

**Readings for this Sunday: 29 March**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Romans 8. 6-11  
John 11. 1-45

**Parish Register**

**Funerals**

1 April - Anthony James Archibald Evans

7 April - Joanne Warburton

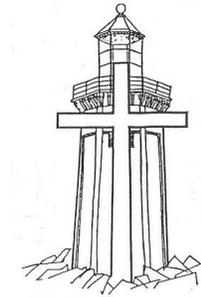
**Jenny White**

It is with deep sadness that we have been informed of the death of Jenny White who passed away on the 8 March in the presence of her family. Jenny served as Secretary of the PCC for a number of years here at St Hildeburgh's. Her funeral will take place in Worthing at 2.40pm on Monday 31 March. Please remember Jenny at that time in your prayers and think of her husband Mel at this sad time.

**Donations**

Donations can still be taken to help with St Hildeburgh's mission – please contact Rev'd Paul on 632 3897

# Weekly Beacon



## News from St Hildeburgh's The Parish Church of Hoylake

**Sunday 29 March 2020**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**THE COLLECT FOR TODAY**

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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.

## **An Open Letter from Bishop Keith**

Dear Friends,

24 March 2020

I think we are all in a state of shock after the announcement from the Prime Minister last night, however much we thought it might come to this. We know from the experience of countries around the world that this is only the next stage in an unfolding crisis unlike anything we have seen in our lifetime. Please listen for the updated guidance and look at the diocesan website every day; our Director of Communication Jim Butterworth is doing a great job in getting the right information to us quickly as soon as it becomes available. A dedicated web page has an archive of key statements, policies, and information, and a newly created bulletin, Coronavirus Briefing, will be sent out to the diocese on a regular basis to keep you informed. If you haven't ready subscribed to this, please do so here.

The great truth is that though the church buildings are closed and our movements restricted, the church of Jesus Christ is never closed. In fact, the church is more open than ever. To see some of the live streaming from last Sunday and hear the stories of what is going on in communities in very different places is a gift of real hope.

I'm praying as we are now at home, that home itself, around a table perhaps, will become even more the centre of worship and prayer. Just reading a psalm or other part of the Bible together and praying would be great. We are hoping to let you know about more resources very soon, including resources for children and young people.

Today's psalm set for the Holy Communion in the Church of England's daily readings is Psalm 46, which could not be more appropriate.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble."  
And especially verse 2 "Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea."

The well-known hymn "O God our help in ages past" is based on this psalm, and the more modern chant based on verse 10 of the psalm "Be still and know that I

am God" and the other two verses of that song "I am the Lord that healeth thee" and "In You O Lord I put my trust". These words are still true, and not just for us, so please, when we pray, can we pray them for those in our link dioceses in Melanesia and Aru and Boga in DR Congo.

Whatever these days bring, and however the Lord calls us to show his love and care, and however we may support those in the front line of our care in the NHS and other places, these words that close Psalm 46 remain his promise to us, "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge".

With love in Christ,

+Keith

## **A note from the Vicar Rev'd Paul**

What a difference a few weeks has made to all our lives. If you had told me even a few weeks ago that we would be distancing ourselves and in the middle of a worldwide pandemic I wouldn't have believed you. Yet here we are in a strange and frightening place. Last Sunday when we would have celebrated Mothering Sunday, we were instead called to a national day of prayer. The Church asked us to place a lighted candle in our windows as a sign of hope. A candle reminding us that Jesus is the light that no darkness can put out and nothing can ever dim that flame of light and love. Even though we cannot gather together we can continue to pray and intercede on behalf of each other. It is especially important that we pray for our NHS working under pressure and doing all they can to save lives. God bless them in all they do and let us pray for God's protection. I am reminded of the words from the Book of Isaiah, and it is based on four verses from the Chapter 43.

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.*

*I have called you by your name;  
you are mine.*

*When you walk through the waters,  
I'll be with you;*

*you will never sink beneath the waves.*

Your friend Rev Paul.

