

**Readings for this Sunday 21 February 2021**  
**The First Sunday of Lent**

1 Peter 3. 18-end  
Mark 1. 9-15



*Photo courtesy of Nigel Hall*

**Parish Register**

**Funerals**

2 March 2021 – Sandra Irene Dowden  
Landican Crematorium South Chapel at 2.30pm

3 March 2021 – John Kelly  
St Hildeburgh's at 10.30am  
Followed by burial at Frankby Cemetery

5 March 2021 – Alan Charles Pugh  
Landican Crematorium at 12noon

**Weekly Beacon**



**News from St Hildeburgh's**  
**The Parish Church of Hoylake**  
**Sunday 21 February 2021**  
**The First Sunday of Lent**

**The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Due to the pandemic situation, services in church have been suspended for the time being until further notice. The church remains open for private individual prayer as follows:

Mondays to Thursdays and Sundays from 10am to 12 noon

The church is closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

Services are available to view on line on our website. Please visit our website for up to date information as the situation changes.

[www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net) and on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/sthildeburgh>

### You can also access our online services on a smart TV:

You need to have a modern/"smart" TV set - these all come with **YouTube** as a built in application

Turn on the TV and select the "**YouTube**" app

From the menu that appears when the YouTube app opens, using your remote control, click on the search option (the search menu icon usually looks like a magnifying glass)

Using the remote control, select the letters on screen to form the words "**St Hildeburgh**", then click on "Search"

All our videos will appear in a list - with the most recent service film first. Click on this film using your remote control -the video will play full screen on the TV

## WEEKLY LENT DEVOTIONALS



Each week, throughout March, Revd Richard Skinner and Peter Ham will be giving a Lent Devotional reflection, as we approach, and prepare for, Easter. These 4 devotions will be available as videos, from Wednesday each week, online, on the Church website, Facebook page, Twitter page and also on YouTube, for those that have these facilities. If you don't have online access, a printed script or email of each Devotion can be obtained by calling or leaving a message for Peter on 07444884879.

As we approach one of the most important festivals in the Christian year, let us remember the death and resurrection of the Son of God: Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. 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.

**John 3; 16.**

### Wirral Foodbank

Thank you for your donations of food which have now been delivered to the Foodbank. The work of the Foodbank continues and your donations are needed more than ever. Please leave your donations in the porch at The Vicarage, 1 Stanley Road, Hoylake CH47 1HL.  
Thank You!

## VOYAGERS AT HOME

This week in Voyagers we looked at another of our favourite stories, Jesus feeding a hungry crowd.



We liked thinking about the little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus - it reminded us that we don't need to worry about the size of the challenges around us, we can just give what we can to Jesus.



We got busy with our felt tips drawing the big crowd!

Love and prayers,  
Christine

### **Saying Farewell to Bishop Keith**

After 14 years in post, Bishop Keith Sinclair will retire on 7 March 2021. In a letter to the Diocese, Bishop Mark invites us all to prepare for Bishop Keith's retirement and to take part in plans for his farewell. To read Bishop Mark's letter go to: [www.chester.anglican.org](http://www.chester.anglican.org)



### **ORDER YOUR MESSY CHURCH EASTER SPECIAL GOODY BAGS.**

If you know any primary aged children who might like one of our GOODY BAGS for Easter, please contact us on:

[messy.church@sthildeburgh.org](mailto:messy.church@sthildeburgh.org)

We will have time to prepare them before the Easter holidays. They will be COVID safe and with the child's age and gender in mind. No charge.

Each bag will contain crafts, games, activities, and an Easter story, as well as some tasty Easter Edibles!

For more information contact our Messy Church coordinators, Peter Ham or Jane Langley or phone/text 07444884879.

Thank-you to all those who have offered to put the GOODY BAGS together.

Many thanks.  
Peter and Jane

### **Beacon Bites!**

*Peter Ham writes:* With Spring on the way, and just over the horizon, some of the birding sounds and sights of warmer days, are starting already. To some, this little bird, pictured here, is rather dull and brown (I happen to think they look beautiful). However once they start singing high above us in the sky, they are immediately recognised as one of our iconic and most melodic birds. Even now, the Skylark can already be heard, along the front at Hoylake (which is where this was taken) and in a few weeks they will be endlessly bursting with song, defending territory and attracting mates; a real sign of Spring that goes on into the Summer.

I am sure it is birds like the Skylark, that the psalmist has in mind when we read

“Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young— a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.”

***Psalms 84:3 NIV***



Even birds have their place in the Kingdom of Heaven, and I'm sure Skylarks will be there among them.

