

# St Hilda Warley Woods



**"Holding him feels like the best gift I could be granted."**

Syrian refugee Huda Alsayil, 20, holds her week-old son Mezwid at a camp near the Syrian border, on the outskirts of Mafrq, Jordan in August 2015.

*Let love be real*

**A service of  
Holy Communion  
Exploring our response to the  
Refugee Crisis**

*Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> 2016*

**Our Purpose: Encouraging Compassionate Disciples**

## Some thoughts to help prepare for worship

'We are made for goodness.

We are made for love.

We are made for friendliness.

We are made for togetherness.

We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know.

We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders.

All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all.

We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family.'

**Desmond Tutu**

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'

**Galatians 3.28**

*A Christian response to the unfolding refugee crisis must begin with an acknowledgment that there is no outsider in God's reign. Neither geography, nor legal status can deny a person access to God's family, nor do they afford other people a privileged status in God's family.*

*There is a global refugee crisis. An estimated 65 million people are now either refugees or internally displaced or seeking asylum (most are living in poor neighbouring countries). That is one in every 113 people on the planet. They are fleeing violence, conflict and poverty not only in Syria, but also in Yemen, Iraq, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Burundi and many other places. Forced migrants are the most vulnerable people on earth.*

*Churches and other groups have responded across Europe, welcoming refugees and providing practical support (as they did 100 years ago for Belgians fleeing war – we will hear about how Warley folk gave sacrificially during the First World War). As Christians, we have a key role to play in the upcoming months and years; highlighting the ongoing plight of refugees and displaced people. Today we welcome Shari Brown from Restore, which supports, befriends and grows community around refugees and asylum seekers. Our bible readings will point to the commands and yearnings of God for 'the alien'. Our prayers, hymns and anthem will lead us to the heart of God and the cry of the most vulnerable people on earth.*

*Please ask for God to stir your spirit today. What is our response to be today?*

**Paul**

# The Gathering and Welcome

Please stand as the Readers, clergy and choir enter the church.

## Call to worship

*Led by a young person*

God says, 'Welcome,  
the door of this place is wide open  
to all who wish to come in and find peace.'

**Lord, you are here, waiting for us.**

Waiting –

to hear our voices in song,  
to listen to the concerns of our hearts,  
to receive all that we wish to give in service,  
with your divine blessing.

**We seek you God, and come to receive your welcome. Amen.**

## Hymn: Let love be real<sup>1</sup>

*Remain standing as we sing:*

**Let love be real, in giving and receiving,  
Without the need to manage and to own;  
A haven free from posing and pretending,  
Where every weakness may be safely known.  
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,  
Give me your love wherever we may go.  
*As God loves us, so let us love each other;  
With no demands, just open hands and space to grow.***

**Let love be real, not grasping or confining,  
That strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;  
That helps us face the risk of truly living,  
And makes us brave to be what we might be.  
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness;  
Give me your love in spite of all you know.  
*As God loves us, so let us love each other;  
With no demands, just open hands and space to grow.***

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Forster (b.1946) ©1995 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

**Let love be real, with no manipulation,  
No secret wish to harness or control;  
Let us accept each other's incompleteness,  
And share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments;  
Give me your trust when all my failings show.  
As God loves us, so let us love each other;  
With no demands, just open hands and space to grow.**

## **The Greeting**

*Paul introduces the service and greets the people*

The God of grace, healing, mercy  
and restoration be always with you,  
**and also with you.**

## **Prayer of Preparation**

*We come before God just as we are, as Fran leads us in saying:*

**As we gather to worship,  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
and anoint us with your love and power.  
May your beauty fill this place  
and all who come here today.  
May we all be renewed, restored, and healed,  
refilled to overflowing  
so that we can go out and be God's hands and power  
in a broken world. Amen.**

## **Invitation to confession**

*Fran leads us into a period of reflection and confession*

We come before God,  
who is our refuge and our strength.  
We come before God together, not alone.  
We come before God to ask for forgiveness  
for our failure to offer welcome and hospitality to the stranger.  
We come before God to seek courage and opportunity  
for a change of heart.

*Sit or kneel.*

*There follows a period of silent reflection and self-examination.*

*Then everyone joins in, saying:*

**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 neighbour 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.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon *you*,  
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,  
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,  
and keep *you* in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Prayer for the week (also known as the Collect)**

*A period of silence is introduced with the words 'Let us pray'.*

*This is a special prayer which 'collects up' the thoughts and prayers of all the people.*

*It is this week based upon a famous prayer of St Augustine.*

*And it has resonance with today*

*as we think of the restless struggles of refugees in search of a home.*

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you;  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
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

Sít.

