



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 December issue of St Hilda's News and a huge 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 this month.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

The Editors

A Christmas Story

The brand-new vicar and his wife had just started in their first incumbency, to reopen a church in a suburban town. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, but a terrible tempest hit the area and lasted for two days. The following day the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster to fall off. The vicar cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time, it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The vicar invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The vicar could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Vicar," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The vicar explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials,

EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the vicar told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again. The vicar wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the vicar keep it for the church. The vicar insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of town. Three days later, what a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the vicar and his wife greeted everyone at the door, and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the vicar recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike. He told the vicar how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between. The vicar asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

I find this story very powerful, as it speaks about loss, reunion, the impossible made possible. Also, we are reminded that the peace and stability we value and uphold is a precious gift, which many throughout the world are not able to experience. There is an increase in the levels of displacement throughout the world, such as the Middle East. As people seek a place they can call home, we are reminded of a family whom over 2000 years ago had to flee for the safety of their child. If they were to attempt it now, would they have been sent back, dismissed outright as a threat to 'our way of life', a disruption to the status quo, the kingdoms we build for ourselves?

After the challenges of last Christmas and despite the uncertainty that lies ahead, we pray this year we will be able to spend time with our loved ones. We also remember those who are no longer with us. For many families, this Christmas will be very difficult.

As the story told earlier, Christmas is indeed a time of impossible miracles. The biggest miracle of all is the birth of Jesus Christ and the transformation of our hearts.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Fr Joseph

The Life of your Ordinand Part Three

For those who have known me for long, know about my passion for running. Especially long distance running. It is, for me, a perfect way of combining exercise with contemplation, how weird it may sound. Wherever I go, I make sure to pack my trainers.

And to share a secret, ultrarunning or ultramarathons have always been a dream of mine, which probably sounds even more weird.

Now, you don't need to worry, due to a running injury a few years back, this prevents me from living out that dream, and I am quite happy sticking to shorter distances today.

But ultramarathons can be done in other ways than running. Like when you are on a full residential week. To be very honest, I was absolutely looking forward to the residential, but not so much being away for a whole week. I sensed the intensity and was dreading a bit. And it was beyond my imagination.



The Hayes – where my residential was based

The week was a wonderful exploration about spirituality, worship, liturgy and preaching and I really appreciated our great and patient lecturers. The intensity of the teaching was just as I picture an ultramarathon. And it was just as exhausting, in the middle of all new perspectives and understandings that opened my mind. It did really inspire me immensely and I have a lot of great things to process, but... 22 lectures in 6 days, I'm just saying! I guess you can have too much of the good.

We were a group travelling together by car up to Derbyshire. It was interesting that the road signs always said: "The North". Where is that anyway? We couldn't but asking if there possibly was an equivalent saying: "The South", heading in the opposite direction... So, on our only afternoon off, we took off on a little road trip. We were aiming for a national trust site but ended up having coffee at The East Midlands Outlet. And on our way back we finally realised where we were, in between The North and The South. Finally, some clarifications.

And yes, we took three loops in a roundabout, just to get that picture!





Coming back to St Hilda, I have now experienced my first proper Remembrance Sunday and the church was so beautifully decorated. We don't have such a thing in Sweden. If that has to do with our history of being at war being almost an ancient memory, or something else, is for sure something to discuss. For me, not having the same narrative, it's a vital reminder of not only the past, but the present as well. There are still too many people fighting for their rights, their freedom and justice. And even if these struggles may not be on our doorstep, we must remember there is also a here and now, as well as a future for them, as much as for us. In the Eucharistic liturgy there is a prayer I come to think of: "This is our story. This is our song." We are all part of humanity, and we are all connected. "Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread."

We have also celebrated St Hilda, which was a really nice experience. Maybe because I got to wear gold for the first time. Childishly happy! And then I realised there is yet another new colour to be worn soon. The rose. Well, of course I made the mistake of saying pink and was in chorus corrected. It is r o s e. Anyhow I am excited. It's all in the little things. The joy, the hope and the gratitude.



