

ORGANISATIONS

Monday

Brownies in the Church Hall

Guides in the Church Hall

Tuesday

Youth Group in the Church Hall

Wednesday

Mothers & Toddlers in the Church Hall 9-30– 11-30 am

Rainbows in the Church Hall

Beavers Age 6 – 8 years. Boys and girls

Thursday

Scouts in the Scout Hut 10 –14 years (boys and girls)

Rainbows in the Church Hall

Brownies in the Church Hall

Cubs in the Scout Hut 8-10 years (boys and girls)

Guide Group Leader: Pat Crofts 0121 544 3275

Group Scout Leader: Diane Walker 0121 429 5260

Friday

Choir Practice in Church 7-15 pm

If you would like more information about any of the above Organisations, please contact Rob Richards (Parish Administrator) on:

Mobile: 07582957364

or

Email : administrator@sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk

LIFE BEGINS AGAIN

In the eight months since our interregnum began, eight much-loved members of our congregation have died – Jean Weyham, David Hickman, Olive Parry and her husband, Phil, (although Phil wasn't so much involved in the life of the church, he was a great support to Olive,) Val Blount, Hilda Hickman, Gill Swift and Derek Latham. Last May, shortly before the interregnum began, we lost Gill's Mum, Julie Nixon. As well as the devastating loss for their close families, it has been a huge loss for us, their church family, to sustain and the effects of so much bereavement in so short a time are being seen and recognised. There seems to be a pall of sadness that is almost tangible enveloping us all. There is, too, a sense of 'who next', has this relentless stream of losses come to an end or are there to be more?

At one of our regular meetings, Richard asked me, 'What can we do to help people, how can we help them through this?'

One of the great strengths of St. Hilda's lies in its love and care for one another. If you're struggling, talk to someone, not necessarily to those who have what might be called 'official' responsibility for pastoral care but someone else in the congregation who is experiencing the same sort of pain that you are. Share your heartbreak.

Prayer is central to our life as a church and, hopefully, it is central to your life as an individual. Prayer isn't just about talking to God, though obviously that is an important part of it. It's also about listening. As the beautiful hymn puts it, 'Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.' When we are still, God draws close. Be still in his presence and let him heal your hurt.

Above all, look forward with hope. Very soon we shall be celebrating Easter, the season of the church which, above all others, is a season of hope, hope of eternal life. Shortly before he died, Jesus spoke of his forthcoming death on the cross and that he would rise again after three days. He promised his disciples, and, by extension, promised us, that we would share his resurrection life. His rising on Easter Day was the manifestation of that promise through which we can believe that we, and our much-loved brothers and sisters who have already made the journey through the valley of the shadow of death, may have eternal life.

At Hilda Hickman's funeral a poem which she had written was read out. It is unbelievably beautiful in what it expresses and speaks so eloquently to the situation in which we find ourselves, especially the final verse.

(Concluded over page)

LIFE BEGINS AGAIN,

by Hilda Hickman

The leaves fall in the autumn — And soon the trees are bare;
 When winter comes as though — There is no more life there.
 But then the spring-time comes along — To bring the sun and rain;
 Soon the leaves are on the trees — **And life begins again!**
 A caterpillar munches leaves — Until it seems to die
 But then a chrysalis is formed — And there the grub will lie
 While its body is transformed — From the insect, oh so plain
 Into a lovely butterfly — **And life begins again!**
 We live our life here on earth — With its trouble, joy and care,
 And when we lose a loved one — We find it hard to bear.
 We feel that part of us has died — And don't know how to ease the
 pain

But one day through God's door we'll go — **And life begins again!**

Revd. Barbara Fletcher

Hilda Hickman



The family of the late Hilda Hickman wish to thank everyone at St. Hilda's Church for their expressions of sympathy and condolence at this sad time, and for all their wonderful memories and stories of Hilda.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make her funeral such a thankful and uplifting occasion. Hilda loved the church and everyone involved with it.

She will be sadly missed.

Janet Mooney (nee Hickman)

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TRADCRAFT GOODS

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There is a selection of Traidcraft Tea, Coffee, Cookies, Muesli and other food items for sale in the inner porch of the church. Also some hand crafted non-food items. If there is any Traidcraft product you would like us to have on sale please let us know. One of us will be at the Traidcraft table after the main service each Sunday. There is a new range of cleaning products please see us in church for more details. We have also added Chocolate Chip Cookies! Mmmmmm

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Seen on a church notice board.



