

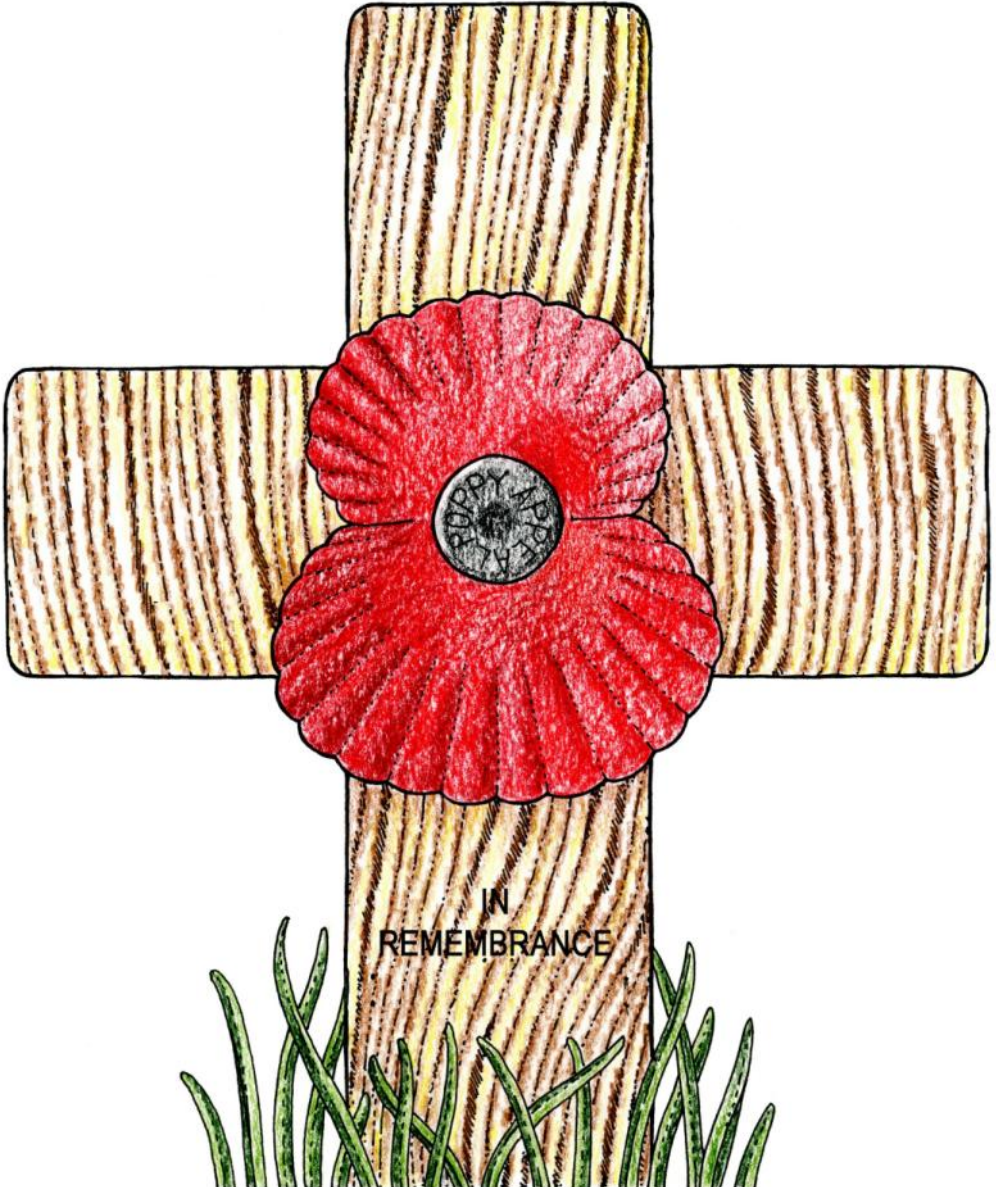


CROSSROADS

The Family Magazine of St Hilda's, Ashford, Middlesex

No. 714 November 2020

Free - but donations welcome!



The Parish of **St Hilda, Ashford** in the Diocese of London
Charity Reg. No. 1134119

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For the latest information on
Church Services at St. Hilda's,
Zoom meetings etc., please see
the church web site:

www.sthilda.org

Things change too quickly to
include in a monthly publica-
tion!



