer on his phone and guess how blown away we were realising that this nice cold cave was 36 degrees! Had we not sat down and not taken the time to more closely look around, we might have missed the cave. Even the most well-known setting or situation can hold something new in it if you just let it. It is the same thing with God. There is always more to explore, more to encounter and more to experience.

I have been journeying with you for a full season now. And I think back on all those mornings when the alarm has gone off far too early than what I liked or wanted. But every journey, every challenge with transport and every moment has been like my hikes to Khirbet Tana, a journey which I carry with love and joy. Because every time I enter the church or meet you in the streets, I know I am blessed. You have so warmly carried me through the first year of my training and I am very much looking forward to our new season together.

A new hike together. To explore, encounter and experience. Explore our faith and relationship with God and each other. Encounter the living God, the nurturing Christ and the facilitating Holy Spirit.

Experience life. Together.

“The wind blows to the south and goes round to the north.

Round and round goes the wind
and on its circuits the wind returns.

All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full.” (Ecclesiastes 1:6-7)

Helen

Interview: Chris Brown – Church Treasurer



“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

The role of Treasurer is essential in ensuring that a church is healthy and sustainable...however, finding the right person, can be challenging, especially in smaller churches. Our newly appointed Treasurer Chris has agreed to answer some questions to give us an insight into this role.

What made you consider taking up the role of a church treasurer?

In 2018 I became a member of St Hilda's Church, following a long-term illness during which I regained my Faith ... an experience I will share another time.

Renewed, I prayed for to Our Father to show me a way of serving Him in thanksgiving for restoring my health and giving me a second chance.

My prayers were answered earlier this year when Fr Joseph informed me that he was looking for a new treasurer, as Darren Buttigieg and his family were moving away from Ashford. God truly moves in mysterious ways as 14 years earlier I changed my career and qualified as a licensed accountant.

What's involved in the role of a treasurer?

The role of church treasurer can best be accomplished by the prayerful, orderly, execution of the financial and administrative requirements needed to be effective.

What are the core responsibilities?

Having been selected by the PCC my core responsibilities to them are to keep the books straight and so maintain accounting integrity, through:

- Managing the money ensuring it is sufficient to pay the bills.
- Planning the finances and supporting the future work and ministry of the church.
- Being open and transparent in everything that is done.
- Preparing the monthly and annual accounts in an accurate, understandable, and timely manner.

What's the most challenging part?

The COVID pandemic and faltering membership of the Church is our greatest challenge. St Hilda's Church is a majestic Grade II Listed Building in need of our tender loving care to ensure a place of worship for future generations of our community. We have a car park that is falling into a state of disrepair and in need of renewal to ensure the safety of pedestrians accessing the Church and Hall.

The challenge is clearly to create awareness in the community and appeal for donations and to research grants to fund this work.

How much time do you have to devote to the work of the treasurer?

The bookkeeping and accounting system has now been overhauled and operates on accounting software, which enables the Parish Administrator to input bills and expenses as they are received. We will also be looking to share other bookkeeping tasks with other members of the PCC so that we are not reliant on a single individual to maintain the bookkeeping and financial management.

Naturally, the Treasurer will oversee these activities to ensure data integrity and consistency in record keeping.

Where I have been putting in approximately 8 hours a week, the above collaborative approach should reduce this to 4 hours per week.

What are the key attributes and skills to ensure the church accounts are kept properly?

Firstly, a strong sense of ethics, integrity, and transparency; as you might have guessed a love of working with numbers; good organisational and communication skills and time management; attention to detail and accurate recording of data; analytical and ability to solve problems.

Have you come across any peculiarities in Church accounting that differ from typical accounting?

Good question, and yes, the Church is a Registered Charity and there are fundamental differences in the presentation of financial statements compared to that of a commercial business. For example, the primary objective of a business entity is to make profits for distribution between the owners of the business and their accounts report sales or income together with costs or expenses, whereby the difference is reported as either a profit or sometimes a loss.

In contrast, the aim of a charity is to raise funds to further its mission, therefore accounts record donations and payments, where the difference results in either a surplus or deficit.

How essential is proper management of money to church life?

Charity Accounting also requires us to clearly identify the purpose for which a donation is gifted, for example, the Church receives money gifted in open collections and planned-giving to support the operating costs of the Church, such as heating, lighting, water rates, telephone, the list goes on, but most importantly a contribution to the Diocese Common Fund to support the infrastructure which includes Fr Joseph's stipend, these weekly contributions are termed 'unrestricted' funds which the PCC manages. The Church also receives large donations and legacies which are gifted for a specific purpose and are accounted for in clearly identifiable 'restricted' funds. A good example of this is monies raised for the purchase of the new Church seating.

