



St Hilda's
Ashford

St Hilda's News

Contents

- Welcome
- The Servant Queen and the King she served
- Supporting HM The Queen's Lying-in-State
- Loch Lomond to the Mull of Kintyre
- The Saints in the West Window
- Children's Corner
- St Hilda's Entertainers
- The Writer's Corner
- Holy Land Pilgrimage
- Happening this month
- Our thoughts and prayers
- The Salvation Army Carol Service
- Food Bank Requests



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

www.sthilda.org

Welcome to the November issue of St Hilda's News.

Thank you to those who have contributed articles to make this your Parish newsletter. We want to hear from you, so please share your stories, hobbies, activities, significant birthdays and other celebrations with us.

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

Please check out the diary page for services and events happening this month at St Hilda's.

The Editor



Karen Roach

The Servant Queen and the King she serves

By Fr Joseph Fernandes



At the time of my ordination as Deacon and then Priest, I swore allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and Her successors. Among the many sovereign titles are Defender of the Faith – a title bestowed on Henry VIII by the pope and retained after England broke with Rome – and supreme governor of the Church of England. She was, and still is, a model of steadfastness in faith to all of us.

Queen Elizabeth was a gift from God to the nation, Commonwealth, and indeed the global community, a beacon of humility, grace, astuteness, good humour, generosity, and deep faith – God's woman, God's follower, God's Queen.

Yes, she was a remarkable woman and a remarkable monarch, but she was, first and foremost, a remarkable disciple of Christ. As such, she offered us an extraordinary example of consistent godliness in one of the world's longest and most public global ministries.

But there hasn't been much about what made her the woman she was. There's been little attempt in the mainstream media to look at her and her life through the lens of what she said made the difference in her life – her faith in Christ. Indeed, about that, she was crystal clear and repeatedly so. In her 2014 Christmas broadcast, she put it this way:

'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.'

Brilliantly, in an age that is, on the one hand, increasingly secular and, on the other, fraught with religious conflicts, her approach was winsomely inclusive. She pointed to Jesus and how he expanded her capacity to love people with different beliefs. Her approach was testimonial, not argumentative. She told the world the inspiration that Jesus had been in her own life and left the world to decide if they were interested in being inspired themselves:



I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge. And those who come after us will say that the Britons of this generation were as strong as any. That the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet good-humoured resolve and of fellow-feeling still characterise this country. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.

More broadly, we can see the influence of Christ on her understanding of her job and how she did it. At the heart of this is the extraordinary impact of one particular moment in the Coronation. It was not when the solid gold St Edward's Crown was laid on her head, and she officially became Queen, but the moment that was not televised because it was deemed to be too holy for mass broadcast. It was the moment when stripped of all her flowing robes, she knelt in a simple white dress and was anointed with holy oil. It was the moment when she dedicated herself to God to serve him by serving her people. At the Coronation of King Charles III in the coming months, the new sovereign will take an oath promising to rule according to law, to exercise justice with mercy and to maintain the Church of England.

Under a canopy of golden cloth, he will be anointed with holy oil, blessed and consecrated by the archbishop of Canterbury.

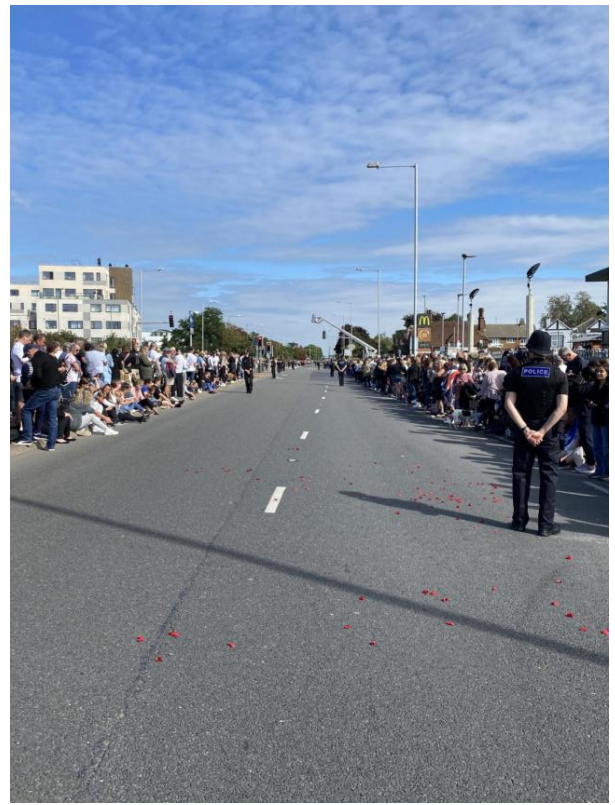
At one level, Elizabeth's Queenship was an accident of birth, an inevitable consequence of her uncle's abdication, but she saw it as God's will, as God's calling, and therefore as something that she would need his help to do. And it was a calling she fully embraced.