## **Compassion 100 year ago: Refugee stories from Warley Woods**

*Dr Terry Daniels, tells the story of the compassionate response of Oldbury and Warley people to the plight of refugees fleeing war-torn Belgium via Calais in 1914.*

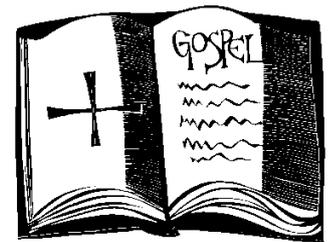


Belgian Refugees, Holy Trinity School, Langley, Christmas 1914

### **First Reading:**

*A collection of Old Testament verses on care for the 'alien' read by many different voices from the congregation*

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. Lev 19:33-34



When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the LORD your God. Lev 23:22

As for the assembly, there shall be for both you and the resident alien a single statute, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you and the alien shall be alike before the LORD. Num 15:15

I charged your judges at that time: 'Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident alien. Deut 1:16

<sup>17</sup> For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, <sup>18</sup> who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. Deut 10:17-19

<sup>10</sup> Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. <sup>11</sup> Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.' Deut 15:10-11

<sup>14</sup> You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy labourers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns. <sup>15</sup> You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are poor and their livelihood depends on them; otherwise they might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt. Deut 24: 14-15

Then the Levites shall declare in a loud voice to all the Israelites: <sup>19</sup> 'Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphan, and the widow of justice.' All the people shall say, 'Amen!' Deut 27:14, 19

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

## **Hymn: Lonely Travellers from the stable<sup>2</sup>**

*This is a Christmas carol which tells the story of Jesus the refugee child fleeing the horrors of violence and persecution*

**Lonely travellers from the stable  
Out beneath the hard blue sky  
Journeying wandering, hoping, praying  
For the safety of their child  
While our mother Rachel's weeping  
Fills the streets of Bethlehem.  
Kyrie eleison.**

**Warned by angels, moved to save him  
Who was born our kind to save,  
Joseph leads his holy family  
Far from Herod and harm's way.  
Mary shielding and consoling  
Jesus Christ the Son of God.  
Kyrie eleison.**

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<sup>2</sup>Copyright info: Copyright © 1997 by Vincent Uher. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission. Permission has been granted for one time use with inclusion of copyright notice and email notification to Fr Vincent Uher [vuher@alumni.rice.edu](mailto:vuher@alumni.rice.edu).

**Fleeing from the land of promise  
They in Egypt find a home  
Strange the workings of God's mercy --  
House of bondage now God's throne.  
But for sons who all were murdered  
Sorrow breaks the House of Bread.  
Kyrie eleison.**

**True the tale of flight and exile.  
Out of Egypt comes God's Son.  
Angels tell of Herod's dying.  
All is ended, all begun.  
Jesus will grow up in Nazareth  
And the world will all be stunned.  
Kyrie eleison.**

### **The Gospel Reading: Matthew 2.13-15**

*Remain standing*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

*At the end*

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

### **The Sermon:**

*Please sit for Rae's talk.*

## Time for reflection

Stay seated as the choir sing a short anthem. Think of a refugee fleeing by boat across the Mediterranean today. Join their prayer for God to see them and help them.

### View me, Lord<sup>3</sup>

View me, Lord, a work of thine: shall I then lie drown'd in night?  
Might thy grace in me but shine, I should seem made all of light.

Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel at thine altar, pure and white;  
they that once thy mercies feel, gaze no more on earth's delight.

Worldly joys, like shadows, fade when the heavenly light appears;  
but the covenants thou hast made, endless, know nor days, nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust, to thy mercies fast I fly;  
though I am but clay and dust, yet thy grace can lift me high.

## Compassion Today: responding to the refugee crisis

*Pamela Whyman, from St Hilda's, and Shari Brown, project co-ordinator for Restore, share stories from their experience of befriending and supporting refugees today in the West Midlands.*



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<sup>3</sup>Words: Thomas Campion; Music: Richard H. Lloyd

## **The Creed**

*Stand.*

Let us affirm our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Creator,  
from whom every family  
in heaven on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Redeemer,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with sacrificial love.  
We believe in God the Sustainer,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Based upon Ephesians 3.14-17*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Sit or kneel as we are all led in prayer by Pamela  
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.**

## **Introduction to the Peace**

*Please stand. Paul says:*

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ, who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life giver.  
The peace of the triune God be always with you:  
**and also with you.**