Do you see your role as a spiritual calling or a vocation?

As explained at the beginning of this interview, I prayed to God to use me in his service, so yes, I do consider my role as being spiritual and continue to pray daily for his guidance in maintaining our financial records and ensuring that the PCC are kept fully informed of the Church's financial wellbeing.

This spiritual feeling is also akin to my role being a vocation, a strong feeling of suitability for a particular path using skills that have been gifted by God.

How does the role of a treasurer provide opportunities to put your faith into practice?

Very simply, I have been given the opportunity to serve God, the Church, and the community of Ashford.

What do you do in your spare time when you are not doing the church accounts?

Bible studies, reading, crosswords (especially The Telegraph cryptic), pottering in the garden, and more recently building and flying radio-controlled model aircraft.

Any additional thoughts you'd like to add regarding this role?

I would like to leave our readers with this quote from Proverbs 11:25:
“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”



Together with my prayer that we all give what we can afford and share the Good News with a friend by bringing them to St Hilda’.

Cheerfully in Christ

Chris

Chris Brown
Treasurer – St Hilda’s PCC

YCCN - Appeal to Churches for Hand Art for the Lambeth Conference



Following our morning service on Sunday 24th July, St Hilda's responded to the **Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN)** call to play an important part in showing the UK government that we care about climate justice. Members of all age groups participated in making hands which will form a chain to represent the climate justice fellowship. On each hand, a prayer was written for climate justice.

While bishops across the global Anglican communion meet for the Lambeth Conference,



they'll discuss the future – including climate. YCCN will be holding a prayer vigil outside using this chain of hands to make our voices heard, praying for climate justice and making it clear that Christians worldwide must stand united for climate justice.



We want the church to work together, with all nations standing alongside those worst affected by the climate crisis to protect and safeguard the people of the earth. The Anglican communion needs to stand together in fellowship: a fellowship of climate justice.

The Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) is an action-focused community of young Christians in the UK aged 18-30, choosing to follow Jesus in the pursuit of climate justice. For more information visit: www.yccn.uk/

Update from our twinned Church - Holy Cross Murrupula



Progress of the Building works.



Please pray for:

- The Church of Murrupula needs to be finished with the roofing and finishing work.
- The pastoral work of the priest Domingo, in visiting the chapels.
- Bishop Manuel, as he attends the Lambeth Conference.

The Textiles Room



Colours, shapes and textures, woven and mingled;
 dancing with gay abandon,
 crawling up and down the walls,
 making images; states of mind:
 glorious, free-flying
 or earthbound and nestled.



Expressions of joy and fear buried deep inside.
 I cannot sew these stitches.
 So I will stitch my words into a dance
 up and down
 my page.

© Carolyn Clark

Photos from our recent Jumble Sale.



I think the vicar managed to pick up an absolute bargain!



All proceeds from the Jumble Sale will go to our church.

Congratulations to The Lionesses for winning the Euro Championships.

The Lionesses' Euro victory was so much more than a football game

The pure joy seen in the Lionesses' celebrations during Euro 2022 echoes the gender-equality joy that runs through the gospels - if only we are looking for it. From the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well ([John 4](#)) to the woman caught "in adultery", see [John 7:53–8:11](#); from the Syrophenician woman at the men's table who begged Jesus for a miracle ([Mark 7:24-30](#)) to Mary Magdalene as the first witness to the risen Christ ([John 20:11–16](#)). And that's before we get to the liberated, powerful women of the epistles and Acts, such as Lydia ([Acts 16:11–15](#)) and Phoebe ([Romans 16:1-2](#)).

It's the daughters we're celebrating right now, thanks to the Lionesses. So let the river run – it's a river of tears of pure joy.

(George Pitcher – Excerpts from Premier Christianity)



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee points to a life of service – and to Christ, the Servant King.

The Platinum Jubilee celebration was a weekend to remember, with so many people taking to the streets, marking her Majesty 70 years as Queen. The four-day bank holiday weekend (2nd – 5th June) consists of a series of spectacular events taking place all over the country.

At St Hilda's, we had a lovely cake to mark the occasion after our morning service, followed by a Jubilee Afternoon Tea party.



Father Joseph cutting the Jubilee Cake.

Local villages had their own jubilee celebrations, and the Windsor Platinum Jubilee Party was held in the Long Walk. Here you could book a table and pre-order a picnic. I was invited by a friend but chose to join the celebrations at St Hilda's instead.

My friend did not hesitate to send me numerous photos to remind me of what I'd missed.