And let me finally share one of my sweet little mix ups: Apparently, I have a dyslectic touch in my being, which I have been very unaware of. It's funny that even if you have the words in front of you, and can just read out what is there, words can come out in a different order anyway. I made the Peace to something different through this. So instead of the saying "Let us offer one another a sign of peace", my mind clearly wanted something else, and I proudly pronounced "Let us offer one another a Piece of sign." Or did I mean a Peace of sign? Now that's a mind twister!

Maybe a 'piece of sign' is a way of saying we are offering a piece of ourselves to each other, forming a whole together. Like we are each a part and a sign of a bigger picture. Part of the whole story and the full song. Parts of that one body and one bread we share. That we need each other not only because we belong together, but also to say to God: we are here, your people. That is our story and that is our song.

When writing this, I have, guess what...?! ... Another residential in front of me! It's just a weekend this time thankfully. This weekend we're going to spent at High Leigh in Hertfordshire, which is a nice change. And I'm looking forward to digging deeper into the

world of church history. Sadly, I will miss celebrating first of Advent with you. So, I wish you Happy New Church Year here and now!

Until next time, tell that story and sing that song!

Helen

Feed My Sheep

Will start in January on the last Tuesday of the month in Church from 2.30pm - 4.00pm. You are invited to put a £1 in the pot to cover costs of cake and any spare at the end of the year goes to Charity.

Provisional programme

Jan	25th	Pick and Mix
Feb	22nd	Whose Bible is it?
Mar	22nd	Dead Sea Scrolls and Qumran
April	26th	Prayer and Praying
May	24th	Popes

No previous experience needed – Just turn up and listen, share some thoughts, ask questions and then enjoy a tea or coffee and some cake. All shared with a lot of laughs and friendship.

HOWEVER: I need people to let me know that they intend to come. There is no upper limit on numbers - but a minimum of six please who intend to be regular in taking part.

Rosalyn Young

Signs and Symbols

IHS



IHS (also IHC), a monogram or symbol for the name Jesus, is a contraction of the Greek word for Jesus, which in Greek is spelled ΙΗΣΟΥΣ. Hence: **ΙΗΣ** (iota-eta-sigma) and is transliterated into the Latin alphabet as Iēsus, or Jesus.

This Christogram IHS, served as secret codes, whereby inscribed on a tomb, they indicated a deceased Christian, or on a doorpost, a Christian home.



St. Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444) and his student St. John of Capistrano (1386-1456) used the Christogram IHS to promote devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. In their preaching missions throughout Italy, they carried wooden placards with the IHS surrounded by rays. St. Bernardine and St. John blessed the faithful with this monogram, invoking the name of Jesus, and many miracles were reported. They also encouraged people to have the monogram placed over the city gates and the doorways of their homes, instead of a family crest, to show their devotion and allegiance to the Lord. Countering the objections of some who considered this veneration superstitious, Pope Martin V in 1427 approved the proper veneration to the Holy Name and asked that the cross be included in the monogram IHS.



During this time also, because of the decline of Greek and predominance of Latin, IHS was viewed as an acronym for the Latin **Iesus Hominum Salvator**, meaning "**Jesus Saviour of Mankind.**"

What is most important is that each of us shows proper respect, reverence and devotion for the name of Jesus. St. Paul in his Letter to the Philippians wrote,

"So that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth,

and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: Jesus Christ is Lord" (2:10-11)

Sometimes the letters *IHS* are intertwined with each other.



The [Jesuits](#), or members of the Society of Jesus, use *IHS* in their official seal, adding three nails below the *H* and surrounding the whole monogram with rays.



Nowadays some say it means "In His Service." And others "I have suffered." However the true meaning is that it is the name of JESUS.

