

St Hilda's Church Warley Woods



Pilgrims carrying a cross to Holy Island, Good Friday 2014

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

A service of Holy Communion

**The Second Sunday of Lent
Sunday 17th March 2019**

Introduction to today's service

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem!”

So begins Jesus' lament as he ponders the importance of this City and its people, in the lives of God's people and prophets. Jesus knows it is his destiny to die in Jerusalem, “The city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it”. He foresees the day when the City is left deserted after the Romans had destroyed Jerusalem and its Temple in AD70. But still he travels on, towards his death and crucifixion, because the people of Jerusalem do not recognize the time of this visitation from God.

Consider these things in the quiet before the service today and ask yourself about what there is in your own world that you might be misinterpreting, where you might be missing what God is trying to say to you. This poem might be of interest to you as a focus for your thoughts:

I am the Great Sun - From a Normandy crucifix of 1632

*I am the great sun, but you do not see me,
I am your husband, but you turn away.
I am the captive, but you do not free me,
I am the captain but you will not obey.*

*I am the truth, but you will not believe me,
I am the city where you will not stay.
I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me,
I am that God to whom you will not pray.*

*I am your counsel, but you will not hear me,
I am your lover whom you will betray.
I am the victor, but you do not cheer me,
I am the holy dove whom you will slay.*

*I am your life, but if you will not name me,
Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.*

By Charles Causley



Rose Akeroyd

All the responses shown in bold are to be said by everyone

Preparation for Worship

During our morning services in Lent you are invited to give thought to your confession. In our worship we will be delaying our confession until after the prayers of intercession – before we give and receive the peace of God and prepare to share communion together.

At the beginning of our worship the choir will sing the Introit three times. Between each singing of it, would you begin your preparation for confession by reflecting on any thought, word or deed which your heart is urging you to confess. Lent is not a season of festivity, but it is a season of freedom.

The Gathering

Please stand while the choir, server, Readers and clergy process in behind the cross.

Introit: Return to God

By Marty Haugen

Return to God with all your heart,
the source of grace and mercy;
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

A thought to confess

Return to God with all your heart,
the source of grace and mercy;
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

A word to confess

Return to God with all your heart,
the source of grace and mercy;
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

A deed to confess

Call to worship

Led by a young person

Jesus said, 'Those who would come after me, must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'

Lead us, Lord Jesus. **Help us to follow you.**

You denied yourself. **Help us to follow you.**

You took up the cross. **Help us to follow you.**



Hymn: Common Praise 627

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

The Greeting

Nick greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

and also with you.

The Collect

A special prayer that 'collects up' our heart's cry for today.

Almighty God,

you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,

that they may return to the way of righteousness:

grant to all those who are admitted

into the fellowship of Christ's religion,

that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,

and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;

through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit

First Reading: Philippians 3.17-4.1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4** ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Anthem: Verily, verily I say to you

By Thomas Tallis – please remain seated as the choir sing

Verily, verily, I say unto you:
except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man,
and drink his blood,
ye have no life in you.
Who so eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood,
hath eternal life;
and I will raise him up at the last day.
For my flesh is meat indeed,
and my blood is drink indeed.
He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood,
dwelleth in me, and I in hm.

Please stand

The Gospel Reading: Luke 13.31-end

When the Gospel is announced, Rose says:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