Here are some of the highlights.



Although I'll have memories of swapping a posh picnic lunch for an excellent gluten-free spread at St Hilda's tea party, I am moved mainly by the faith and courage of the Queen. Her 70 years of service were steeped in and profoundly influenced by her Christian belief.

Not only is she strong in her faith but very much in tune with technology; a Twitter follower @Queen Lillibet. What a great example and a way to connect with people from all generations and walks of life - making the Royals even more relevant and accessible to us today.

We can never forget her surprise stunt with Paddington Bear. Due to mobility concerns, The Queen could not attend several Jubilee events; however, her absence didn't stop the fun. The Queen made up for this in a rather creative and funny way, stunning everyone with a special comedy skit and tea party with Paddington Bear. How thoughtful!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee points to a life of service – and to Christ, the Servant king says George Pritcher (Premier Christianity).

Recently there was a Twitter feed from Nicky Gumbel - retired vicar of Holy Trinity Brompton and Leader of the Alpha Course, in response to a quote from the Queen.

He said, "I love that today, as often, the Queen has written so openly and boldly about her Christian faith."

**THROUGHOUT MY LIFE,
THE MESSAGE AND
TEACHINGS OF
CHRIST HAVE BEEN
MY GUIDE AND IN
THEM I FIND HOPE.**

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
3RD AUGUST 2022



The Queen has provided some excellent quotes and examples we can follow in our Christian walk. Two of my favourites are:

"Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try and do what is right, take the long view, and give my best in all that the day brings. And to put my trust in God." Queen Elizabeth II.

"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace...is an inspiration and anchor in my life." – Queen Elizabeth II.

Now we know why the Queen always smiles genuinely amidst difficult circumstances. She relies on Jesus instead of her strength. A lesson for us all.



**It has been 70 years since The Queen said “yes” to a life of service.
Her Majesty has done an amazing job serving her nation and its people.
May God save the Queen! Long may she reign!**



Karen Roach

Happening this month @St Hilda's

Wednesday Bible Study

Join us every Wednesday from 7.30 pm for some engaging discussion as we study the word of God together. We meet in Church and currently studying the book of James.



Come and enjoy some great fellowship. Cakes and tea provided.

Services Times for the month of August

Sunday Eucharist – 9.30 am

Wednesday Eucharist – 11 am

We will be holding an 8 am Book of Common Prayer service on the first Sunday of each month.

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

Dates for your Diary

The Community Lunches will resume on **7th September** in the small hall.

Bible Reading



**Do you want to start daily Bible reading but unsure of where to start?
Have you had Bible Reading Notes in the past but no longer get them?**

I have been using the Bible Reading Fellowship Notes for many years now and would like to encourage others to do the same. The Notes are produced three times a year in January, May and September and cover different parts of the Bible. I can order them for any who would like to purchase them.

The next edition will cover September – December 2022 and if you would like to be included, please let me know.

There are several different notes, and the guide below gives you some information about each of them.

[New Daylight](#): our most popular series, *New Daylight* is for everyone on their daily journey with God

[New Daylight Deluxe](#): all the content of *New Daylight*, but with bigger text

[Guidelines](#): is aimed at church leaders and students and provides more in-depth study for today's mission and ministry

[The Upper Room](#): written by its readers all over the world, *The Upper Room* focuses on finding God in daily experience

[Day by Day with God](#): this series is written for women, by women who have themselves found the Bible a source of strength and inspiration for life