St Hilda's Bible Study Group

Gordon and I have usually been part of a church home group or bible study group together and I had really begun to miss being part of a group that met together to study God's word and to support and pray for each other. As it came towards the end of lockdown I felt strongly that there was a need to begin such a group again; a group that could be open to everyone, where there was no such thing as a silly question and where we could discuss our thoughts and sometimes tricky issues in a safe environment.

We have been meeting in church now for about 6 weeks and each week starts with a chance for a hot drink and sometimes snacks depending on what 'Surplus to Supper' has delivered for the community lunch that day! This makes for a lovely opportunity to share how we are and how the week has been. We began with a 'whole bible bible study' led by

Gordon which is not nearly as scary as it sounds! It gave us a chance to look at a timeline of the events through the bible and see that it is a story that is not yet completed.

Since then, and linking into the COP26 summit, we have been looking at an eco-church series thinking about our relationship with the creation, with other creatures, and our impact on the planet.

One thing I have become much more convinced of in these weeks is the need for us to become more forthright about eco issues. Our planet is a gift to us from God and she cannot stand up for herself; I believe God has asked and is asking us to take a stand whenever we can about these things; from cutting down on our plastic use, to recycling and passing on unwanted items rather than binning them, all these things make a difference. We need to make our voices heard as well though, and be prepared to ask difficult questions where we can.

Bible study will stop for Christmas on 8th December and start again on 5th January thinking about something different. Why not consider giving it a try? Faith, like God, is living and growing and groups like this give us all a chance to grow our faith from mustard seed to tree. Perhaps eventually the group will grow so big we need to split into two!

Carolyn Clark

Surplus to Supper

Those of you who have been coming to the Wednesday services of late, will have hopefully enjoyed a lunch of soup and a roll. Rather than the big supermarkets throwing food excess food into their bins and it then going into land fill, they donate food to an organisation called Surplus to Supper and they in turn distribute it to local food banks and organisations such as St Hilda's.

Denise came up with the idea a few months ago about providing soup and a roll after the Wednesday service, so we thought we would give it a try. It has turned out to be pretty successful. It was decided to change the time of the service to 11.00am to enable lunch to be served straight after.

We never know what is going to arrive, we always have a delivery of soup along with different kinds of tea, coffee and sometimes fruit and sandwiches. Junior church have been very lucky some Sundays as we have had doughnuts and cakes delivered and last week some beautiful flowers.

People are free to take any excess food and we also take quite a lot down to the Salvation Army food bank so it's a win all round. If you haven't already, why not try our Wednesday lunch, it's a lovely social occasion, if you can't manage to get to the service that's fine just join us for lunch.

Bobbie Bedford

Countdown to Christmas



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

There's something very special about the Advent Sundays leading up to when Jesus was born. Join in with these activities as we prepare for and celebrate Christmas – and as we remember the Comfort and Joy that Jesus brings to us all.



Date	What brings joy today?	Who needs comfort today?
29th Nov, the First Sunday of Advent	Counting down with excitement Look at your Advent Calendar – just 2 days until you can open the first door! Give a jump for joy or fist bump your family at the excitement of looking forward.	Those who are anxious about Christmas Look at the floor. Some people are anxious about Christmas. Ask God to be close to them in the coming days.
6th Dec, the Second Sunday of Advent	Being able to give presents to others Christians sometimes call Jesus 'God's gift to us' – that's why we give gifts to each other at Christmas. Make a list of the people your family will give gifts to this Christmas. Thank God for each person.	Those worried about money Christmas can be expensive. Some people are worried that they do not have enough money for gifts or food. Could your family help by giving a gift to your local foodbank?
13th Dec, the Third Sunday of Advent	Access to water Count the number of taps in your home. Pour yourself a glass of water and give thanks for access to clean water for washing, cooking, drinking, and cleaning.	Children of the world Pour a glass of water. Add a teaspoon of mud to it, stir and place it in your kitchen. In some parts of the world children only have access to water like this. Each time you see your glass today, pray for agencies like Water Aid, trying to bring clean water to children across the world.
20th Dec, the Fourth Sunday of Advent	Health and people who care Draw a rainbow. Around it write the names of your local doctors, hospitals and pharmacies. Colour a heart by each one to show you are thankful for them.	People who are feeling sad Find a sticking plaster. Draw a sad face on it. Stick the plaster onto your bathroom mirror to remind you to pray for people who are sick or sad.
Carol Service	The gift of music What's your favourite Christmas Carol? Record your family singing it and send it to your wider family and friends.	Those who can't get to church Some people will be sad that they can't go to a carol service. Make a poster of your favourite carol to put in the window to cheer everyone up.
Christmas Eve	Everything that makes Christmas exciting Gather round your Christmas tree and look at the decorations. Tell each other which is your favourite and why.	Those who are home alone Do you know someone who will be home alone this Christmas? Surprise them with a phone or video call.
Christmas Day	The gift of God's love in Jesus Today we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Light a candle (safely) and sing Happy Birthday for Jesus before you open your presents. (Remember to blow the candle out!)	People who have no homes Some people don't have their own homes where they can celebrate Christmas. Pray for charities like Crisis who will provide safe space for them to eat and sleep today.