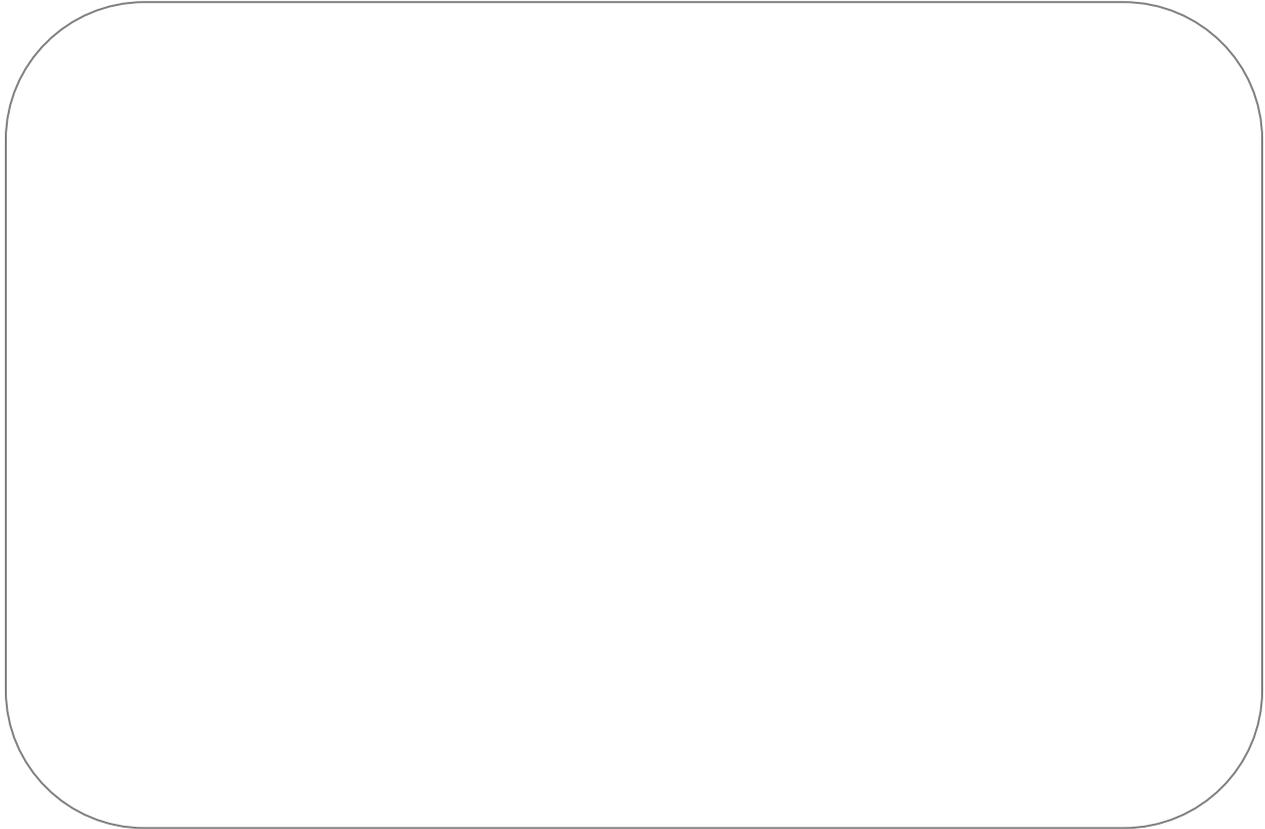
³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ ³² He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’”



This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Please sit. There is peaceful reflection at the end. Please use this space to jot down thoughts or questions sparked by what is said in the sermon. Sometimes God nudges us and it is worth paying attention to what we think and feel.



The Affirmation of Faith

Please stand as we join in saying words which unite us in faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

cf Ephesians 3

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel as Richard and Ruth lead us in prayer.

The response after each prayer is:

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

At the end of the prayers the final response is:

Merciful Father:

**Accept our prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayer of Preparation

Remain seated as we come before God just as we are, as Fran leads us in saying:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Invitation to Confession

Fran leads us in our confession:

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.

Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

There follows a period of silence for recollection

What 'word', 'thought' or 'deed' sprang to mind earlier in the service.

Now is the time to bring it to God.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in**

thought,

word,

and deed.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**



Kyrie

Sung by the choir

Lord, have mercy. (X3)

Christ, have mercy. (X3)

Lord, have mercy. (X3)



Absolution

Nick proclaims the good news of God's forgiveness:

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Peace

Please stand as forgiven people. Nick introduces the Peace.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All are invited to exchange a sign of peace.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Offertory Hymn:

Common Praise 582 - Take up thy cross

During the singing of our hymn, the bread and wine will be brought up from the congregation and the table is prepared for Holy Communion.