There was a woman in a parish church who for years single handed looked after all the clothes donated to those in need. It was a labour of love which involved sorting all the clothes, wash them, press them and carefully prepare them to find their way to different places across the community, which she also looked after. The clothes' journey from donation to distribution was accompanied by a prayer of blessing to all those who would receive them in

the end. In fact, she gave away more than clothes: she showed unconditional acceptance. This woman was also actively involved in several other areas in the parish for many years and was a faithful servant, until her premature death. She always found ways to avoid public acknowledgement of her ministry as she felt it was an integral part of her call as a Christian. Her faith and commitment outlive her and many years later she is still remembered.

This story is a tribute to my grandmother and to all those who like her are the core group of people who keep churches going, embodying the true spirit of servanthood.

At St Hilda's there was such group of people: the Hall Committee. Over many years they faithfully oversaw the day to day running of the Church Hall, and made an invaluable contribution to the life of the parish.

Alas, in more recent times, due to an operational reshuffling at St. Hilda's, which was compounded by the pandemic, the Committee had one last meeting before being dissolved. It was not a decision taken lightly.

On behalf of the church family at St Hilda's, to which you belong, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have been part of the Hall Committee over the years. Their commitment will not be forgotten. "Well done, good and faithful servant[s]".

Fr. Joseph Fernandes

THE PROMISE OF ADVENT (29th November is the start of Advent)

Stir up our hearts, we beseech you,
to prepare ourselves to receive your Son.
When He comes and knocks, may He find us not sleeping in sin,
But awake to righteousness,
Ceaselessly rejoicing in His love.
May our hearts and minds be so purified,
That we may be ready to receive His promise of eternal life.

*from The Gelasian Sacramentary, c.500
(the oldest official prayer book of the Western Church)*

POPPY APPEAL 2020

Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be ‘point of sale donations’. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: “The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead”, but that “the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised “not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present.”

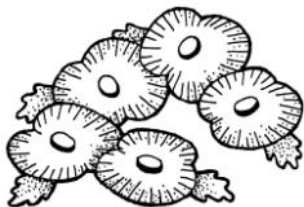
And yet the need is still huge: “Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them.”



THE SOLDIER'S PRAYER

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for –
But everything that I had hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.

Soldier in American Civil War



As you may have heard, or read in the weekly news sheet, we are planning an art installation in church for Remembrance. A number of people are busy producing knitted or crocheted poppies. We look forward to seeing the finished result...

Ed



Thank you to everyone involved with St. Hilda's contribution to October's Jumble Trail, whether donating goods, sorting, setting out, selling, buying, or clearing up.

The amount of goods donated was amazing - as was the amount raised for church funds: over £1.000.

COMMUNITIES of HOPE

I read with interest in the October issue of "Good News", (delivered to me by some Baptist neighbours), that the Church of England has awarded £24 million in grants to spread the gospel and start social action projects across the nation.

The Diocese of Durham has been awarded £4.2 million to launch centres in Sunderland, Hartlepool and Easington (former East Durham coalfields). My Grandmother's family were miners from Easington. This is an investment in people of the North East, where towns and villages are still recovering from pit closures.

The "Communities of Hope" will be new forms of Christian gatherings. One of these groups at Murton near Sunderland plans to take over vacant shop units and existing church owned buildings, and they will be open every day.

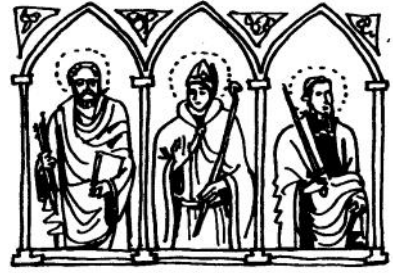
Valerie Scott

DON'T 'GO IT ALONE'

If you are helping others at this time, remember to still leave space and time for yourself. Going the extra mile for other people all the time will only ensure one thing; your collapse. Work in teams. Even the Good Samaritan did not attempt to help the injured man all on his own; he brought in the inn-keeper. By sharing the problem, they solved it!