We welcome the old, the grumpy and those who've seen out 5 or more vicars, just as much as we welcome young families here.

They remind us in our growing church, that our blossoming comes from the deep, faithful, prayerful roots. They've seen it all. They've sometimes been more bored in this place than your kids ever will be. That's why they're sometimes grumpy. But they know this isn't

about them, and we thank God every day for them.

PATHWAYS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

A renewed journey of discipleship will be running across Church of England Birmingham from September 2020.

The aim will be to equip all people to grow, as Bishop David says, as "more confident disciples" in all of life, and to develop the character and skills of servant leadership.

Building on 3D, conversations across the diverse contexts of C of E Birmingham, and the results of a diocesan-wide survey of discipleship and servant leadership, it will offer a flexible and modular approach to support the formation of disciples. Four modules are taking shape called "The Way of Discipleship" and one called "The Way of Servant-Leadership".

There will be seven evening events in March and April to introduce the new pathways. The evenings will cover their content, method and ethos. The one closest to St Hilda's will be on:

Wednesday 22 April

at Holy Trinity, Smethwick 7.30-9pm

"I hope anyone who is interested in growing in their own discipleship, and in developing others will come and find out about these renewed opportunities," says The Rev Guy Donegan-Cross, Director of Learning for Discipleship and Mission.

All are welcome to this free introductory event.

From Bishop Anne

These new pathways are being offered to help shape the lives of those who want to deepen their everyday faith and grow in Christian service in their Sunday to Saturday lives. They will offer a way of learning, growing and being formed together, which aims to work with the variety of people's lives and experiences. They will support the Church of England Birmingham's vision of a Transforming Church which is about transformed lives and communities. My prayer is that these new pathways will contribute to a renewed culture of discipleship and mission. Rooted in the five marks of mission and looking to the work of the Holy Spirit among us, I pray they will encourage many to grow in both their faith and witness, and to bless in Christ's name the communities they serve.

More details will be provided once they become available.

Fran Ellis

FLOWER ROTA

'Consider the Lilies of the field'

There will not be flowers in church whilst the current situation relating to Covid-19 remains.



C.A.M.E.O.

Fun & Fellowship every Monday 10-45—12-45
Includes light lunch

Due to the current situation relating to advice given about Covid-19 the programme for C.A.M.E.O. is postponed until further notice.

TEA & COFFEE ROTA



Due to the current situation of no scheduled services for the foreseeable future, there is no rota for Tea & Coffee

DUTY WARDEN ROTA

Likewise, due to the current situation there is no rota for Duty Wardens this month.

PARISH NEWS

Articles for inclusion in May's Parish News to be with the editor **no later than SUNDAY April 19th.**

wendy.dyke@btinternet.com

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Situations Vacant - Church Warden

Do you have a unlimited amount of spare time and no desire to spend it in the garden, on the beach, or doing up the house?

Have you an unfulfilled desire to walk in front of vicars while carrying a large stick you are not allowed to use as a weapon?

Do you have no talents in stone masonry, boiler maintenance, Kung Fu, or bell lubrication - but a strange urge to "give it a go"?

Do you have a good head for heights and an interest in bending lead into interesting shapes?

Do you get sufficiently lonely that the alarm company phoning you up every night will cheer you up?

Then why not be a Church Warden? Wages are zero, so you might think you're better off being a bell ringer. But let's face it - who fixed the bells last time one fell off? That's right.

Be a Church Warden and the bells will probably fall on somebody else.

Cuthbert and self isolation

On 20th March in 687 AD, St Cuthbert died in his hermit cell on Inner Farne Island. So we honour one of the most popular saints of Britain. I think he might have had much to teach us about making the best use of physical isolation from others.

In his youth Cuthbert cared for sheep, either as a shepherd boy, or as a guard for the flock. That surely must have involved a lot of solitary time. Later, having had a vision as a child that made him decide to dedicate his life to God, he became a monk. Eventually he became Abbott of Lindisfarne and then a bishop. As a bishop, he travelled and preached as he walked over the rough hills of his diocese. In between those journeys he spent time as a hermit on Farne Island - chosen self-isolation in order to deepen his relationship with God and so be more useful to those who needed his spiritual guidance.