Everyone is invited to give towards the work of St Hilda's. Our church depends upon the sacrificial giving of time and money. Your gifts go towards our mission of serving the people of this parish. Thank you for all you do and give.



Offertory Prayer

We join in saying:

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

God of our journey,
as we walk with you on your path of obedience,
sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

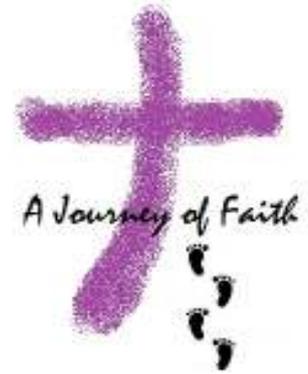
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and singing:



**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.



When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Hilda and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please kneel if you are able.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray, in our own mother tongue:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the bread

Nick breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in the one bread.**



Receiving bread and wine or a blessing

At St Hilda's, we welcome all to come up to share in communion. You will be guided by the stewards when to come up. Here you may hold out your hands to receive bread and wine if you are a follower of Jesus Christ and are committed to his way of life. It may be that you are not yet baptised or confirmed – which are the outward signs of a serious profession of faith. In which case please just keep your hands by your sides and receive a blessing from the Priest. If you want to find out more about taking steps to follow Jesus, be baptised or have confirmed the faith that is in you; then speak to Clergy or Readers after the service. **If you wish to receive non-alcoholic wine or gluten-free wafers, then please indicate to the priest and assistants at the altar.**

During our worship, there will also be opportunity to receive prayer from our team of authorized prayer ministers. You may have come to church today carrying an intolerable burden for yourself or someone else. May the prayers of your sisters and brothers represented here bring to you the peace of God which passes understanding. Simply go to the St Catherine's Chapel, to the left side of the church, and there you will receive gentle and respectful care and prayer.

Perhaps you would like to use this prayer in the stillness of this part of the service:

*Pour out your Holy Spirit, Lord, upon your church
that we may grow in faith, hope and love.*

Prayer Ministry during Communion

At St Hilda's, we offer prayers with and for people who have come to church burdened for themselves or others for whom they care. Wise and kind prayer ministers, authorised by the vicar and supported by the congregation, offer to stand and pray in the St Katherine's Chapel, to the left-hand side.



If, after you have received communion or a blessing at the altar, would like to receive such prayer, then you are most welcome. You don't have to say anything, or you may ask for prayer for something very specific. In pairs, the prayer ministers will stand with you and pray. You might like to hold a 'holding cross' as you receive prayer.

Hymn during Communion: **CP282 – Be known to us in breaking bread**

Prayer after Communion

*At the end of communion, when all have received bread and wine or a blessing,
this special prayer is said by Fran*

Remain seated.

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Notices & Banns of Marriage

Final Hymn: Common Praise 557

Praise to the Holiest in the height

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross,
and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Fran sends us out with these words of encouragement:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The final procession leaves in silence.

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NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Tonight Sunday 17th March

6.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 20th March

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Lent Course – Feast of Famine (in the church)

Saturday 23rd March

10am – 12pm Who Let The Dads Out (in the vicarage)

Sunday 24th March

10.30am All Age Holy Communion

12.15pm Baptism

6.30pm Evening Prayer

DURING LENT AT ST HILDA'S – THE WAY OF THE CROSS

LENT COURSE: FEAST OR FAMINE

This takes place every Wednesday during Lent, starting at 6.30pm with a simple supper. We are following the theme of “Feast or Famine – how the Gospel challenges austerity”

Paul

SERVICE OF COMPLINE DURING LENT

The choir will be singing Compline (Night Prayer) during Lent. This will take place in the choir vestry at 9pm on Friday evenings: 22nd & 29th March and 5th & 12th April.

This is a short service, usually lasting for about 15 minutes, and is a time for peace, prayer and reflection.

If you haven't been before and you're not sure what to expect, it is sung in plain chant and has a monastic feel to it. I feel that it is a fitting way to end what is usually a busy week.

