

**Readings for this Sunday 25 April 2021**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4. 5-12  
John 10. 11-18



*Photo courtesy of Nigel Hall*

**Parish Register**

**Funerals**

**29 April 2021 – Eileen Billington**

Landican Crematorium at 11am. St Hildeburgh's church at 11.30am

**4 May – Adrienne Bird**

Landican Crematorium at 12 noon

**7 May – Mervyn Forbes Hudson**

Landican Crematorium South Chapel at 12.30pm

**Weekly Beacon**



**News from St Hildeburgh's**  
**The Parish Church of Hoylake**  
**Sunday 25 April 2021**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION – CHURCH SERVICES**

Unless the situation changes, Revd Paul will be conducting a service of Holy Communion each Sunday at 10am.

If you feel unable to come to church the Sunday service will still be available to view on line on our website [www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net) and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sthildeburgh> or you can view the service on a smart TV.

**Please DO NOT sit on the chairs with tape on the seats - the other chairs have been socially distanced in accordance with instructions. This is for everyone's safety in the current pandemic.**

**Face coverings must be worn in church at all times  
Please use the hand gel provided**

The church is open for individual private prayer Mondays to Thursdays 10am to 12 noon and Sundays after the 10am service until 12 noon.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The APCM will be held at 11am (after the 10am service) on Sunday 23 May 2021. The meeting will be held in church with social distancing in place.

### **St Hildeburgh's Electoral Roll**

In preparation for the APCM, our Electoral Roll Officer Roy Auld is reviewing the Electoral Roll. If you would like to have your name added to the Electoral Roll, please contact Roy or the Church Office for more details.

## **Covid Choirs – Worship in a Pandemic**

*I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Psalm 104:33*

One of the stable parts of acts of worship, across dozens of religions and denominations, is found in the use of music and singing. It has been commonplace in the Church for hundreds of years to have a cohort of choristers, formally attired in cassock and surplice, singing harmoniously together as both a performance and a supporting feature of a service. As the times have changed, and music has developed and evolved, these choirs have become something of a dying breed. However, they, and music in general, are still important parts of services across each denomination of Christianity, with members and leaders of worship being stalwart members of the church, and the wider community.

Today is no exception to this, with musicians, choristers and laypersons often taking time out of their busy lives to support worship and acting professionally week after week. Covid, lockdown, and the restrictive measures that we now face on a daily basis have impacted greatly on both the format of church services, and the ability of those individuals who support them week after week to do their jobs effectively, and as effortlessly as it may have previously seemed.

There have been so many changes that, at times, tough questions have arisen – Should we do this? How are we going to do it? Is it worth doing? Over recent weeks, we have had permission from the Church of England, the government, and the RSCM to reintroduce musical support of services, in particular singing. This was met with much joy by myself, the choir, the clergy and indeed many of the congregation – these feelings have been mirrored time and again across the country, as communities have been able to meet again, to worship together. However, as one would expect when in the middle of a global pandemic, this permission came with responsibilities and directives.

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The most telling of these rules is as follows:

*From the 28th March indoors: a single small group of singers will be allowed to perform... only where essential to an act of communal worship. This should be limited to as few singers as possible. Communal singing should not take place and strict physical distancing should be observed.*

As much as many desire the pleasure of a full choir singing every week, the guidance offered up by the Church of England simply will not allow it. We MUST only have a small group, limited to as few singers as possible. We are fortunate enough that we have been able to have our reduced choir, as it could well be argued that, in fact, a choir and singing is not essential to the service, which would mean that there would be no music at all. We also have to adhere to social distancing, and safe spacing, as singing is known to have a larger transmission distance than spoken word. This means that we must be very careful regarding space available; the recent funeral of Prince Philip had only 4 singers, within the body of St George's Chapel, and the most recent service from Chester Cathedral featured a lone chorister singing into a microphone.

We must also consider the safety implications of Covid, social distancing, and protecting our congregation, the wider community and the choristers themselves. Although it seems fairly simple to gather a small group of willing choristers, and having them perform, we must also consider the risks involved, and the measures we put in place to ensure their, and everyone else's, safety.

Firstly, choristers must adhere to a strict performance timetable (alternating weeks and sticking to this vocal bubble). These were decided on a number of weeks ago in preparation for being allowed to sing again. The choir and I are in communication multiple times a week, to monitor wellness and preparation for the service. On arrival at church, each choir member has a temperature check, which is recorded for traceability. They then take their seats, staying in their assigned positions until the end of the service. They must keep their masks on at all times, only removing them when singing, and returning them as soon as they have retaken their seats.

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Please remember that, although we may long to see our full choir together again, at the moment it is simply not allowed. This is not any fault of the choir, the clergy or myself – it is the rules given to us by the Church of England. It is also, especially at the moment, the safest option. The choir are doing an excellent job, especially as it is not their profession, and they are giving up their own time for the support of our church.

Written by Rob Shannon, Director of Music

## **VOYAGERS AT HOME**

This Sunday in Voyagers we read some more stories of the risen Jesus meeting his disciples. We talked about some of the reasons they might have been afraid or found it hard to believe. It was really encouraging to see how patient Jesus was with the disciples in their struggles, and how he reassured them - he is just the same for us today, telling us "peace, do not be afraid."