For Cuthbert, to be human was to live in dependence on God, aware of his constant presence. You could call this simplicity, being pure in heart and poor in spirit. His mortal remains now lie in Durham Cathedral, under a simple stone that just says "Cuthbertus". On several occasions when I visited there, I experienced a profound sense of peace and the presence of God.

You don't need to go to Durham to experience that. You might find it just by sitting at home, being still, or taking a walk round your garden if you have one. At this time when the people of the world are struggling to cope with Covid 19, and we are observing strict distancing from one another, we all need to find peace in solitude. Our church like all others, has suspended meetings for public worship, but it is still open on Wednesdays and Saturdays for anyone to enter to pray, or just take a moment to find peace in a place where prayer has been regularly made for almost 80 years. You don't have to be a Christian to go and sit alone in a church. Try it!

Peter Stokes

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

CORONAVIRUS.



During the coming weeks/months the services and weekly activities held at St. Hilda's Church will be suspended due to the Coronavirus being prevalent in all aspects of group meetings etc. This is as directed by our Archbishops in relation to services and directed by the Government in relation to meetings etc.

As directions change, we will of course resume to our normal practice of advertising all of our services, clubs, groups and meetings etc in the usual way.

If you require any further information, our Parish Administrator can be contacted using the details you will find on our website or on page 16 of this magazine. The church will be open as usual on Wednesdays for private prayer.



The grass mowing season is about to begin. We urgently need more volunteers to join the Mowing Rota to cut the grass at the side of our church.

If you are able to offer help, please contact the Churchwardens.

Longest and largest

Liverpool's Anglican cathedral, like that of Durham, (which I wrote about in last month's magazine) occupies a particularly spectacular site, built as it is on St James's Mount, one of the highest points in one of Britain's flattest cities. The central tower (which I abseiled down in 2005) is the highest in Gt. Britain. Besides its prominent position, it is also the longest cathedral in the world, it also has a claim to being the world's largest Anglican church building in internal space.

In 1902, Parliament approved the construction of a cathedral, only the third Anglican cathedral to be built since the Reformation -the others being Christopher Wren's St Paul's, and Truro. The competition for designing this new cathedral attracted 103 entries, including submissions from eminent architects.

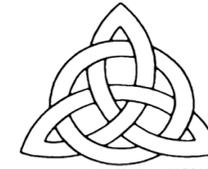
To the amazement of many, the 22-year-old Giles Gilbert Scott won the competition. Although the descendant of a famous family, Scott was still working as a pupil in the practice of another architect who had been a pupil of Scott's father -Scott was also a Catholic. By his own admission, Scott's only design to that point had been one for a pipe rack! So when the Cathedral Committee accepted his design, as a precaution they also appointed the eminent Victorian architect George Bodley to work with him. The two men did not get on, and it was fortunate for Scott (although not for Bodley) that Bodley died in 1907, just as work was getting under way.

Like Wren, another architect with limited experience, Scott made many alterations to his design as work progressed. Despite these alterations, and the intervention of two world wars, the cathedral was substantially complete by 1961, Scott having died the previous year.

The cathedral was consecrated in October 1978, in the presence of David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool and former England cricketer, as well as the Roman Catholic Archbishop Derek Warlock. Besides its interesting history and stunning architecture, the cathedral also has the largest bell tower in the world, the heaviest bells at 16.5 tons, and the largest pipe organ in Great Britain.

In the aisles on either side of the altar, hang two large parable paintings by Glaswegian artist Adrian Wiszniewski, *The Good Samaritan* and *The House Built on Rock*. You can't escape their bright colours and challenging styles. The cathedral authorities certainly want to offer their self-proclaimed brief that the cathedral is 'a safe place to do risky things in Christ's service'. *The Good Samaritan*, painted in 1995, is particularly striking. It's a bold picture: the robbery victim, bleeding, naked and full frontal, is tended by a young woman in a blue cat-suit.

I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity



This beautiful hymn, which is traditionally attributed to St Patrick (372-466), shows very clearly the blending of pagan mythology with Christian teaching in the Celtic Church. The whole poem is given a tremendous force and unity by the notion of binding, which is so characteristic in Celtic art with its intricate knots and never-ending interlacing patterns.