Date	What brings joy today?	Who needs comfort today?
Boxing Day	<p>Those who serve us in shops, cafes, and entertainment</p> <p>Go for a walk with your family. As you pass shops and cafes, thank God for the people who serve us in them. (If there are no shops or cafes near you, think of the ones you last visited.)</p>	<p>Those who have no work to do</p> <p>Some shops and cafes have closed because of the Covid crisis. This means people no longer work there. As you pass closed shops and cafes on your walk, ask God to be close to the people who used to work in them.</p>
27th Dec, 1st Sunday of Christmas	<p>Wider family who love us, grandparents, etc</p> <p>Look at your Christmas cards. Find the ones that came from grandparents, aunts, uncles and godparents. Thank God that they love and care for you and your family.</p>	<p>Families who cannot be together</p> <p>Find a jigsaw puzzle. The pieces need to join together to complete it. Some families cannot be together this Christmas. As you put your puzzle together, ask God to be with families who have been separated during the holidays.</p>
28th Dec	<p>The children in our family</p> <p>Make a chain of paper dolls. On each doll, write the name of a family you know and all the children and adults in it. Put the dolls in a place where you can see them and thank God for the people they represent.</p>	<p>Those who are grieving for loved ones this Christmas</p> <p>Make another chain of dolls. During this year some people died, and their families are sad. As you write the names of people who have died on the dolls, talk about something you remember about each person.</p>
29th Dec	<p>Holiday time to be together</p> <p>Shout out 'Group Hug' and get everyone in your household to either have a household huddle or hug themselves tight. Thank God that you can be together at holiday time.</p>	<p>Those who are hungry</p> <p>Open your fridge or food cupboard and look at what's inside. Some people have very little food and very little money to buy more. Next time you go to the supermarket, buy some extra tins to put in their Food Bank collection.</p>
30th Dec	<p>Remembering all those journeying to find out about faith</p> <p>Some people who visited Jesus followed a star to find their way. Make or draw and decorate a large star. As you hang it on your front door or in a window pray for people who want to know more about Jesus.</p>	<p>People struggling with illness of whatever kind</p> <p>Hospitals don't close over Christmas. They carry on caring for people who are ill. Send a card to your local hospital to thank the staff who were working over the holiday.</p>
31st Dec	<p>For all the good things the past year brought to us</p> <p>Have a family huddle with your favourite hot drinks. As the drinks cool, tell each other the things you have really enjoyed in 2021.</p>	<p>Those who have found this year very difficult</p> <p>Squeeze your hands into fists until it feels uncomfortable. 2021 was uncomfortable for some families. Slowly open your hands and ask God that 2022 would be less difficult for them.</p>
1st Jan	<p>For the good things in store this year</p> <p>Draw around your hand. Inside it write or draw the things you are looking forward to in 2022.</p>	<p>People worried about the future</p> <p>Draw around your other hand. Some people are worried about 2022. Draw hearts inside this hand and ask God to hold the people and their worries.</p>
2nd January to Epiphany	<p>That Jesus is for the whole world</p> <p>How many countries can you and your family name? Jesus came to be God's Good News for all the countries of the world. Jump for joy that Jesus is God's Good News for you too.</p>	<p>Those in the Middle East</p> <p>Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth. He came to bring peace but today there are many conflicts in that part of the world. Find the two towns on a map. Place your fingers on them and pray for the people who live there.</p>