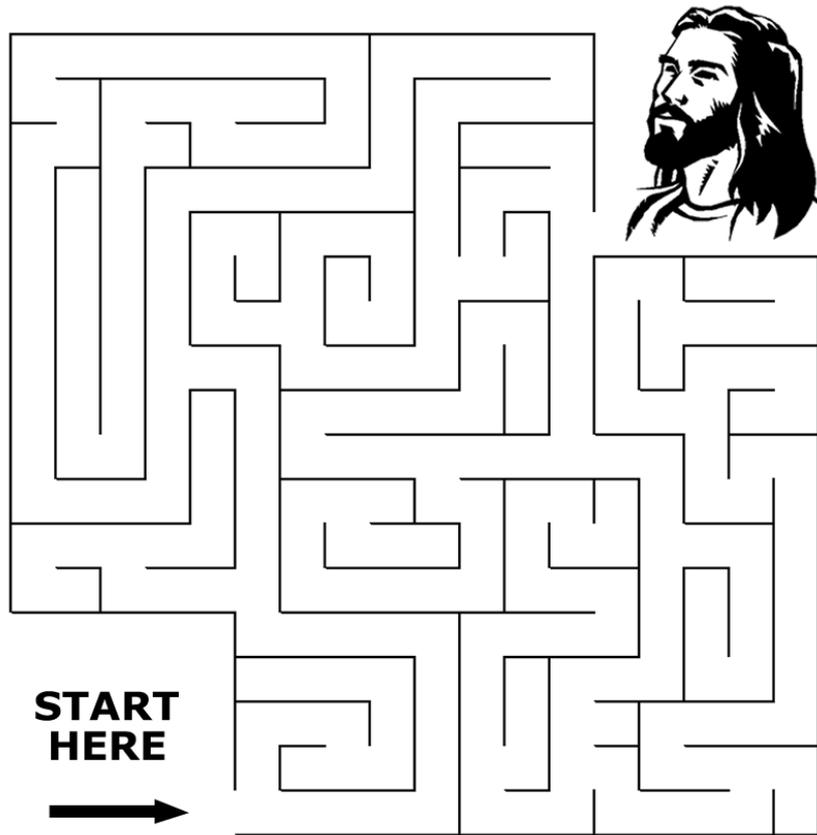
[Bible Reflections for Older People](#): these Bible reflections aimed at older people will bring hope, assurance and sustenance to the reader

I have old copies of *New Daylight* and *Guidelines* if you want to try them before you buy! The current cost is £4.70 but may be cheaper if there is a bulk order.

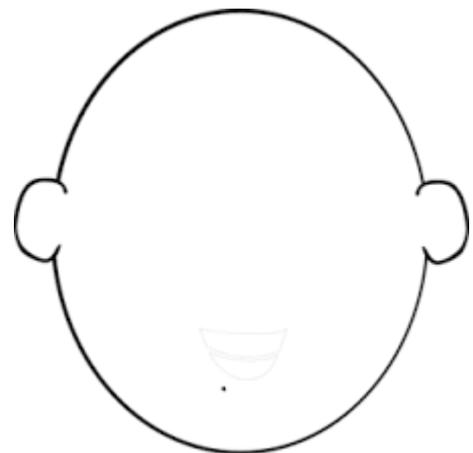
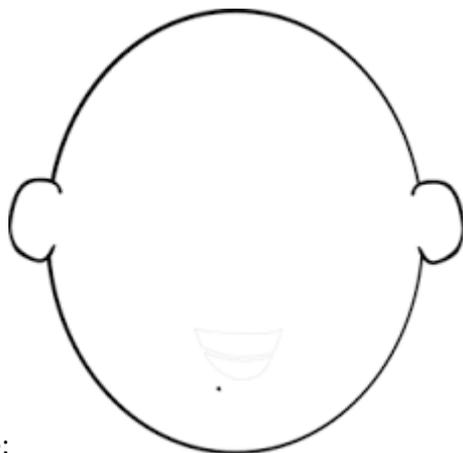
If you would like to be included, please let me know by Sunday 21st August to be included in the order to start in September.

Children's Corner

Go through the maze to reach Jesus

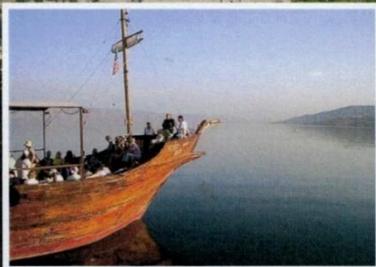
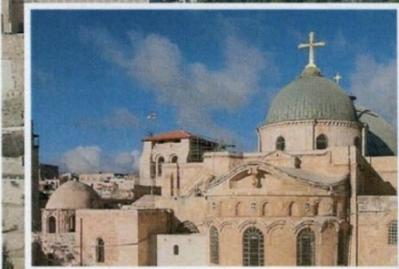


Draw faces showing how someone would feel if they were left out. And then draw that same person, imagining Jesus had invited them to sit in the best seat at the table.



A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

10 days based in Jerusalem & Galilee



5 - 14 March 2024

**With Father Steve Gayle
& Father Joseph Fernandes**

For full details call or email

Tel: 07903 175038 or 01784 254237

stevegayle@yahoo.com or vicar@sthilda.org



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES

Tributes: MRS JOAN WOOD nee Chippendale



Jo was born into an Indian Army officer's family, and her childhood was spent in Coonoor, a hill station amongst the tea plantations of Tamil Nadu. She was an excellent student (and a rather mischievous one!), a good athlete, and enjoyed tennis and dancing at the 'Club'. Her father always owned a horse, a memorable one being an ex-racehorse, which seemed to think he had to pass all other horses on the road. After Partition, Jo and her sister, Daphne, travelled to England to further their studies, and Jo entered the nursing profession. She served in many hospitals, both in London and in Middlesex, and for the latter part of her career was a highly respected theatre sister at Ashford Hospital. Jo had a very deep and sincere faith and was a faithful member of Christchurch, Staines, and later St Hilda's, where she worshipped at the 8 o'clock service. Jo valued everyone she met, without exception. She remembered them in her prayers and thought about their lives and problems. Jo had a wonderful ability to talk to young people, too, and they understood that she cared about them and their futures. Jo will be sadly missed by her family, neighbours and many friends.