1st November: ALL SAINTS' DAY **– the feast day of all the redeemed**

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.



This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians.

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

3rd November: HUBERT and the stag

The morality of hunting has made the headlines in recent years, but here at least was one man who was converted while hunting. Hubert (bishop, d 727 AD) was out on Good Friday hunting stag when he came across a stag with a crucifix between its antlers. This so shook him that he converted to Christianity, and then went on to become Bishop of Tongres-Maestricht. History does not tell us if he killed the stag or not, or if he ever hunted stag again.

5th November: GUY FAWKES - an early terrorist



Back in 1605 Guy Fawkes managed to stow a good few barrels of gunpowder under the House of Lords without anybody noticing. He was part of a Roman Catholic plot to murder James 1 of England and his parliament at the state opening. Fortunately, Guy Fawkes was found - and stopped - in time.

13th November: FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI – first 'saint' of New York City

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on America in 2001, many Americans were seen to be 'saintly' in their brave attempts to help save lives. But Frances (1850 – 1917) was the first citizen of the United States to be officially canonised as a saint – by Pope Pius XII in 1946. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and worked among orphans, children and the sick of New York.

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6th November: WILLIAM TEMPLE - Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.

Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory.

He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book *Christianity and Social Order* (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

'RENEWAL' FOR CHURCH IS COMING DESPITE 'TRAUMA' OF PANDEMIC – ARCHBISHOPS

The Church will emerge “renewed and changed” from the crisis of the global coronavirus pandemic, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a recent joint address to members of the Church of England’s General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said that amid a time of trauma, loss and struggle in this country and around the world, Christians have proved to be a “people of hope”.

The address came at the start of special, one-day sitting of Synod in London, with reduced numbers, to make a rule change to enable it to meet remotely during pandemic restrictions.

Archbishop Justin acknowledged the multiple challenges and crises we are facing including hunger, poverty, domestic violence and climate change.

He said churches have played a vital role serving their communities and bringing hope through the gospel. But the Church itself will, he said, emerge changed.

“We do not know what kind of Church of England will emerge from this time except that it will be different,” he said.

“It will be changed by the reality that for the first time all churches have closed - first time in 800 years. It will be changed because for the first time we have worshipped virtually.”

He continued: “Out of these times we will see renewal - not because we are clever but because God is faithful.

“We will see a renewed and changed Church emerging from the shocks of lockdown.

“It is a Church that at the most local has fed so many, been in touch with the isolated through the heroic efforts of all who take part in it, of clergy and laity and those who even weren’t near the church before these times.

“It is a Church which has continued to pray and to offer worship through our Lord Jesus Christ, even if in new and unusual ways.”

Archbishop Stephen spoke with emotion about the impact of pandemic. “I hate this Coronavirus,” he said.

“I hate it not only because so many people have died, but because so many people have died alone, unable to hold the hand of their beloved.

“I hate it because our health service has been stretched to the limit. I hate it because so many are bereaved and could not even sit next to a family member at a funeral.

“I hate it because weddings and baptisms and ordinations have been postponed or have gone ahead without the parties that were meant to be with them.

“I hate it because children’s schooling has been disrupted. I hate it because so many people are so ill, so many crying out in pain, so many isolated, lonely, fearful, depressed.

“I hate it because behind locked doors terrible things have happened. I hate it because the poor and the disadvantaged have been hit the hardest.

“I hate it because it has left so many people across the world feeling hopeless as if life itself has been taken from us.”

But he said he was also thankful for the faithfulness of all who have served others during the crisis and risen to the challenge.

He added: “I am thankful that despite all the horrors of a Covid world we are learning a new commitment to Christ and how to be a humbler, simpler, church and we are putting Christ at the centre of our lives and learning very, very, very painfully what it really means to be a church that is dependent on Christ alone.