Find more resources like this at: churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy

5th December 2nd Sunday in advent

Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

Read **Luke 3: 1- 6**

Society looks at these things, and says: the grander, the higher, the better! And if you don't have, or can't achieve these things, you lose out.

But John, and Jesus, say 'No.' That is not the way. The way – the way of the Lord – takes a different path. The way of the Lord – straight, level and smooth – has no obstacles in the way, no hurdles that must be overcome; no 'grander, higher, better' to keep people out.

To those who would travel this way, the message couldn't be plainer: repent and be baptized by water and the Holy Spirit and follow Jesus.

If dry go to the park and climb over and round the games equipment. If not make an obstacle course in doors if safe. Or use building blocks and create a mini obstacle course that toys have to get over. Then at home talk about how things in life can be obstacles that we need to overcome. And how can we overcome them.

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen

12th December 3rd Sunday in advent

Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

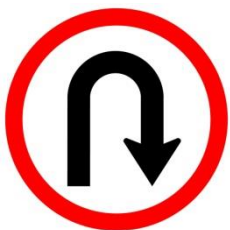
Read **Luke 3: 7-18**

John the Baptist – calls people to repent. The word *repent* in Greek is *metanoia* and means turn round and go the other way.

So why not play outside in the garden or in the park a running game - and when someone shouts turn around and go the other way! Could do it hopping skipping crawling – just remember to go the other way– a complete U turn.

Then think about what you could do in your daily life that might be a U Turn. It could be as simple as promising to do your homework as soon as you get in from school – instead of being nagged to get it done. Or it might be tidying up your laundry instead of abandoning it on the bedroom floor.

Or you might think about a U turn you could take to benefit the wider community.



God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

19th December **4th Sunday in advent**

Sheep and Lambs Together

Creative and Reflective activities for All Ages

Read Luke 1 : 39 – 45 (46-55)

Play a game of “What’s the opposite?”

This is where you say the word that is opposite of whatever the leader of the game says.

I say “What’s the opposite of ‘wet,’ ” you say ____ ? (dry!)

“On,” ____ ? (off!)

“Open,” ____ ? (closed or shut)

“Hot,” ____ ? (cold)

“warm,” ____ ? (cool)

And any others you might choose.

Then finish with these :

“mean,” ____ ? (kind or nice)

“hungry,” ____ ? (fed or full)

“weak,” ____ ? (strong)

“hurt,” ____ ? (healed or healthy or not hurt)

In Mary’s song, known as The Magnificat we hear that God is turning the world upside down. But we are to be part of that process.

So spend a bit of time in thinking how you can help turn the world upside down!

Eternal God,
 as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
 so we wait for his coming in glory;
 bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
 to see, with her, our great salvation
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen

The Posada

Las Posadas (Spanish for "the Inns") is a traditional Spanish festival, which lasts for nine days from 16th to 24th December.

It is based on the text from chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel: "She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn".

It symbolises the hardship of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their difficulty in finding a place to stay where Mary could have her baby.

Each night during the festival a family in a neighbourhood takes it in turns to host the Posada and act as innkeepers for the night. The other villagers process from house to house as pilgrims, singing a traditional hymn requesting a bed for the night for the weary Mary and Joseph.

The procession is headed by a child carrying a candle in a paper lantern. Four young people follow, carrying small statues of Joseph and Mary riding on a donkey. After this come the rest of the children, then the adults and finally musicians.