Jane Dobbie

Grace Before Lunch:

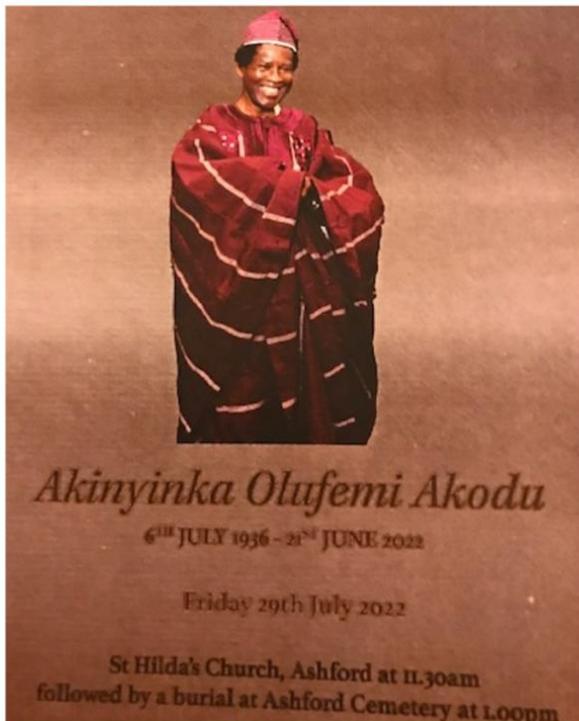
I remember Jo Wood arranging a special luncheon party for a small group at the Links Pub. Every detail was carefully planned, of course.

Just before we began the meal, Jo took me completely by surprise by standing up and saying, "Major Dobbie; please say, Grace!"

In a crowded Pub it obviously needed to be short, so I said, "Almighty God. May the roof above not fall in, and those beneath not fall out! Thank You for this food. Bless the hands that prepared it, and us in Your service. Amen"

Robert Dobbie

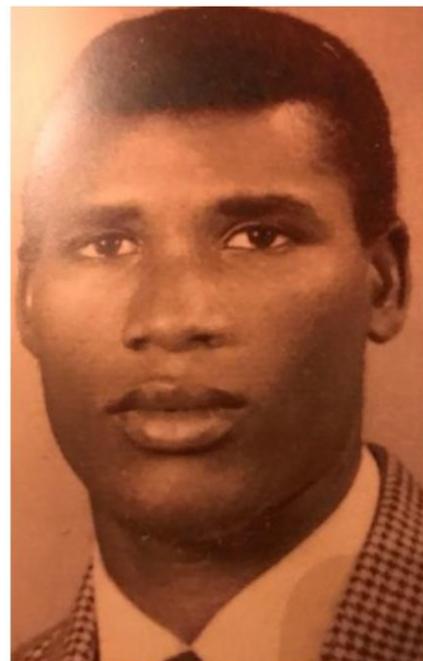
**IN MEMORY OF A.O. AKODU
(6.4.1936 - 21.6.2022)**



WHERE DO YOU THINK I WAS?

They came from all over by
train and coach and car
The dresses were amazing and
the men looked smart and bright
There were purple, white and silver
with lace arranged in style
Alison was in fabric heaven
as she watched them all file in
They smiled and spoke with humour
as they mixed and said hello

And then - they started to sing!
Their hands were raised towards the Lord
and their voices soared up high
The "Old Rugged Cross" stirred
some memories of yore
They celebrated his life in depth
then bid farewell - until
The next day when~
They would attend his funeral!



Bernice Ross

Please hold in your prayers and thoughts the family and friends of those below.

The Sick

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Lizio Cassar | Vicky Hall |
| Pat Kyle | Keren Lattimore |
| Ray Nation | Barbara Warne |
| Alison Griffiths | Melvyn Jansen |
| Elaine Langford | Pauline Milton |
| Roy Stone | Nic |

Our Church Family



**Lord,
Bless our community.
Make its people,
Strong in Faith,
Steadfast in Hope,
and Generous in Love. Amen.**