## **CORONAVIRUS SELF-ISOLATION BUDDY SYSTEM**

All with a persistent new cough or a fever are asked to self-isolate for 7 days. In the coming weeks everyone over 70 may be asked to self-isolate even if well. It is important that we all follow guidance to protect both ourselves and others.

Health service resources are limited (especially ventilators and staff) so it is important that spread of the virus is kept to levels the health service can fully manage and to limit the suffering it causes. Self-isolation may cause difficulty for some. Those living alone could feel lonely and even if you are not alone, perhaps all the household need to self-isolate so obtaining food, paracetamol etc is a problem.

We are setting up a buddy system to help with this. A buddy would be someone who you can phone either for practical help (going to the shops for you) or just for a chat. Deliveries would need to be left at your door as the buddy could not come in but would have your phone number to tell you the delivery is outside.

Please think now about how you would cope if self-isolating. You may have a nearby relative but they may be in isolation when you call them so I would recommend you have 2 people you could call for support.

Would you like a buddy from the church community whom you could call for support either practical or a chat? If so contact me – Sue Wells 6320539 /07742996985 [smw@fontium.demon.co.uk](mailto:smw@fontium.demon.co.uk) and I will pair you up with a volunteer buddy.

Also if you are below 70 and willing to be a buddy to support others as above please get in touch with me. I am sure in the weeks/months ahead there will be those who need our help. We need to pull together in this difficult time.

Sue Wells

## **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**

**ARE YOU SELF-ISOLATING?**



**Across Wirral we are offering:**

**Shopping & Delivery  
Telephone Befriending  
Wellbeing Checks  
Information & Reassurance**

**To request support ring 0151 482 3456  
(Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)**

**To volunteer to help – [www.ageukwirral.org.uk](http://www.ageukwirral.org.uk)**

**Priority to be given to people aged 70+ living alone**

## Light a Virtual Candle



You can light a virtual candle by going to the Church of England's website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org). Enter the words 'light a candle' in the search box in the top righthand corner of the screen. Click on the search icon and then click on the heading 'Light a Candle' then follow the links to light your virtual candle.

## A prayer for us all

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**



## Our Voyagers – working from home!



This Sunday we talked about Jesus as the light even when things are dark or scary. At 7 we followed the Archbishop of Canterbury's suggestion, lighting candles in our windows. We used this prayer:

"I travel this world by sunlight, seeing the way I should go;  
I travel this world by moonlight, trusting its silvery glow;  
I travel this world by starlight, looking to heaven above;  
I walk through this old world's darkness, safe in the light of God's love. "

Take care,  
Christine

**Acts 4:24** And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them..."



**Peter Ham writes:**

It's striking that when the apostles Peter and John healed a lame man, the Jewish leaders interrogated them but after they could find no fault in them, they were released. The people around saw that this mighty work, done in the name of Jesus, was truly of God. And the first thing they did was "praise the sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them." In other words they praised the God of creation.

All my life I have loved animals, and my first real wildlife book at the age of 6 or 7 was on the life cycle of the beautiful butterfly, the Orange Tip. Since then it's been my firm favourite, over and above all other animals. Only later in life would I meet the creator God, responsible for such beauty; the same God that the people in Acts 4: 24 spontaneously praised for His creation!

Look out for this remarkably stunning butterfly in your gardens over the next few weeks. Only the male has the Orange tips, looking as though they've been dipped in bright paint. They are one of the first of the butterflies to emerge into the warmer Spring days, from their overwintering chrysalis. As adults, they don't last for long, the females quickly laying eggs which soon hatch into hungry caterpillars. But they are a sure sign to us of the beauty to come, once again, next year. Let us, like the people in Acts 4 give thanks to our God for His wondrous creation.

## **Church Services**

In line with national directives, we regret that all services in church have been postponed for the time being.

Rev'd Paul is available and you can contact him on 632 3897. He has tried to contact everyone but there may be some people he has missed.

## **St Hildeburgh's Church Service On Line – Watch this Space**

Last Sunday – 22 March – Nigel Hall filmed Rev'd Paul conducting a service of Holy Communion in Lent.