*Please greet people closest to you where you are standing.*

# **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

## **Preparation of the Table & Taking of the Bread and Wine**

### **Offertory Hymn: Let us build a house**

*During the singing of this hymn, the offertory will be received*

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

**Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:**

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.***

*Everyone joins in saying the words of the offertory proclamation*

**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.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

*Remain standing as the priest speaks  
the words of the prayer for all of us.*

*Join in with the responses in bold type*

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 right to praise you, Father,  
Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away  
you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.  
**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**



In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord  
God of heaven and earth adored.  
God for ever, ceasing never,  
Holy, holy Lord. (x2)**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Sit or kneel*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray in our 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**

*Paul 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.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*We join in singing*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

## **Receiving bread and wine or a blessing**

All are welcome to come forward to receive bread and wine or receive a blessing. Hold out your hands to receive bread, if you wish to share in the body and blood of Jesus. If you simply wish to receive a blessing, keep your hands by your side. And the priest will bless you by raising his hand over your head. Wardens will guide you up at the appropriate time. Please note: non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free bread will also be available... please ask if this is your preference.



## **What should I do once I have received?**

You could also pray for those around you: use this silent prayer of blessing upon them:

**Bless my neighbour *N* with the gift of understanding and a desire to reach out to the most vulnerable in loving care. Give them a heart that beats with the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

## **Song during Communion**

### **Bread of Life**      *Bernadette Farrell*

*Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother:  
feed us now, give us life,  
lead us to one another.*

As we proclaim your death,  
as we recall your life,  
we remember your promise  
to return again.

The bread we break and share  
was scattered once as grain;  
just as now it is gathered,  
make your people one.

We eat this living bread,  
we drink this saving cup:  
sign of hope in our broken world,  
source of lasting love.

Hold us in unity,  
in love for all to see;  
that the world may believe in you,  
God of all who live.

You are the bread of peace,  
you are the wine of joy,  
broken now for your people,  
poured in endless love.

*Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother:  
feed us now, give us life,  
lead us to one another.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*A special prayer is said by Fran. Please stand:*

Lord, we pray that your grace  
may always precede and follow us,  
and make us continually to be given to all good works,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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.**

## **News, notices & banns of marriage**

### **Final Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you**

393 in the blue Common Praise hymn books

*Stand to sing*

### **The Blessing<sup>4</sup>**

*Paul says words of blessing, and then Fran leads the following response:*

Persist in prayer. Keep asking,  
keep seeking, keep knocking,  
as Christ taught you so to do. **Amen.**

And, the God of life go with us. **Amen.**

The Risen Christ beside us. **Amen.**

The vibrant Spirit within us. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

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<sup>4</sup> Sending out prayer: [http://www.rootsontheweb.com/Lectionary/84-July-August\\_2016\\_C/proper12/prayerSendingout](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/Lectionary/84-July-August_2016_C/proper12/prayerSendingout).

The blessing: The Celtic Prayer Book (Vol 1) Prayer Rhythms © Ray Simpson 2003 Kevin Mayhew Ltd (pg. 30)

Please stay after the service has ended.  
Refreshments are served in the inner porch.

After a short while, soup and bread will be served at tables on  
the right side of the church.

Please stay to hear more about the work of restore as Shari Brown is also  
able to share more about the needs and possible responses you might like  
to offer.

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The Sanctuary flowers are the gift of Miss D Stokes.

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Mon	10.00 am	Cameo - Beetle Drive
	7.00 pm	Praying Together (Choir Vestry)
Wed	9.30 am	Mother & Toddler Group (Church Hall)
	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
	1.00 pm	Over 60's Club (Church Hall)
Thur	2.00 pm	St Hilda's Baby Group (Church Hall)
Sat	10.30 am	Table Tennis Club (Church Hall)

### **Services for next Sunday: 25th September**

10.30 am	All Age Holy Communion
12.15 pm	Holy Baptism
6.30 pm	Evening Prayer

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your sponsorship from the congregation, friends and family and support. I raised approximately £750 with gift aid for Sandwell Young Carers, and may get more as local giving still open for a few weeks. Thank you, Janice Stirrip.

## **ST HILDA'S GOT TALENT**

On Saturday 24th of September at 7.30pm in the church there will be a 'home grown' talent show in aid of the Church's charity 'Sandwell Young Carers'. Firstly, please keep the date free in your diaries in case you can come along and support this fun event! Also, if you have not already been approached and you want to take part and perform one of your special talents (maybe a song, sketch, poem, monologue etc) please see Jon Goodwin, David Ellis or John Barber. Many thanks. John Barber

## **SOCIABLE SOCIAL EVENING**

The next Sociable Social Evening will be on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m. We will be returning to 'The Holly Bush' Toby Carvery on the Hagley Road, where a good meal is usually enjoyed! If you would like to join us for the occasion, please sign your name on the list which is on the notice board in the outer porch NO LATER than Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September. We look forward to see you there! Please note that there will NOT be a Sociable Social Evening in October, as its place will be taken by the Harvest Supper. Julie, Rose and Derek.