Love and prayers.

Christine.



## **FLOWER OF THE WEEK: BERBERIS**

### **50th in a series**

*Text and photographs by Peter Surridge.*

Charles Darwin, during his famous voyage on the original Beagle, discovered a barberry shrub in Chile in 1835 which has become one of the most decorative and useful in British gardens – and around them. The plant, named after Darwin, *Berberis darwinii*, makes a handsome shrub or a dense, prickly hedge, producing golden flowers in spring and purple berries in autumn. Most berberis are evergreen and look attractive all year. The dark foliage, like miniature holly leaves, is glossy after rain and even prettier when frost patterns the leaves.

Darwin's discovery is just one of 450 species that are native to different continents across the northern hemisphere - from great, arching shrubs to miniature specimens for the rock garden. The word berberis comes from *berberys*, the Arab word for the fruit. Virtually all bloom in April or May, with clusters of small, cup-shaped flowers in shades from yellow to deep orange-red. The berries vary from blue-black to red or yellow. The leaves of some turn red, yellow or bronze in autumn.

There are many other outstanding kinds for all sizes of garden. *Berberis bristolensis* is a wide-spreading shrub, 1.5m tall and 1.8m across (5ft x 6ft) with yellow flowers followed by pale blue berries and crimson leaves in autumn. *Berberis linearifolia*, is an upright, stiff-branched evergreen with apricot flowers and blue-black fruit, reaching 2m (6ft 6in) in height. Closely planted, it can form a formidable, informal barrier. The variety Orange King (pictured) has paler flowers and arching branches. *Berberis x stenophylla*, is a hybrid with Darwin's discovery in its parentage. It makes a magnificent evergreen hedge, growing to 4.5 metres (15ft) – though it can be readily restricted by pruning – and spreading graceful, curving branches smothered in buttercup-yellow flowers which are loved by bees. *Berberis Goldilocks* (pictured) is a large shrub reaching 4m (12ft) with profuse, dark gold flowers. There are also forms small enough for a rock garden. *Berberis buxifolia Nana* is a neat 30cm (12in) plant.

As mountain plants, barberries like well-drained soil but do not need any special feeding. They can be propagated from cuttings taken in summer. They are generally free from pests and diseases though powdery mildew and aphids can be a problem. The berries, as well as all others parts of the plant, can cause mild stomach upset if eaten and contact with the thorns can cause skin irritation in some people.



**Left:**  
Formidably  
thorny...Ber  
beris  
linearifolia  
Orange  
King.



**Right: Free-**  
flowering....  
Berberis  
Goldilocks.

### **TRIBUTE TO “INSPIRATIONAL” EILEEN**

Eileen Billington, who died on Easter Eve at the age of 93, was one of St Hildeburgh's staunchest worshippers and supporters over many years. She was an active member of the Guild, in her attendance at church and at church functions and lunches, and always eager to take part in the Lenten courses which were held over many years. Her faith in Jesus Christ was fervent and unshakeable; she was patient, kind and considerate to all.

When St Hildeburgh's lifts-to-church service for those with transport or mobility problems was proposed, Eileen and her late husband, Derrick, were among the first to volunteer as drivers. Then, many years later and after Derrick's death, Eileen herself became a cheerful and appreciative passenger in other drivers' cars.

During the Covid-19 pandemic she had been mainly confined to her flat in West Kirby but accepted her isolation with good humour and understanding, following St Hildeburgh's services online, keeping in touch with friends by phone and keeping up to date by reading a printed copy of the Weekly Beacon sent to her by post each week.

Eileen had four children, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, a loving family for whom she was “inspirational”. The funeral will take place on Thursday, April 29, at 11am at Landican Crematorium and 11.30am at St Hildeburgh's. Numbers are limited to 30 and all are likely to be taken by the family.

*Peter Surridge*

# Check in & Chat Service

Since the onset of the Covid19 lockdown, Wirral Mind has responded by offering welfare telephone calls to those people who feel isolated, lonely, anxious and afraid due to being unable to access our services and others.

Our Check-in and Chat call operatives are on hand to provide practical and emotional support, for anything from accessing emergency food supplies and medicines to alleviating loneliness and isolation. We endeavour to ensure that people are getting the help they need during lockdown periods and beyond; we are especially concerned about reaching those people who may not be in contact with other services or social networks.



We have tried to target services to those struggling because of loss of employment, bereavement and social isolation derived from the pandemic.

Our ultimate aim is to encourage people to access services in person when it is safe to do so, until that can happen we have developed a range of digital workshops, training and peer support groups that will promote and encourage future social networks, reduce feelings of isolation and equip people with the skills and tools that will build resilience.

## To make a referral:

Please contact us on 0151 512 2200 or email [learning@wirralmind.org.uk](mailto:learning@wirralmind.org.uk)

Our phone lines are open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm



[www.wirralmind.org.uk](http://www.wirralmind.org.uk)  
Registered charity no. 1864887



## Contact St Hildeburgh's

Vicar  
Rev'd PAUL ROSSITER

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Tel: 0151 632 5339

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## Weekly Beacon

If you wish to contribute an article or place a notice in the Weekly Beacon please e-mail [sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com](mailto:sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com)

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