Each pilgrim carries a candle and some of the children blow whistles to accompany the singing.

The procession visits three houses. Mary and Joseph are refused entry at the first two houses, before being admitted at the third.

At each house it divides into two, with one group singing the parts of Mary and Joseph asking for shelter. The other group sings the innkeeper who either refuses, or finally allows entry.

When third innkeeper has sung a song of welcome, the Mary and Joseph figures are brought inside and placed in the family nativity scene.

The pilgrims kneel around, pray the Rosary and sing traditional carols. The original Posada script is thought to have been written by St John of the Cross



Parish Posada: Some parishes send a set of figures of Mary, Joseph and a donkey to travel around the parish. One family takes the set home from church. The following evening they are taken to the next family. This continues until Christmas Eve when they are taken back into church by the last family to welcome the figures into their house.

Why not make your own figures of Mary and Joseph. They could be lego or playmobil figures. It could be two dolls. Or you could make cardboard figures. Then move them around the house day by day – and then on Christmas Eve put them somewhere special in the house with the baby Jesus shepherds and Angel.

As you do so you could say the following prayer:

*As we welcome these travellers in to a new part of our home
We remember all those who are travelling tonight
We remember all those who are looking for rest and shelter tonight.
We remember all those who care for and comfort those in need
May God bless us and all those we love as we journey
with Mary and Joseph towards celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. 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

St Hilda's Presents

St Hilda's Entertainers

Sleeping Beauty

St Hilda's Entertainers will be performing the pantomime, Sleeping Beauty. This is a very traditional version, suitable for all ages, with all the right ingredients, including plenty of comedy, drama, romance, songs and audience participation.

Performances are at St Hilda's Hall in December, on
 Friday 3rd at 7.45pm,
 Saturday 4th at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 7pm,
 Friday 10th at 7.45pm, and
 Saturday 11th at 2.30pm and 7pm.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £8 for children and senior citizens. Booking forms will be made available at the back of Church.

You can call, text or WhatsApp our Box Office number: 07894 490640,
 or email: sthildasentertainers@gmail.com with your name, address and phone number, specifying which performance and how many tickets for adults, senior citizens and children, or Chris or Mike Davenport will be happy to accept your order, with payment, and pass it on to the box office.

Be sure to come along. It'll be great fun – Oh Yes It Will!

Mike Davenport

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 Entertainers
 proudly present their
 2021 Pantomime

Sleeping Beauty

at St Hilda's Hall

Friday 3rd December
 at 7.45pm

Saturday 4th December
 at 10.30am, 2.30pm
 and 7.00pm

Friday 10th December
 at 7.45pm

Saturday 11th December
 at 2.30pm and 7.00pm

Tickets:
£10 (concessions £8)

Box Office:
07894 490640

Bishop's Teaching Evening – The Nicene Creed – A Map for Life

Bishop Graham will be holding a teaching evening on Monday 6th December at 7pm at St Hilda's. You will also be able to join via zoom



Bishop's Teaching Evening



The Nicene Creed – A Generous Orthodoxy



Many churches say the Nicene Creed every week. Written originally in 325 AD, 175 words in the original Greek, each one carefully chosen, it is the only Creed accepted across the entire Christian world, Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant. It is therefore one of the classic statements of the Christian faith that all Christians recognise.

In these teaching evenings, Bishop Graham will explore the background to the Nicene Creed, how it came about, and how it offers us not just a list of doctrines we have to believe in, but a map for the journey of life, telling us what matters about the God who made us, the world we live in, who we are, and how we are related to each other. The Nicene Creed opens up for us a world that is so much bigger and richer than any secular vision can offer.

Each session will be streamed online, yet also offered live, in person, in a different venue. You can come in person to each event, or you can access and interact with each session online. Each session will be different, so do come to all three, or as many as you can make. The evenings will start in person from 7pm, on Zoom from 7.30pm and conclude by 9pm.