“And I am filled for longing: I long for us to be a more Christ-centred and Jesus-shaped church witnessing to Christ and bringing the healing

The Church is the only society in the world that never loses any of its members, even by death. – *John Blanchard*

There is little good in filling churches with people who go out exactly the same as they came in; the call of the Church is not to fill churches but to fill heaven. - *Fr Andrew SDC*

A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory. – *Mark Twain*

HARVEST THOUGHTS

During the service for Harvest the children collected their gifts together and we then listened to a poem written by Christine to help us explore what Harvest Festival means to us. The children then went on to write their own poems and thoughts using the word HARVEST as a guide

Harvest celebrates
All God's gifts
Rain, snow, sleet and sun
Visited on the Earth
Encourages plants to grow
Sustaining animals
To feed and clothe us
Floods, fires and droughts rage
Eroding and damaging the land
Striking fear, killing people and animals
The Earth needs our help
Inspire us, help us, teach us to
Value our planet
And act to repair the damage done
Let us leave a healthy Earth to our children .
by Christine Taylor

Harvest is one of a kind
And get ready for winter
Rabbits go in their holes
Vegetables are healthy
Easter is before Harvest
Summer starts to grow fruit and
vegetables
Trees leaves start to fall.
by Daisy

Harvest time is the time of kindness
Animals start hibernating
Rabbits go into their family holes
Vegetables are sprouting
Everyone is sharing
Tree leaves are starting to fall
by Faith and Emily

Harvest is life with hope
All lives shall be the same
Rain, wind, snow is all we need
Vegetables are good for you
Edible is good for us
Storms will decide to stop
The love we share are here
Anon

Harvest is the time
All people come together
Raiding the kitchen for food to give away
Vegetables and fruits we give
Everything we give contributes
Season changes
To the autumn light
by Ariana

Harvest is a big deal because the people that don't have food get food
Animals getting ready for the winter
Raspberries and blueberries
Vegetables growing in the dirt
Every animal in the forest getting ready for their nocturnal time
Sun coming up shorter in the day
To the people that don't have enough food, food is coming

by Freya

Harvest brings happiness to those who aren't happy
Autumn is when leaves start falling
Rain always causes floods and traffic
Vegetables are very good for the body
Eating too much sweets is bad for you
Summer is one of the hottest seasons of the year
Thank you for all the food we eat

by Daniella

Harvest is the time to celebrate giving food away to the homeless and the food bank
Around are lots of plants like wheat – we use wheat to make bread
Rubbish everywhere
Vegetables growing everywhere around us, we pick blueberries and strawberries
Everyone is thinking of others and giving things away
Stabled horses stay in, we give them food and help clean their homes
Time when things are growing, plants and vegetables grow
Time is special .

by Henry

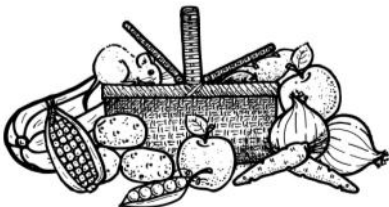
Happiness is your sad
Apples fall from above
Remember the summer,
Vegetables if you feel like you are hungry
Eggs from the chickens throughout the summer
Share the food and eat
Trees shade us from the warm summer .

by Alex



Harvest celebrates
All God's gifts
Rain, snow, sleet and sun
Visited the earth,
Earth is God's creation
Sun is light for the earth
There are planets called Venus, Mars,
Earth, Moon Uranus and more.

by Gabriel



Happy Harvest to everybody
All people should be able to eat at harvest
Right now is a weird and stressful time
Vegetables, fruit, jams you name it
Everyone can have food is you just ask
Streets, home, flats, house anywhere you live you can always get food from the
food banks

Treat others with respect and enjoy harvest time.

by Kara

Harvest is a time of giving At the time it is snowing and raining Rain makes the vegetables grow Vegetables start to be picked Every harvest we give food Spending time we pick the vegetables The leaves are starting to fall off the trees.	Happiness is the key to live a good life All together save the world Right together, side by side Vegetables are harvested across the land Everyone should help the world Say "help the world", Time to harvest in the world
---	--

by Callum

by Seren

Harvest is a very good time of year to collect food for people who don't have food
At harvest we give food to the food bank
Remember food for other people at harvest because they need more food
Very good time to share food with other people
Everyone who does not have food will get some
Some people get food from the food banks
Time of year to give

by Alice

Harvest is a time of year we give food
At harvest we give to the food bank
Rent food for people unfortunate
Very good time to give food
Everyone will get food
Some people don't have much food
Time of year to remember to give food to others

by Sophie



HELP OUR WILDLIFE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

A quarter of mammals in the UK are at risk of extinction, and this decline will continue unless their habitats are restored and some species are reintroduced.