The original Gaelic poem on which the hymn is based, is known as St Patrick's Breastplate. Legend has it that St Patrick composed it shortly after landing in Ireland in 432 to spread the Christian faith there. He is said to have sung it as he made his way to Tara to confront Leogaire, or Leary, the pagan high king of Ireland who was in the midst of one of his regular triennial conventions with his vassal-kings.

The best known translation that has been made of St Patrick's Breastplate, is the work of Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander. She makes of it a recitation, entirely appropriate to the ancient rites of baptism, and supremely appropriate to the celebrations of Holy Saturday, or Easter Eve, which was associated in the early church with baptism and confirmation.'

Mrs Alexander made her translation for use on St Patrick's Day in 1889 at the request of Dean H.H. Dickinson of the Chapel Royal at Dublin Castle who was preparing a new and enlarged edition of the *Irish Church Hymnal*.

The hymn soon found its way into hymnbooks, where it was set to an arrangement of the traditional Irish melody, St Patrick, by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford. This is now universally used for the main part of the hymn, which is often now shortened with the third, sixth and seventh verses here being generally omitted. The eighth verse 'Christ be with me' is sung to one of three traditional Irish melodies.

As I mentioned in my tribute to Derek, this was one of his favourite hymns and it will be played at the beginning of his memorial service.

May the choirs of angels welcome him
May the music of paradise greet him
May the song of eternity live in his soul
As he rejoices in the symphony of heaven.

Peter Stokes

A tribute to a dear friend, Derek Latham

The 1662 Book of Common Prayer, used the rubric "In quires and places where they sing, here followeth the Anthem". This simple line allowing for the offering of choral music beyond just the Psalm and Canticles has helped to define the Anglican choral tradition. For over 400 years, composers in our tradition have been writing church music to help draw the listener into a deeper relationship with God.

When Derek joined our choir with Delia many years ago, I was delighted to hear that, as well as being a fellow-tenor, he also shared my love of 16th century church music. Composers such as Byrd, Tallis and Orlando Gibbons were amongst Derek's particular favourites, and we would talk about them ad infinitum.

As regular readers of our magazine will know, Derek also had a particular interest in hymns, writing his article, 'Come let us sing our cheerful songs' for the last 27 years. He was sometimes scathing about the number of worship songs which have replaced traditional hymns over the years. More than one of our former vicars have received such criticism.

Most years in his articles, Derek would mention one of his favourite hymns, 'I bind unto myself today' and tell us if we had sung it on Trinity Sunday (or any other Sunday.) He was disappointed to learn that, when we changed our hymn book from Ancient and Modern to Common Praise, there are now only five verses of this fine hymn included instead of six! (there are nine in the original version!)

Derek and I also shared a keen interest in football (although we supported different teams) and also walking. As we know, Derek was the leader of our church rambles for thirty years, leading his final one at the end of last year.

Please take a look at the many photos on the Rambles pages of our church website. I'm sure they will bring back many happy memories to many people.

I would like to end with some words of John Donne, priest and poet.

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
Into the house and gate of heaven.

To enter that gate and dwell in that house,
Where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
No noise nor silence, but one equal music;
No fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
No ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;
In the habitation of thy glory and dominion,
World without end, Amen.

And, from a 20th century Methodist hymn writer, Fred Pratt Green.

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,

it is as though the whole creation cried – Alleluia! Peter Stokes

She kneels and offers him a golden goblet - to catch his blood, or to give him a drink? Nearby, Wiszniewski shows a gaggle of young hipster men in old school ties and trendy suits going about their business unconcernedly.

The cathedral at first sight is all red-faced, upstanding and macho. But as you wander the twilight interior, its distaff aspect becomes clearer. Initially the Lady Chapel, a crypt-like space forward of the altar, seems highly traditional. It was the first part of the cathedral to be built. It is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. But the females depicted here are far from the soft, as you might expect. Instead, here are women in stone and stained glass, some stern-faced, some stubborn-looking - real people with real, gritty lives and strengths to celebrate.