Royal biographer, William Shawcross, wrote, *'She found, like her mother before her... an almost sacrificial quality at the heart of the service.'* Sacrifice is at the heart of the gospel – Jesus giving his life for ours. But sacrifice is intertwined with service. We no longer live for ourselves but for God and others. And that is what characterised Elizabeth's approach not only to her own work, but to her understanding of citizenship. So, for example, at Christmas 2012, she said:

'This is the time of the year when we remember that God sent his only Son "to serve, not to be served." He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.'

We are meant to be there for one another. Indeed, her Christmas and occasional broadcasts tended to highlight the particular qualities she valued – resilience, kindness, neighbourliness – qualities she'd seen in the wartime generation. When she spoke to the nation during the COVID pandemic, she focused on those qualities, summoning us to live up to our heritage:

There's certainly no doubt about the identity of the King our Queen served. Nor is there any doubt that the prayer her people so often prayed, perhaps without realising it was a prayer, was answered. **God saved our Queen.**



Local people paying their last respects to our late Queen.

Our Queen was 'gracious', 'noble', and 'victorious' in the things that really matter – hope and faith in Christ, love of God and the people she's been empowered to serve. Indeed, there can be few greater indications of God's mercy and grace to our nation than to have given us a Queen who faithfully loved us and pointed us to him so clearly.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of his servant Elizabeth.

And may God grace our King Charles in his reign as he graced his mothers in hers.

Adapted from Mark Greene, the author of [The Queen's Way](#) and co-author of [The Servant Queen and the King she serves](#). He is Mission Champion at LICC (The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity)

Supporting HM The Queen's Lying-in-State.

By Caroline Ledger



Background

Since Scouts started 115 years ago, a fundamental aspect has been for members all over the world to make a promise to do their duty to their God and their country (King or Queen) and to help other people.

In 1912, George VI granted The Scout Association a Royal Charter and agreed that the top award for young people could be called the King's Scout Award.

Over the years, Scouts have supported many significant state duties, from selling programmes for Coronations to clearing up the flowers left outside Kensington Palace in memory of Princess Diana in 1997 and marshalling at Jubilee celebrations. In 2002 Scouts assisted with the Lying-in-State of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and an agreement was made for Scouts to be involved with the Lying-in-State of Queen Elizabeth II when the time came.

Operation Feather

As part of my volunteer role as Deputy UK Chief Commissioner of the Scouts, I oversee our involvement with State events. For many years we have had plans to bring young adults together in London to assist with the Lying-in-State. Responsibility for many aspects of the arrangements was transferred to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). Earlier this summer, we took part in a briefing run-through of the plans to support those queuing to attend the Lying-in-State in Westminster Hall, known as “Operation Feather”.



Plans were made to support one million visitors, who might have to queue for over 24hrs, which surprised me. We were asked if we could increase the number of volunteers on standby from 40, which we already were prepared for, to at least 120, and so in July, we started to update our plans for accommodation and transport and increase the support team needed behind the scenes.

In early September, the core team met to review our plans and discuss how we would identify more young adult volunteers. The following day we received the sad news about the death of Her Majesty, and our plans moved from a theoretical exercise to reality.

An ask went out to lead volunteers to nominate young adults aged 18-25 who had completed or were working towards their Queen's Scout Award. Over 500 names were put forward in just over 24 hours, and we short-listed 120 to provide an even spread across the UK and a balance of male and female members.

We would work three eight-hour shifts to provide constant support 24 hours a day. Each shift of 40 young adults would be supported by three team leaders and a duty manager.

On Monday, 12 September, 30 volunteers came together at the Scouts HQ in Gilwell Park, Chingford, for an initial briefing and to finalise the plans, including where everyone was going to sleep and all the dietary requirements we'd have to cater for.