So warns the chair of Natural England, Tony Juniper, referring to a recent list of endangered animals issued by the Mammal Society, and approved by the United Nations.

UK mammals most in danger are the greater mouse-eared bat, the water vole, the hedgehog, hazel dormouse and Scottish wildcat. The European wolf is already extinct.

Tony Juniper advises that reintroducing some mammals would help others at greater risk. For example, introducing more pine martens would help control the grey squirrels, which in turn would give our native red squirrels a better chance.

As one professor of environmental biology said: “Here in Britain we are managing to send even rodents towards extinction. Things have to change rapidly if we want our children and grandchildren to enjoy the wildlife that we take for granted.”



WHEN DID YOU LAST BUY A SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG?

It seems that most of us have bought just four from our supermarket in the last year, which is a drop of 95 per cent since the 5p charge was introduced five years ago.

The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs reports that prior to 2015, most shoppers were buying 140 single-use bags a year.

But sadly, the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the bigger war on plastics, with a huge rise in throwaway personal protective equipment, and a resurgence in single-use cups, cutlery and other items.

WE LOVE MILK, BUT FROM WHERE?

Dairy cows have serious competition these days: a third of young people are now opting for vegan milk instead. Recent data from the global market research firm, Mintel, has found that 23 per cent of Britons now use plant-based milk. It has become most popular among the 16 to 24-year-olds.

Many millennials have switched to soya milk because of environmental concerns, but the Sustainable Food Trust has recently warned that vegan milk could actually be far more harmful to the environment. They say that grass-fed dairy milk poses less of a threat to the Amazon and other rainforests than many soya products do.

GIVE AWAY THE JESUS STORY AS TOLD BY MARK

The Talking Jesus research showed that for 27% of practising Christians, reading the Bible for themselves was a key influence in their coming to faith. As a result of the research, HOPE Together decided to find out what Bible a non-Christian would pick up and read.

When 800 non-Christians were asked this question, the majority wanted something short, well-designed and contemporary in look and feel. Based on this evidence HOPE Together and Biblica have published a beautifully illustrated version of Mark's Gospel, designed in a magazine-style and printed on quality paper, making it an attractive gift to give away to friends, colleagues and family, people who visit your church and those in your community who are exploring faith.

Order copies from the [HOPE shop hopetogether.org.uk/shop](https://hopetogether.org.uk/shop)

As a teenager, one Easter holiday I was one of a group of 11-16-year-olds backpacking along Hadrian's Wall - before this was a National Trail. A man stopped his car at the top of a long hill, and as we passed he handed us little copies of a Gospel. That evening I could hear discussions from the other tents as my fellow walkers made use of their new reading material. I don't know the long term impact of this (I was already a Christian), or why he had the booklets with him, but it was an effective way of getting teenagers to read at least a bit of the Bible. *Ed*

HELPING THE SPIRITUALLY CURIOUS FIND HOPE

HOPE Spaces was launched at the start of 2020 inviting churches to use a public place as a space for the spiritually curious to explore prayer. Then the world went into lockdown. Undeterred, HOPE Together has developed a virtual HOPE Space at hopespaces.com to help people to pray – maybe for the first time.

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf, who inspired the project says, “As lockdown began and research showed that many non-Christians were exploring prayer, we looked online and found that most websites about prayer were for practising Christians. So we began to develop a virtual HOPE Space online, where people can post their prayers and explore ways to engage with God in prayer.”

hopespaces.com is a multimedia, interactive site for anyone who wants to try praying, the spiritually curious and anyone looking for hope. It includes a specially-made film to help people call out to God and a virtual HOPE prayer wall where anyone can post a prayer. There's also a meditation on rest to watch, plus content to help visitors think about their life's direction and pray for justice or peace.

“Would you help us to publicise this non-Christian facing website?” Rachel asks. “Visit the site at hopespaces.com and share it with your friends, especially those who are not-yet Christians. You can [download social media images](#) to use. We hope that Christians will use social media to invite their friends, colleagues, and neighbours to explore prayer at hopespaces.com”

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CHARITIES CREATE TIPS FOR TEACHERS TO HELP YOUNG CARERS

The Children's Society and Carers Trust have been helping teachers give more support to young carers, as they came back to school this autumn.