In the south aisle, near the east end of the cathedral, the memorial to David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool from 1975 to 1997, forms part of the wall. A white, water-smoothed Portland-stone cobble is set in the red sandstone wall, the centrepiece of a swirl of elliptical shapes - 'breaking boundaries', an allusion to David's eminence as a cricketer. He played for Sussex and England after the Second World War, a career interspersed with time out for him to pursue his ecclesiastical calling. He made 113 runs against the Australians in Melbourne in 1962, but dropped some vital catches, 'just pretend it's Sunday, Rev,' fast bowler Fiery Fred Trueman told him, 'and keep your bloody hands together.'

When he was installed as Bishop of Liverpool in 1975, Sheppard, at forty-six, was the youngest diocesan bishop in England. He was a social reformer, an evangelical Christian and a campaigner against apartheid. But maybe his most notable achievement was the productive partnership and friendship he created with his counterpart Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool from 1976 to 1996.

I once heard a rather pernicious joke that Liverpool Cathedral existed to cater for 'gay, black divorcees with rent arrears who wanted to join the Ecumenical Movement'. One could see the funny side of the remark, for by kaleidoscoping all those facets of circumstance together, the author (or authors) had followed the cardinal rule of humour, which is to exaggerate reality. But in telling the joke they had unearthed a profound truth: Liverpool Cathedral cares for people—especially those whom the rest of society tends to shun and ignore. It is on the side of minorities who are discriminated against for political, moral, social, or economic reasons. And it is opposed to prejudice in any form.

(Concluded over page)

Over the years the cathedral Chapter has backed the establishment, and boxed it around the ears with equal resolve. When it has not approved of actions in High Church or high society, it has brought them low. For the biggest thing within the walls of this cathedral of cathedrals is a conscience which exerts a fearless opposition to those things which offend it.

The regular visitor or worshipper will gradually amass his own catalogue of personal experiences, both light-hearted and serious. I first went there to hear the organ. I can still remember every detail of that initial conversation with the then organist, Noel Rawsthorne, that first glimpse of the monster organ console in the Central Space followed by the awesome sound of the largest organ in Great Britain.

A former Poet Laureate, John Masefield, once summed up his own feelings about cathedrals, at a luncheon to honour Giles Scott during the war: 'Besides being visible at a distance, a cathedral should be splendid within, with the best of all that artists and citizens can offer. This splendour should touch and mark all her parts and precincts, and not only her building, but all the many institutions attached to her, for teaching, healing, and relieving. She should be the place to which all the generousities of her citizens, as well as those of the artists of her time, should turn and flow.' John Masefield's ideas have certainly been realized with Liverpool Cathedral.

On one of many visits to the cathedral, the nave was bare and uncluttered. The seating had been cleared away in order to accommodate eight hundred guests at a Barclays Bank dinner party in the cathedral. It costs £8,000 a day to maintain the cathedral, and who better to contribute to that than a gathering of bankers?

What about Hillsborough, the great shadow across the psyche of the city? The big bell Great George, is tolled on the anniversary each year. Even after over thirty years, people still go into the cathedral, many still hurt and angry.

But this is no place to be sad. Liverpool shows that the noblest style to grace English architecture can be harnessed to any purpose and, with talent, turned to triumph. I'll conclude with some words of Sir John Betjeman.

This is one of the great buildings of the world. . . . The impression of vastness, strength and height no words can describe. . . . Suddenly, one sees that the greatest art of architecture, that lifts one up and turns one into a king, yet compels reverence, is the art of enclosing space.

Peter Stokes

Is your favourite here?



BibleGateway is a web-based platform and they listed the most viewed or searched for Bible verses for 2019. Psalm 23, proved to be demonstrating the Psalm's popularity among Christians but perhaps also among those who hear the Psalm at funerals or other events within the Church. Indeed, if you added up all the usage percentages, Psalm 23 would be the most popular Bible passage of 2019 on this largely web-based platform. However, if we only give one mention to Psalm 23, then the most popular verses are:

1. [John 3:16](#): For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
2. [Jer 29:11](#): For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
3. [Phil 4:13](#): I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
4. [Ps 23:4](#): Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Ps 23.6 was 7th, Ps 23.5 was 8th, Ps 23.1 was 9th & Ps 23.3 was 10th)
5. [Rom 8:28](#): And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
6. [Rom 12:2](#): Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.
7. [Matt 6:33](#): But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
8. [Isa 41:10](#): So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
9. [Phil 4:6](#): Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
10. [John 14:6](#): Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.