You can view this service via our website – [www.sthildeburgh.org](http://www.sthildeburgh.org) Then click on 'StHildeburgh's Parish Church Hoylake – Home' to take you to the Home Page. At the top of that screen click on 'on line services'. A box will appear with the title Holy Communion Mothering Sunday. Click on the arrow in the middle of the box to start the video. There are a few stops and starts in the video due to a low battery but please bear with it. The video is also available on Facebook at [facebook.com/sthildeburgh](https://facebook.com/sthildeburgh)

Nigel Hall has been working hard on our website and has included a virtual prayer board for you to add your own individual prayers. As from this week your Weekly Beacon will be available on the website – so visit us soon.



# SOUP DELIVERY



**St Hildeburgh's is offering  
to make deliveries of hot soup  
to those in isolation  
in Hoylake.**

**If you would like a delivery,  
or would like more information,  
please contact one  
of our churchwardens:**

**Jane 07743 090210**

**Nancy 07990 521158**

**Rob Shannon writes-**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34 (reading for Morning Prayer 29 March 2020)**

A New Commandment

The assigned reading for this week seems oddly appropriate in that it discusses the importance of faith in hard times, and that "days are coming" when this shall be put to the test through hardship and the need for forgiveness. In recent weeks, the only thing which has been predominantly in people's minds has been the outbreak of Covid-19 and the impact which it is having, both around the United Kingdom and globally. Children, the elderly, the sick, the strong - everyone has had to fall in line with expectations of daily life and routines.

Yet, still every news report and social media channel is full of references to those who do not seem to be taking heed of the importance of given mandates - stay indoors, isolate for your safety, and the safety of others. If this were not bad enough, it has also shone a light into the dark places of society, as seen in the responses that have been flying thick as arrows.

I read such a comment just this morning declaring "I hope that your family are the next ones to be diagnosed". This is the point that faith and forgiveness MUST be at the forefront. To wish, demand, such a punishment on someone who, admittedly, is defying both government advice and common sense, is in itself the height of cruelty.

This passage from Jeremiah talks about God and his mission for all peoples to know Him, as one nation, and brings to mind the hymn *A New Commandment*.

*A new commandment, I give unto you,  
that you love one another, as I have loved you.  
That you love one another, as I have loved you.  
By this shall men know that you are my disciples.  
If you have love one for another.  
By this shall men know that you are my disciples.  
If you have love one for another.*

continued.....

What may seem an unforgivable act now is, at the end of the day, nowhere near as grand as the forgiveness carried out by God for all eternity. Let us hope that these times do not drive our nation to hatred of their neighbours for their actions, but rather to an understanding of the levels of forgiveness required within our faith.

*"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive, is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us, and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies."* Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Rob Shannon, Director of Music.**

### **Happy Birthday Evan**



***Liz Ardu's grandson,  
Evan, was due to be  
baptised at  
StHildeburgh's on  
Mothering Sunday.***

***This has been put on  
hold for the time being –  
but he still managed to  
have a great birthday!***

### **Contact St Hildeburgh's**

#### **Vicar**

**Rev'd PAUL ROSSITER**

The Vicarage, 1 Stanley Road, Hoylake, Wirral CH47 1HL

Tel: 0151 632 3897. E-mail: [p.a.rossiter@uwclub.net](mailto:p.a.rossiter@uwclub.net)

#### **Church Office**

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

### **Follow St Hildeburgh's**

#### **Church Website**



[www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net)



[facebook.com/sthildeburgh](https://facebook.com/sthildeburgh)



[@StHildeburgh](https://twitter.com/StHildeburgh)

### **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) by 12 noon on a **Wednesday**.

All advertising and notices are accepted at the discretion of the Editor. **Photograph policy.** We frequently take photographs at St Hildeburgh's for publicity purposes – such as printing in this "Weekly Beacon". If for any reason you would prefer us not to use photographs of any children who may accompany you to church, please mention this to our Vicar, Rev'd Paul Rossiter.