## **FLOWER OF THE WEEK: FORSYTHIA** **41st in a series.**

***Text and photographs by Peter Surridge.***

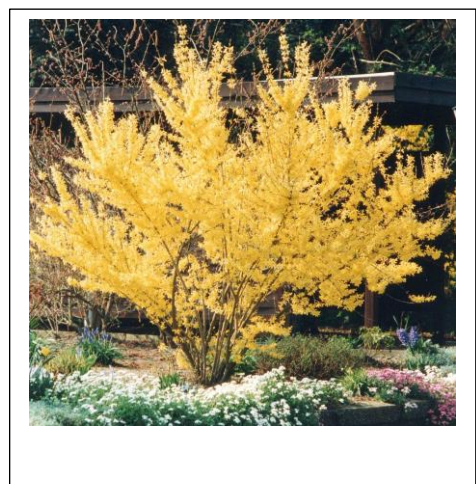
FORSYTHIA, above all other deciduous shrubs, brightens Britain's gardens in late winter. Its prominence is due to a number of factors: it is hardy, is easy to grow, long-lived, smothers itself in yellow flowers, and makes them appear more dazzling by producing them before its leaves unfurl. As a bonus, stems cut before the flowers open will quickly come into bloom in water indoors. There are shapes and sizes of forsythia to fit many garden situations – tall, upright bushes, hedging plants, arching types to train against a wall or fence, and low, spreading varieties. All thrive in full sun or partial shade and produce star-shaped, four-petaled flowers.

Most species of forsythia come from China but the most popular, *Forsythia x intermedia*, is a garden hybrid from which several varieties have been developed. The species is a convenient 1.5m (5ft) tall and wide. The larger 'Spectabilis' (pictured) is one of the most popular varieties. It is a stiff-branched, upright shrub reaching 3m (10ft) in height and 2m (6ft 6in) in spread, very free-flowering with rich yellow blooms. 'Lynwood' (pictured) is 3m (10ft) tall and wide. 'Karl Sax', not so tall, has deep yellow flowers and leaves that sometimes take on purple tints in autumn.

For the most prolific flower displays, avoid 'Arnold Giant' which has sparsely-borne blooms. For wall-training, choose *Forsythia suspensa*, which has elegant, arching branches and pale yellow flowers hanging downwards – a habit that gives rise to its nickname of golden bells. Where space is limited, plant one of the *intermedia* forms, 'Spring Glory', with pale flowers on a 1.8m (6ft) bush; 'Beatrix Farrand', deep yellow on a shrub of similar size; 'Golden Nugget', a 1.5m (5ft) variety; or 'Northern Gold', a little larger; or the exceptionally hardy 'Vermont Sun'.

Forsythia was named in honour of William Forsyth, superintendent of the Royal Gardens in London in the 18th century. To propagate the shrub, in June or July take cuttings 15cm (6in) long with two leaves at the top. Remove other leaves and cut below a leaf joint. Set the cuttings in a pot of gritty compost and put the pot inside a clear polythene bag in a shady, protected place outdoors. They should root by November at the latest.

Problems are few. Bird sometimes eat the buds, a fungal disease called lilac blight occasionally strikes, and unsightly galls are not uncommon but these are not harmful and can be pruned out. Perhaps the greatest risk comes from ill-informed gardeners who hack the bush back in summer, removing most of next year's incipient flowers.



**Top left:**  
*Forsythia x intermedia*  
'Lynwood'.

**Top right:**  
*Forsythia intermedia*  
'Spectabilis'.

**Left:**  
Forsythia grown against a  
house wall.

## **Citizens Advice Wirral**

Citizens Advice Wirral are pleased to continue to deliver information and advice to Wirral residents.

Our **Ask Us Wirral information and advice** service is being delivered by phone or email and includes specialist benefits, debt and housing advice.

To access Ask Us Wirral phone **0300 33 00 111** Please note the phone lines are likely to be busy and you may need to leave a message and our team can get back to you. If you can't get through on our local number, you can try national Citizens Advice number **03444 111 444**

You can also fill out our **webform** [www.askuswirral.org.uk/enquiry-webform/](http://www.askuswirral.org.uk/enquiry-webform/)

For **Information** about sick pay, your rights if you are off sick, self-isolating or home working and other useful information about what Coronavirus what it means to you go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/)

If you have now become unemployed or are self-employed but your income has dropped, please call our Help to Claim team on **0800 144 8 444**

## **Wirral Foodbank Vouchers**

If you need **Foodbank** Vouchers, please contact Citizens Advice **Wirral** on 0808 278 7848 or **Wirral** Council 0151 666 5050 (selecting option 1)

## **Contact St Hildeburgh's**

### **Vicar**

Rev'd PAUL ROSSITER

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### **Church Office**

e-mail: [sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com](mailto:sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com)  
Tel: 0151 632 5339

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## **Weekly Beacon**

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