On Tuesday, 13 September, 120 excited and nervous young adults arrived. Dressed in their smartest uniform, we talked them through what we knew of the plans for the next week, provided training on disability awareness and counter-terrorism (both of which were required by DCMS) and then put them in their shift teams.



The first shift was expected to be on duty from 7 am on Wednesday, which would mean leaving Gilwell by Coach at 5.30 am. Overnight a small “valet team” made sure everyone had the correct badges on their freshly ironed uniforms with plain black scarves, warm coats and high-vis jackets, arriving just in time for our volunteers to support The Queue.

We had a small team at Archbishop's Park supporting the left luggage facility, a larger team at Tate Britain supporting those with extra accessibility requirements, and the majority were in the the final part of The Queue in Victoria Tower Gardens.

On Wednesday, 14 September, Scouts led the first members of The Queue over Lambeth Bridge into Victoria Tower Gardens, where there were 75 zig-zagging queues which could take three hours to work through. As people got closer to the Palace of Westminster, Scouts supported people in getting ready to go through the strict security checks. No liquid items were allowed through – causing people to dispose of drinks, make-up, and perfume – and no food, even small sweets. We soon realised that there was a vast amount of unsealed food being thrown away, and one of our Scouts asked if we could find a way of re-distributing the unused food to help other people.

We quickly called the Felix Project, a charity specialising in re-distributing food across London that would gladly make use of the food. Throughout the five days, we saved over 4 tonnes of food from being wasted.



Being so close to the river, it could get very cold at night. We worked with the event organisers to lend blankets to everyone queueing overnight, especially as Westminster Hall was closed around 3 am each morning for cleaning and rehearsals, which meant The Queue stopped moving and people were getting very cold. We have worked with our charity partners to ensure the thousands of blankets were cleaned and re-distributed to those most in need.

By Thursday evening, DCMS was so impressed by how Scouts were helping solve problems and bringing a cheerful, can-do attitude to the last stretch of The Queue that we were asked to increase the number of volunteers assisting. A further 60 people came to Gilwell as quickly as possible and were added to the next shift heading into London.

The world's media were also fascinated by our involvement, and Scouts were frequently interviewed by the local, national and international press. I even did a live interview with BBC News to explain how we were supporting The Queue.



Back at Gilwell, I coordinated a small welfare team to provide emotional support to everyone involved in this extraordinary experience. Our volunteers include trained Samaritans, Social Workers and members of the clergy.

On Friday evening and Saturday morning (to allow for the different shift patterns), we led a prayer service with readings inspired by the Service of Thanksgiving, providing different ways for people to reflect on loved ones who have died.

I also helped to deliver hot chocolate at 3 am to those on the night shift and pizzas to members of the late shift.



The atmosphere in Victoria Tower Gardens was like nothing I'd ever experienced. Helped by the glorious autumn sun during the day and clear skies at night, there was a gentle air of anticipation tinged with sadness. I enjoyed speaking with many different people, hearing a little about their lives and why they had made the journey to spend many hours on foot in The Queue.

Due to the exceptional service the Scouts provided, and after many discussions, we made arrangements for those who wanted to go to Westminster Hall. I was fortunate to be one of the last that went through at around 5.30 am on Monday, 19 September.



I could not find the words to explain the feeling when I slowly walked down the stairs to the Hall in total silence and took a moment to bow my head and pray as I came to the catafalque.

Walking back to our base over Westminster Bridge just as dawn broke on the morning of Queen Elizabeth's funeral was very moving. At that moment, I think the reality of what I had been part of over the last ten days began to hit, and I was overwhelmed with emotion.

I was so proud of our team of volunteers who dropped everything to give their time willingly to support other people and to represent our worldwide family of 57 million Scouts in almost every country in the world. I cannot think of a more fitting way for Scouts to have done our final duty to HM The Queen than by helping those who wanted to pay their last respects.