## **FOODBANK**

Your continuing generous support of the Food Bank is much appreciated. In the week 23 - 30 August, food donated from St Hilda's totalled 8.12 kg. Currently, the Food Bank is particularly short of **tins of fish, tins of fruit, 500g packets of sugar, packets of rice, cartons of long life fruit juice, shower gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and deodorants.** Thank you.

## **CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR ON A WEDNESDAY?**

As you will know, our church is now open on Wednesdays from 11am - 5pm. We need people to be in church to welcome visitors, so if you are able to help, please add your name to the rota in the outer porch.

## **PRAYING TOGETHER**

The next meetings of Praying Together will be on Monday evening 19 September at 7.00 - 8.00 pm and Tuesday morning 4 October at 11.15 am - 12.30 pm. You are very welcome to join us for one or both of these times when we meet together, in either the Church or the choir vestry to praise God and to pray for people, communities and nations of the world. *Wendy Dyke, Carol Hadlington, Carole Southall, Anne Harris and others.*

## **HARVEST SUPPER AND SKITTLES 2016**

This year we have decided to revert to our more traditional Skittles evening. This event will take place on **Saturday 8 October commencing at 7pm.** Prices including food start from £6.00 upwards. You can secure a place for this most enjoyable of evenings, by indicating what food is required and for how many people on the form in the Church porch or contact **Jon Goodwin on 07989697262.** If you wish to attend the event but do not wish to purchase food, tickets will be made available at £4.00 each.

**However, please note that priority for the limited number of seats will go to those indicating that they require food.**

## **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

If you would like to have the name(s) of any relatives added to the book, please request a form from those on duty in church on Sundays or Wednesday s. If you would like to look in the Book of Remembrance, please ask the Church Wardens so that the book is handled appropriately.

**The Commemoration Service this year will be on Sunday 30th October, if you would like the name of a loved one entered into the book, can I please have the blue form no later than Sunday 2nd October, thank you. Freddie**

## **THE ARCADIANs**

The Arcadians are presenting a concert at The Crescent Theatre on Saturday 12th November, 2016 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm both performances are £13 if purchased from Peter Hale Chorister or £14 direct from the theatre. The concert is fully choreographed and include songs from Les Miserables, Jesus Christ Superstar, Grease, Chess, Mary Poppins, Phantom of the Opera and We will Rock You and others. There are flyers in the Church porch. Many thanks, Peter.

## **QUINBORNE CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT**

The Quinborne Choir will be returning to St. Hilda's on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. for their Autumn concert. This will be a real mix of sacred and secular music, ranging from Elgar to 'Oklahoma' and 'My Fair Lady'. There will also be solo items from a young flautist who has appeared with the choir before. There is traditionally a good audience for the choir at St. Hilda's so if you would like to come, please see Delia or Derek Latham, Lynda or Peter Webb for tickets.

**Please leave a space next to the porch entrance free at all times for those who have mobility challenges. In addition, a space is now available to the side of the Vicarage garage so as to prevent older members having to walk up from the car park. By request of the PCC.**

### **Useful contacts:**

Rev.d Paul Hinton	Vicar	0121 429 1384
Rev.d Mark Hopkins	Assistant Curate	0121 420 3185
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 ( <i>in training</i> )	07972 530161
Mrs Freddie Brogan	Parish Administrator (Mon & Thur 9am - 1pm)	07582 957364 administrator@sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk

# **St Hilda's Vision Day**

## **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**10am – 1pm**



**PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY  
AND PRAY FOR OUR VISION DAY.**

Every three years we get together as a church community and review what has been, give thanks for what is and ask for God's vision for what is to come. This is a day for all people at St Hilda's. Please pray that our hearts and eyes and ears and minds will be open to God's leading. And please come expecting this! **Two weeks before, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September, the church will be open from 10am-1pm for prayer for the Vision Day. Come and drop in and pray.**

## **LET US BUILD A HOUSE WHERE LOVE CAN DWELL AND ALL CAN SAFELY LIVE**

These are the opening words of a hymn we often sing at St Hilda's with great gusto and meaning. It is a hymn which seems to speak authentically of who we are and our vision of what it means to live together as followers of Jesus. Each verse concludes with the lines:

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, from 10am to 1pm, you are invited to come to St Hilda's to help reflect on the journey of faith we have been on together this last three years and to look with eager longing to the future under God's love.