Research suggests as many as one in five pupils in secondary schools in England are young carers. Because of the high numbers, the charities, who jointly run the Young Carers in Schools initiative, have produced a short, practical guide for school staff to enable them to help these young people.

During the coronavirus crisis, many young carers have faced a particularly stressful time. 58% of young carers aged 12 to 17 reported they were caring on average for an extra ten hours a week since the start of the pandemic.

Helen Leadbitter, The Children's Society lead for Young Carers, said: "For many young carers, lockdown was a very lonely time, as school was often seen as a place for them to have a break from caring roles and seek support from teachers and friends. It is vital teachers recognise the signs of a young carer and understand how best to support their needs."

The guidance, which has been issued to schools via the Department for Education (DFE) can also be found at <https://youngcarersinschools.com/covid-19/> Carers Trust and The Children's Society are available to offer support, free of charge. More info at: www.youngcarersinschools.com

UK NEEDS A NEW SPECIAL ENVOY FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Following Rehman Chishti's recent resignation as Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Open Doors, who works with the Persecuted Church, has called for another Special Envoy to be appointed as quickly as possible, "to continue this important work".

It was in September that Rehman Chishti MP resigned his position. He had been a "tireless advocate", said Open Doors, on the important issue of freedom of religion or belief, and during his time, 17 of the 22 Truro Report recommendations had been progressed or implemented.

The Bishop of Truro's Independent Review was produced in 2019 for the UK Foreign Secretary of Foreign and Commonwealth Office Support for Persecuted Christians. It examined how the UK Government was responding to the plight of persecuted Christians around the world, and what it could do.

Open Doors urges that it is vital that a new Special Envoy is appointed soon. Izzy, from the Open Doors Advocacy team, says: "As persecution has been exacerbated as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is vital that the baton is picked up as rapidly as possible and the post is fully resourced to ensure maximum effectiveness. It would be great if a new Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief were already up to speed on this vital task by the time of the Open Doors World Watch List launch event on Wednesday 13th January 2021 – and making a difference for those made so vulnerable to persecution by the failure to uphold freedom of religion or belief.

UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL ON SAFEGUARDING PROPOSALS

The Archbishops' Council, at a recent meeting, voted unanimously for safeguarding proposals to offer both immediate practical support to survivors of abuse and also to strengthen independence in the Church's safeguarding work.

The Council approved a proposed plan for an interim pilot support scheme for survivors and agreed to draw down reserves for an initial support fund to support those who have come forward. The Council also committed to pursue urgently the principle of independent safeguarding recognising the need for greater independence and transparency of safeguarding

The pilot scheme is designed to enable the Church to respond in particular to those survivors' cases which are already known to the Church, where the survivor is known to be in seriously distressed circumstances, and the Church has a heightened responsibility because of the way the survivor was responded to following disclosure.

Experience with these pilot cases will help inform the setting up of the Church's full redress scheme for victims and survivors of abuse as that is developed. Part of the value of a pilot scheme is that it will enable the Church to explore different ways of working and to learn important lessons for the future.

SAFE SPACES LAUNCHES TO OFFER SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS

A new service providing vital support for survivors of church-related abuse has recently become operational.

Safe Spaces, commissioned by the Anglican and Catholic Churches in England and Wales, is to be run by Victim Support, a national charity with a track record of providing survivor support.

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England, Church in Wales or the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Safe Spaces comprises a team of trained support advocates, who have undergone specialist training in supporting survivors of sexual violence and who have received additional specific training in how the churches respond to abuse cases, and the particular issues affecting people who have had or still have, a relationship with the church.

The service is for those who may have experienced any form of abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse (including spiritual abuse), domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour.

The service will run for an initial two years, with a view to extending this. It has been paid for by the Catholic and Anglican churches involved, supported by a grant from Allchurches Trust.

CHURCHES REPORT RISING FOOD BANK DEMAND AS A RESULT OF PANDEMIC

Nearly 100,000 households sought food aid from the Trussell Trust's network of food banks for the first time earlier this year, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Demand is surging further this autumn, as a result of the economic fallout from the virus.