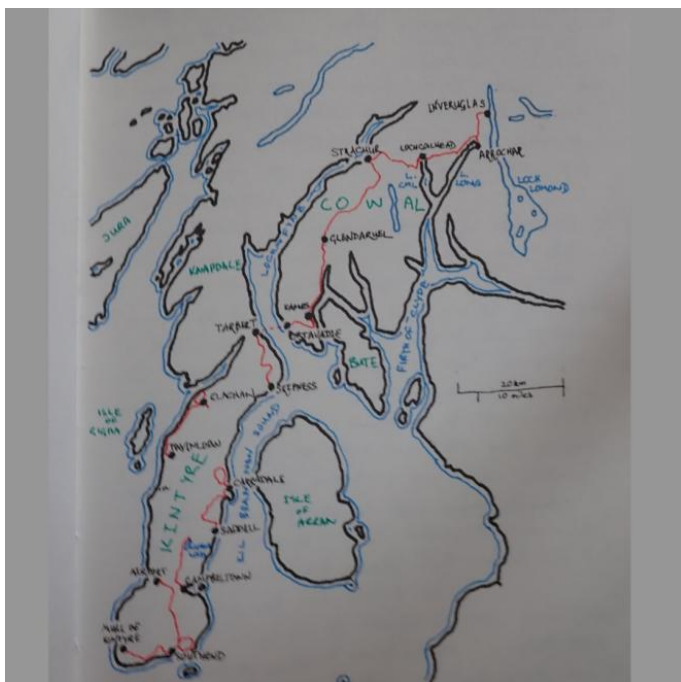
Loch Lomond to the Mull of Kintyre

By Gordon Clark



My place of work had granted me a sabbatical, so I took the opportunity to go for a long-distance walk alone in Scotland. I decided to keep a journal of my walk and illustrate it with watercolours (some of which illustrate this article). I'd never walked such long distances before, nor had I ever painted with watercolours, but a challenge was what I wanted.

I started at Inveruglas on the shores of north Loch Lomond at the start of July, and, 18 days and 155 miles later, with a total ascent of a little over 17000 feet, carrying a 33 lb pack, and a small collection of watercolours, I reached Campbeltown airport near the Mull of Kintyre.



It was undoubtedly the most challenging thing I had ever done. The paths I was following were sometimes non-existent. I found myself trailing through a bog at about 1800 feet above sea level from one pole in the ground to the next or peering through wind and rain for the next marker.

On another day, pushing through chest-high wet bracken until finally, I had to admit that the path was completely subsumed in a sea of dense vegetation

and had to turn back and find another route. Then there was the day I walked for 8 hours in the rain over a pass between mountains and through forests, and walked a mile past the camp-site for that night as I hadn't spotted it, and, already exhausted, had to turn back.

But I discovered that I could push myself further and harder than I thought possible. I found that about 3 hours walking with a heavy pack was about my limit before I had to stop and maybe sit down, that if you had a good breakfast, lunch is not as necessary as I once thought, and that there are very few picnic tables in the mountains and forests of Scotland. I got so obsessed with finding picnic tables that one day I walked 9 miles to find one that was claimed to exist at the far end of Lussa Loch. My delight when I found it was somewhat tempered by the thought that I now had to walk 9 miles back as well.



I found that I love painting watercolours and that chance-met strangers can be good and kind. And then there were the wayside crosses, kirkyards, burial grounds and stones, abandoned and living churches, and traces of St. Columba, which tied in this ancient green landscape with ancient Christianity, imbuing the very ground with the faith of my ancestors.

I also found that spending hours on my own is something I enjoy as I can have fascinating uninterrupted conversations. Still, that time alone also made time with my family and friends all the more precious and desirable.

Would I go again? Yes, in an instant. But I'd carry less freeze-dried food.

Chaplaincy at HMP Bronzefield are asking for your support in collecting empty toilet/kitchen roll tubes. They require at least 550 . These are for prisoners to make Christmas Crackers. Please start collecting – ask family, friends and neighbours. Ends 30 November 2022

we need YOUR support

THANK YOU

The Saints in the West Window – the Celtic: St Columba

By Rosemary Greenwood

During St. Patrick's thirty years of work in Ireland, Christianity became firmly established, and after his death in 461, it continued to grow and developed a strong monastic tradition closer to that of the Desert Fathers than that of the Benedictines, which was growing on the continent. This helped to preserve early Christian literature, as manuscripts which reached Ireland were enthusiastically copied.