Three years ago our vision day in June 2013 led us to commit to becoming a church which 'encourages passionate disciples'. I wonder how you have seen this working out in our life together? At that time we set out three aims. The first was to live as a people who really did encourage us to be compassionate people committed to following Jesus. Among other things, people have committed to serving at and giving to Smethwick Foodbank. We have also seen our outreach into the parish grow, especially with young families, through the ministry of Mandy Saunders as our Children's and Families' Missioner and the development of our Messy Mission. The second aim was to look seriously at our charitable giving and connections and what it meant to 'suffer together with' (one meaning of compassion). A huge amount of work happened that Autumn and we agreed as a church to commit more deeply and seriously to supporting the work of Christian Aid, Mission to Seafarers, The Children's Society, the Malawi Partnership and the Smethwick Food Bank. In addition we continued to support a local charity for the year. Fruits of this pruning are now being seen, especially through our connections with these five mission charities.

The final aim was to find practical ways to connect learning about discipleship with ways of serving. It was anticipated that we might develop a pattern of studying the bible together in 'table groups' in church which would link with service outside church. Perhaps this has been one of the most challenging aims to accomplish. But we have made some headway here too. In the past three years, as well as running Lent courses and 3D courses, we have also had special three-part evening sessions on challenging topics including dying well, learning more about loving and supporting people with mental health issues and listening to the witness of gay Christians. As you look back over these last three years I wonder what you would give thanks to God for? And I wonder what you would ask God to help us see, hear and know for the next three years? The hymn I mentioned at the beginning, speaks of building a house where...

- Prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew
- Love is found in water, wine and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet
- Hands will reach beyond wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach and live the Word they've known
- All are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured... built of tears and cries and laughter.

So, may the prophetic voice, of young and old, be heard on October 1<sup>st</sup>; a prophetic voice which brings the cries of people to God and the cry of God's heart to us, the people of God.

In preparation for October 1<sup>st</sup>, will you commit to praying:

*North, South, East and West, I ask this parish to be blessed. Earth below me, sky above, Creator fill this place with love.*

And, if you are able, drop in to Church on September 17<sup>th</sup> between 10-1 and pray for our Vision Day.

*Paul*



St Hilda's

A Dementia Friendly Church?

Saturday 5 November  
9am – 1pm  
In the Church Hall

*Come and join our workshop to find out about what it means to be a Dementia Friendly Church.*

All are welcome to attend this workshop which will be run by Rose Akeroyd.

# St Hilda's Calendar for 2016

September	Saturday 24th	St Hilda's Got Talent - 7.30 pm (Church)
October	Saturday 1st Sunday 2nd Saturday 8th Sunday 9th Saturday 15th	Vision Day - 10.00 am to 1.00 pm (Church Hall) Messy Church - 3.00 pm (Church Hall) Harvest Supper - 7.00 pm (Church Hall) Harvest Festival - 10.30am Parish Ramble - 1.30 pm - Martley Apple Orchards
	Sunday 30th	Commemoration Service - 6.30pm
November	Sunday 6th Saturday 12th Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 19th	Messy Church - 3.00 pm (Church Hall) Quinborne Choir Concert - 7.30 pm (Church) Remembrance Service - 10.30am Model Railway Exhibition - 10.00am (Church Hall)
	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 25th	Patronal Festival - 10.30am Parish Ramble - 12.30 pm - Aston Fields & Tardebigge
	Saturday 26th	Craft Fair (Church Hall) 11am (Michaela/Freddie)
	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Candlelit Advent Carols - 6.30pm
December	Saturday 3rd Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 5th Tuesday 6th	Quizmas Quiz - 7.00pm (Church Hall) Messy Church - 3.00 pm (Church Hall) Mandy Saunders - School activities (time TBC) Mandy Saunders - School activities (time TBC) Mrs Rushbury - Abbey Junior School Carol Concert/Christmas Celebration - 2.00pm
	Wednesday 7th Thursday 8th Friday 9th	Mandy Saunders - School activities (time TBC) Mandy Saunders - School activities (time TBC) Mandy Saunders - School activities (time TBC)
	Saturday 10th Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	John Barber - Concert (Church) 4pm - 10.00pm Nativity Play - 10.30 am (TBC) Crib Service - 3.00 pm Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight - 6.30pm (Church)
	Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Said Quiet Communion - 8.15 pm (Church) TBC Family Service with Communion - 10.30am Christmas Dinner - 12.30pm (Church Hall)
	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Ramble - 12.30 pm - Hartlebury Common/Stourport

CCL Licence No. 134913

**PLEASE TAKE BOOKLET AWAY WITH YOU**