The research comes after food banks run or supported by Church of England churches reported rocketing demand during lockdown with some opening food banks for the first time while some opened new food banks after lockdown.

Just two examples:

Hackney Church in East London was distributing parcels with enough food for 1,000 meals a week at start of lockdown. This figure rose to 8,000 and 9,000 meals a week in June, after the church opened a second food bank. It has since served 120,000 meals.

In Co. Durham, the Shildon Alive food bank, founded by St John's Church, has seen demand surge by 500 percent during lockdown.

St. Hilda's is now supporting the food bank run by the Salvation Army. Our Harvest Festival gifts went there. To donate more, put your gifts in the chest at the back of the church.. Ed



DIAMONDS ARE FOR LOCKDOWN...

Here's an unexpected outcome of Covid-19: it has inspired more of us to get engaged.

Engagement rings sales have risen this year, in some firms by up to 73 per cent, a survey of various jewellery firms has discovered.

When, at the beginning of lockdown, Dr Jenny Harries, the deputy chief medical officer, suggested that couples could get round the coming isolation by moving in together, it seems that many listened to her. They decided to give it a go and 'test the strength of their relationship.'

"A lot of people have now resolved to go ahead and tie the knot," said one jeweller. "Perhaps they are thinking: 'life's too short, let's go for it'."

Another jeweller said: "Maybe if you can make it through lockdown together, you can make it through anything."

REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

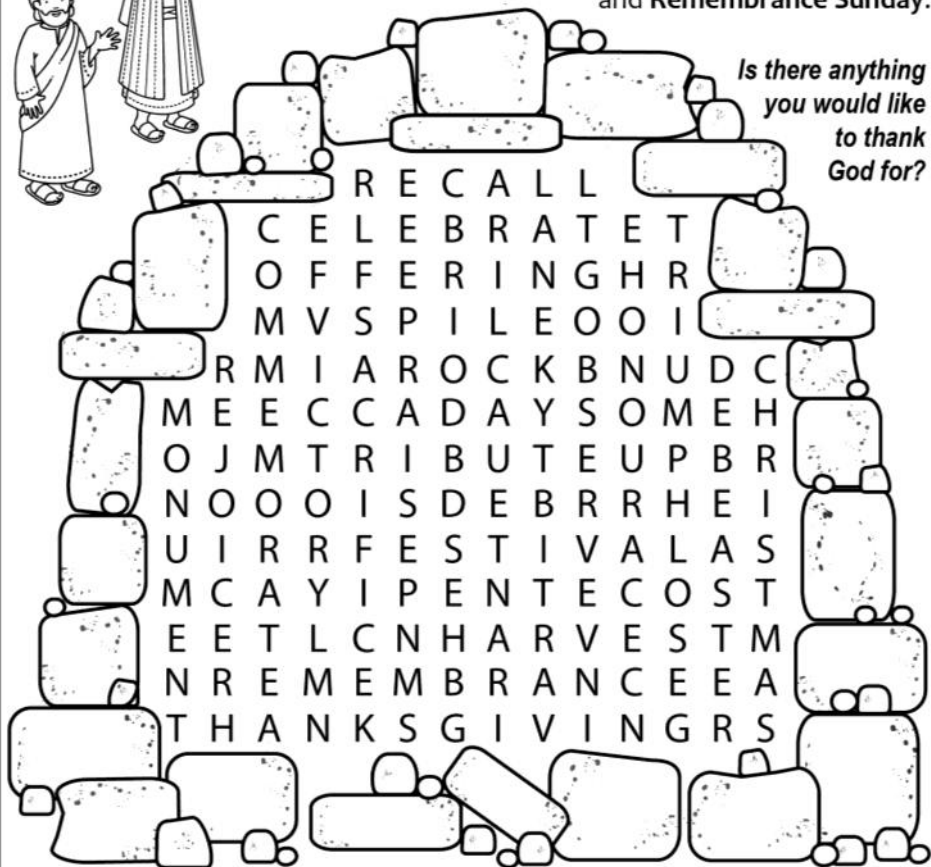
In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



Is there anything
you would like
to thank
God for?



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