Please come along and join us for worship. All are welcome. **David Ellis**

LENT PRAYER WALKS: WALKING THE WAY OF THE CROSS IN THE PARISH

This Lent we will be following “The Way of the Cross” with our sisters and brothers in Christ from Warley Woods Methodist Church. One shared Lenten discipline you may consider joining is a weekly Prayer Walk round the streets of our parish. We will carry holding crosses as we pray silently for the homes and businesses, green spaces and schools, taking the cross of Christ into our streets and neighbourhoods, and on each walk we will stop at regular intervals to pray the seven words of Jesus on the cross.



The walks will take place on different days of the week, at different times of the day, to allow as many people as possible to find a time that suits their work and home life. It also gives us an opportunity to see and listen to the parish at a variety of times of day.

Each walk will start at a different point, and will be a circular walk, always ending at the starting point. Each walk will last about one hour.

Please come and join us when you can. If you have your own holding cross please bring it with you, but we do have a few we can offer for the duration of each walk.

The future dates and times are:

Tuesday 19th March 4pm: starting at St. Hilda's Church

Wednesday 27th March 2pm: starting at the Abbey Road entrance gates to Warley Woods (opposite Woodbourne Road)

Thursday 4th April 7.30pm: starting at Bleakhouse Library

Friday 12th April 2pm: starting at Warley Woods Methodist Church

Fran Ellis

LENT BLOG: TILL TRAVELLING DAYS ARE DONE: PAUL'S BLOGGING AGAIN

Through Lent I shall be blogging again for 40 days – giving a discipline to write and reflect. Please join me. Feel free to comment and add your insights. General George Patton is quoted as having said: 'If everyone is thinking alike then somebody isn't thinking.' Apple had an advertising slogan in the 1990s which went: 'Think different'. Come and join in an online community of people who can disagree and enlighten at the same time. You can catch my community of different thinkers at <http://tilltravellingdaysaredone.blogspot.com/> Paul.

APCM 2019

The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting will take place in church on Sunday, 7th April at noon after the morning service. The Agenda for this meeting and also the Minutes of last year's APCM are currently on the church website, so if you intend to come and have access to a computer/printer, it would be helpful if you could print copies and bring them to the meeting. However, if this isn't possible, copies will be available on the day. If you are thinking about becoming a member of the PCC and need some further information, then please see the Vicar, myself or any other member of the current PCC – and also see me to collect a nomination form which has to be filled in before the APCM if possible. There is also one vacancy as a representative of St. Hilda's to the Deanery Synod and if you think you'd be interested in this, then again, see me for a nomination form and perhaps also have a word with either Peter Stokes or Wendy Dyke who are currently our two representatives. If you would like to join the rota of sidespeople or Deputy Wardens, please see Sue Round who is currently compiling the list for 2019-20. The Annual Report and Accounts will be available on the website after they have been ratified by the PCC at a short meeting on 24th March. Again, copies will be available at the APCM but if you would care to read them and print off a copy for yourself, please do so.

Derek Latham PCC Secretary.

HALF A SIXPENCE AT THE ALEX

I'll be performing in another show at The Alexandra Theatre soon. Half A Sixpence is running from 11th -15th June. I can arrange to purchase top quality seats at early bird prices if you order them through me before the end of March, BMOS is an award-winning company and the only amateur theatre company to perform at the Alex. Please contact me at: michaelahinton@ymail.com. **Michaela**

SANDWELL CHURCHES' LINK'S 2019 CONFERENCE & AGM

This will take place on Wednesday 27th March 2019 09.30am - 12.30pm at West Bromwich Town Hall. Free entry & refreshments.

There will be short theological reflections from Rev Nick Ross (Holy Trinity Smethwick) and Rev Bev Thomas at different stages in the morning. Tickets are free, but bookings are helpful for numbers. Any queries to me or Laura Nott.