Columba, or Columcille, was thus born into a flourishing, literate society, probably in Gorton, Donegal, on Thursday, 7th December 521. His father, Fedilmith mac-Fergus, was from the family of the High Kings of Ireland, and his mother, Ethne was the daughter of a provincial king in Leinster. It seems that his parents intended him to enter the church, as he was fostered by a priest rather than by a noble and had his early education in a monastery. Later he studied with (St.) Finnian of Moville, and was ordained Deacon before he was twenty. He then spent some time studying with the Christian bard Gemman before being ordained Priest by Bishop Etchen. He spent some time at the monastery of Glasnevin near Dublin, but when the monks there dispersed to avoid an outbreak of plague Columba went north to Derry where he founded his first monastery on land given to him by his family. During the next few years, he founded 66 or 100 or 300 monasteries (depending on which source you believe), including Kells and Durrow, both of which are

famous for the illuminated manuscripts produced by their monks.

Columba was the defendant in the first recorded copyright case: his old teacher Finnian had a new manuscript (possibly St. Jerome's Vulgate version of the Psalter and Gospels) which he refused to let Columba copy. Columba borrowed it anyway and copied it overnight. Finnian found out, and when Columba refused to hand over the copy, Finnian took the case to the High King, who found in his favour: 'To every cow its calf and to every book its copy'.

Possibly as a result of this, but more likely because a hostage in his care was murdered, in 561 Columba was involved in the battle of Culdrevny in which the High King's army was defeated with the loss of 3000 men. The details are not clear, but two years later, Columba left Ireland "to become a pilgrim for Christ". He went to Dalriada, the Irish settlement on the west coast of Scotland, which was under threat from the Picts united under King Bruide.

Columba chose as the site of his new monastery the island of Iona, off the coast of Mull, on the borders of Dalriadan and Pictish territory. The Dalriadan king Conall gave him permission, and Columba visited King Bruide at his court near Inverness and also gained his consent. During this mission, he preached to the Picts, and apparently also negotiated peace between the Picts and Dalriadans which lasted 80 years. King Bruide was later buried on Iona.

Columba established the monastery on Iona, with himself as Abbot, and developed it into a centre of learning and evangelism. He continued to be involved with politics, both in the succession of Dalriada, and in its relationship with Ireland. Columba died at the age of 76 on Whitsunday 597, the year in which St. Augustine reached Kent.

The first "Life" of St. Columba concentrates on Columba's prophecies and miracles from the time he founded Iona. It was written by Adamnan, 9th Abbot of Iona, after he had visited Jarrow and been inspired by Bede's work there.

Children's Corner

Does God Choose Me?

I have called you by your name.
You are mine.

Isaiah 43:1



What makes you special?
What do you enjoy? What are you good at?
Why don't you circle, or colour in, anything you choose?



Or something else..?

What do you think God likes about you..?

ST HILDA'S ENTERTAINERS: The Mermaid's Tale

By Mike Davenport

St Hilda's Entertainers are thrilled to be able to announce that rehearsals for their next pantomime, The Mermaid's Tale, are going swimmingly.

The script is brand new for 2022, having been specially written by two members of the Entertainers, Neale Winter and Dylan Harvey. It promises a sea of adventure, fun, laughter, romance, drama, songs and, of course, audience participation. All the ingredients of a successful Entertainers' pantomime, suitable for all the family are there.

St Hilda's Entertainers present,
a pantomime written by
Neale Winter & Dylan Harvey
with ideas from Lara Winter

noda
By neale winter & dylan harvey

ST. HILDA'S
ENTERTAINERS

The Mermaid's Tale

Friday 2nd
Saturday 3rd
Friday 9th
Saturday 10th
December 2022

Friday performances start at 7.45pm
Saturday performances start at 2.30pm & 7.00pm

St Hilda's Church Hall
Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, TW15 3QL

TICKETS: Adults £12 Concessions £10
Book online via our website:
www.sthildasentertainers.com
or scan the QR code
If you can't book online,
please call box office: 0333 666 3366

Performances are at St Hilda's Hall in December on:

- ✧ *Friday 2nd at 7.45 pm,*
- ✧ *Saturday 3rd at 2.30 pm and 7 pm,*
- ✧ *Friday 9th at 7.45 pm, and*
- ✧ *Saturday 10th at 2.30 pm and 7 pm.*

Tickets are £12 for adults and £10 for children and senior citizens. They are available online via the Entertainers' website:

www.sthildasentertainers.com
or by phoning 0333 666 3366.