SESSION 1: Wednesday 10th November – St George's Campden Hill

Orthodoxy and Heresy: Why do we need Creeds?

To book this event: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishops-teaching-evening-the-nicene-creed-a-generous-orthodoxy-tickets-178540719097>

SESSION 2: Tuesday 23rd November – St Stephen's Twickenham

A Map for Life: The Generosity of Orthodoxy

To book this event: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishops-teaching-evening-the-nicene-creed-a-generous-orthodoxy-tickets-178560117117>

SESSION 3: Monday 6th December – St Hilda's Ashford

Living the Creed: The Orthodoxy of Generosity

To book this event: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishops-teaching-evening-the-nicene-creed-a-generous-orthodoxy-tickets-178565643647>

*Open to all who live and worship in the Kensington Area of the diocese of London
Zoom links available through Eventbrite booking and email Victoria.oneill@london.anglican.org*

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.

Food & Fellowship

Men's Breakfast – 11th December

The guest speaker this month is Sir Robbie Gibb.

Sir Robbie Paul Gibb is a British public relations professional, political advisor, and broadcast journalist. He was the head of the BBC's political programme output before leaving the BBC in July 2017 to become Director of Communications at 10 Downing Street. He left 10 Downing Street in 2019 following the resignation of Theresa May MP as Prime Minister. He is currently a Senior Advisor to Kekst CNC a strategic communications consultancy and a Non-Executive Member of the Board of the BBC.



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. All are welcome.

Community Lunch

Every **Wednesday** at 12pm we hold our community lunch. ALL are welcome and we ask that you book via ticket tailor (or the office) so that we know, for catering, you are joining us.

There will be no community lunch on 15th December. The last community lunch before Christmas is 22nd December and then we will have a short break and return on 12th January,

It is free to come along, however, donations are welcome.

Youth Group

The youth group will meet on December 17th at 7:15pm in the small hall. over pizza, cake and a drink we will think about the Christmas story and do some Christmas craft. For catering purposes please tell me if you are coming.

Christine Taylor christinetaylor590@btinternet.com.

Memorial Tree

The memorial tree is now available for you to leave a star in memory of a lost loved one.

Our thanks to Waitrose Egham for their kind donation of a tree again this year.

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 January. Otherwise, they will be used for art project, as shown in the picture, which recently won an award.

If you would like to donate something to the Salvation Army foodbank, this can be left at the St Hilda's and will go to help those in need at Christmas

*Wishing you all a blessed Christmas
and
a peaceful New Year from all at St Hilda's*

Services Times for the month of December

Sunday Eucharist – 9.30am

Wednesday Eucharist – 11am

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.

Christmas Services

December 12th (4pm)	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
December 19th (6-7pm)	CAROL SERVICE
December 24th (3pm) (11pm)	CRIB SERVICE (inc NATIVITY) FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS
December 25th (9.30am)	EUCCHARIST

Booking available from 1st December via ticket tailor (sthilda.org or Facebook links) or by contacting the parish office on 01784 253525

Dates for your Diary

December in St Hilda's

6 th	7pm	Bishop's Teaching Evening
11 th	9.30am	Men's Breakfast
12 th	4pm	Christingle
14 th	11am	Mothers' Union lunch & mince pies
17 th	5.30pm	FACT – Time Together-Christmas Family Activity
17 th	7.15pm	Youth Group meeting
19 th	6pm	Carol Service
24 th	3pm	Crib Service & Nativity
24 th	11pm	Midnight Mass
25 th	9.30am	Christmas Day Service

Community lunch – Every Wednesday at midday

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

○ God, I pray that our country or world, might be healed; healed of all that keeps us from being fully alive and present to you and to one another.

Somewhere God, in my heart's quiet place, I do give thanks for the birth of Jesus, your Son.

And I pray that we may follow his example of becoming love, mercy and justice.

Please God, give us once again the ability to sing out with "joy to the world because the Lord is come!"

Amen. Amen.