Many thanks

Rosie

FOODBANK

Many thanks to all who support the Smethwick Foodbank through your generous gifts of food and toiletries which are much appreciated. At present, the following are particularly needed: boxes of cereals, tins of meat, fish, tomatoes, sponge puddings, custard, jars of coffee, tea bags, toilet rolls and toothbrushes. The Foodbank currently has large stocks of baked beans and pasta, and no longer distributes sugar. Thank you for your help. **Anne Harris.**

SOCIABLE SOCIAL EVENING

The next Sociable Social Evening will be held on Thursday, 21st March at 7.0 p.m. The venue will be 'The Stag and Three Horseshoes' at the top of Mucklow Hill, where we have been a couple of times before. If you would like to join us for some friendly conversation and food, please sign your name on the list which is on the notice board in the outer porch **NO LATER** than this morning, 17th March. We look forward to seeing you there.

Julie, Rose and Derek.

VICARAGE GARDEN WORKING PARTY

All are welcome to come and enjoy an hour or 2 tidying up the vicarage garden on Saturday 23rd March 10am - 12 noon. We have some tools and gloves to use but feel free to bring your own too. Many thanks to Gez who is always so willing to come and open up for us and lock up afterwards. **Fran Ellis**

TRAINING DAYS FOR DEMENTIA CARE

The following four days of FREE training is being laid on at Rounds Green Library, Martley Road, Oldbury, B69 1DZ – beginning each day at 9.15am and lasting till 4.30pm:

28th March 2019 – ‘Understand Equality, Diversity and Inclusion’

Learning Outcomes: ➤

Understand and appreciate the importance of diversity of individuals with dementia ➤

Understand the importance of person centred approaches in the care and support of individuals with dementia ➤ Understand ways of working with a range of individuals who have dementia to ensure diverse needs are met

25th April 2019 - ‘The Person-Centred Approach to the Care and

Support of Individuals with Dementia’ Learning Outcomes: ➤ Understand approaches that enable individuals with dementia to experience wellbeing

➤ Understand the role of carers in the care and support of individuals

with dementia ➤ Understand the roles of others in the support of individuals with dementia

23rd May 2019 – ‘Understand the Factors that can Influence Communication and Interaction with Individuals who have Dementia’

Learning Outcomes: ➤ Understand the factors that can influence communication and interaction with individuals who have dementia ➤

Understand how a person-centred approach may be used to encourage positive communication with individuals with dementia ➤ Understand the

factors which can affect interactions with individuals with dementia.

The four training sessions make up an ‘Award in Awareness of Dementia’ Level 2, accredited by the Open College Network London Region (OCNLR). Delegates can apply to undertake the qualification by emailing info@dementiathfinders.org.

All training days are free to attend, however, if you do wish to undertake the Level 2 qualification, you will be required to complete a series of assignments for assessment.

*A fee of £160.00 will be charged to cover the cost of registration with OCNLR, administration and marking. **Places are limited,***

therefore apply now to avoid disappointment. If you have any questions about the course please call

Barbara Stephens on 07774 935905 or email your questions to: barbara.stephens@dementiathfinders.org

Useful contacts:

Rev. Paul Hinton	Vicar	0121 429 1384
Mrs Sue Round	Churchwarden	0121 572 9752
Mr Gerald Poole	Churchwarden	0121 429 9225
Mrs Mandy Saunders	Children and Families Missioner for St Hilda's (Tues/Wed/Thur 9am - 5pm)	07519 163974 mrej81@tiscali.co.uk
Mrs Fran Ellis	Reader	0121 429 6267
Mrs Rose Akeroyd	Reader	0121 422 2786
Mr Richard Haynes	Reader & Lay Pastoral Minister (Mon/Tues/Wed)	07972 530161 richard.lpm@outlook.com
Mrs Freddie Brogan	Parish Administrator (Mon & Thur 9am - 1pm)	07582 957364 administrator@sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk

QUIET TIME BEFORE THE SERVICE

Please respect people that want or are having quiet time before the service as you do not know what their week has been like. Please do not ask people questions about work for the church before the service as this is their time not yours. Please do not put people off from coming to church on Sunday if they are not allowed any time to pray, reflect or have peace. There is always time over a coffee at the end!

PLEASE TAKE BOOKLET AWAY WITH YOU

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