As in recent years, there will also be a performance on the first Saturday (3rd December) at 10.30 am. This is offered particularly to local groups such as Rainbows and Brownies, but if you would like tickets for the morning performance, **please speak to Chris Davenport (01784 252170).**

The Writer's Corner



Her Majesty

The queen has left we're sad to say
Since she could no longer stay
She served us well for seventy years
With a steadfast faith to quell her fears

Her rule of thumb to "not explain"
Supported by "do not complain"
She's had trials and tribulations
Even from her own relations

But throughout her life
We did not see her strife
Just her all embracing smile
And her oh so very elegant style

So fare thee well your majesty
Free from all responsibility
Thank you with a sad sad heart
For we all know that, "you did your part"

"BR"

HELEN'S CAKE



After Helen's recent Scandinavian quiz, with samples of biscuits and cake, we set off for a walk in the park, with a piece of the cake in my handbag.

'This dog has a wonderful sense of smell' said a passing lady, when we were sitting on a bench, admiring the autumn colors and the playful dogs.

'Oh look, he's taken your bag' she cried. Sure enough, there was dog happily romping about, head held high, my handbag clamped in his jaws. They tried to catch the dog, but he was quicker at running in circles than they were.

Eventually he was cornered, and my bag retrieved. 'He likes to take the bags into the bushes, and he can usually undo the zip with his teeth.' She said, looking rather relieved.

Luckily for me, it was an old handbag, and the zip had held out. Helen will never get a more determined taster for her cake.

Dorothy
7/11/22

We're Going On Holiday

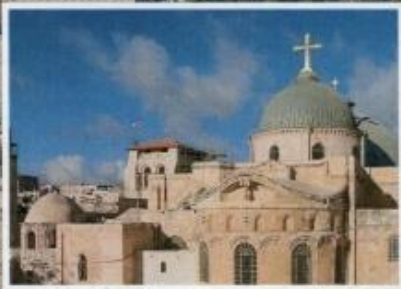
There's a suitcase in my room you know
That can only mean one thing
We're going on our holiday and so,
I must really start to think
"what to wear" and "what to take"
So, "Don't wear these" and "Just buy that"
No food to buy no meals to make
Just treats to eat and books to read
Our granddaughters are young ladies now
But hugs are what I need
Covid made it hard – AND HOW!
So time to go and get them now
Just need the planes to find a crew
and staff to stow our bags
Many of the staff are now brand new
But we all must start that way.
Our bags are packed, our tickets bought
So, all aboard and chocks away!

"BR"



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

steveagayle@yahoo.com or vicar@sthilda.org



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES

Happening this month @St Hilda's

Bible Study



We meet in Church every Wednesday from 7.30 pm to study the word of God together. Come and enjoy some great fellowship, tea and cakes.

Services Times for the month of November



Sunday Eucharist – 10:00 am

Please note: the Sunday Eucharists will be at **10 am** from September 4th to the end of January 2023 and will be reviewed after that.

Wednesday Eucharist – 11:00 am

There will be an 8:00 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



November 27th - Jumble Trail

December 10th & 11th - Nativity Festival

December 11th - Christingle at 4 pm

December 17th - Turkiye and Tinsel at 7 pm

December 18th - Carol Service at 4 pm

December 24th - Crib Service at 4 pm

December 24th - Midnight Mass at 11 pm

Our Thoughts and Prayers



Jenny Granger



A huge thank you to everybody who supported our family at the Service of Thanksgiving for my mother. It was a joyful celebration of her long life and wonderful to have so many of her church friends, old friends and neighbours to share it with us. I am sure Mum would have been very moved to see so many people there just for her.

Joyce Rouse

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



The Sick

Lizio Cassar
Ros Clifton
Joan Davies

Melvyn Jansen
Pat Kyle
Pauline Milton

Roy Stone
Betty Vince
Barbara Warne

Vicky Hall
Ray Nation
Lisa
Nic



Daytime Carol Service

Tuesday 13 December at 2pm

followed by tea, coffee and mince pies



Staines Salvation Army Church and Community Centre
Woodthorpe Road, Ashford Middlesex TW15 3JY
Tel: 01784 423424

Registered Charity no. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359

The Food Bank relies on your goodwill and support. The shopping list below shows the food items that they need right now. Please drop off your donations at the back of church. Thank You.



DONATIONS REQUIRED

-
- Macaroni Cheese
 - Vegetable Curry or similar
 - UHT Milk
-
- Shower gel
-
- Shampoo
-
- Kitchen and Bathroom spray cleaners
-
- J cloths
-
- Small packs of washing powder and capsules
-
- Toilet Cleaner
-
- Kitchen and Toilet Rolls
-



