



July 2026 News

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Summer St Hilda's quarterly news bulletin.

Special services and events this quarter:

*Screening of 'The people's emergency briefing' – Friday 11th
September 6:45-8:45pm*

See the Eco church news on page 3 for more details.

*Celebration of animals and pet blessing: Sunday 13th September
10:30am*

Our annual family service where you can bring your pets, or photos of them , for a special blessing. The service will also enable us to think and pray about how we live alongside our creature companions as part of the season of Creationtide.

Choral Evensong: Sunday October 4th 6:30pm

The music will be led for this service to mark the end of Creationtide by a group from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Eco Church July Update

It was encouraging to see that, after completing the Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool, our carbon footprint had fallen



by one tonne compared with the previous year. The tool helps us monitor energy use in both the church and hall while also contributing to a national picture of how churches are reducing their environmental impact.

We were also delighted when Pamela offered to lead a guided wildflower walk around our church grounds. It was fascinating to discover the variety of plants growing around us - some so small that they are easily overlooked. Thank you to everyone who joined us and we hope to run some more in the future. The Eco Group is now developing a Land Management Plan to help us identify ways to increase biodiversity across our church grounds, creating an even richer habitat for wildlife. We will be looking for volunteers to help with some land management in the autumn!

Our recent parish litter pick was another great success - despite the 30°C heat! We were especially pleased that all three Bearwood councillors joined us. As well as helping to keep our streets clean, it was a great opportunity to have positive conversations about the issues affecting our community. Our next litter pick will take place on Thursday 6 August at 10.00am, meeting on Barclay Road. Please see the church website or speak to a member of the Eco Group for more information.

Looking ahead, we hope you'll join us on Sunday 30 August at 8pm for a special Bat Night to celebrate International Bat Night. Spend a relaxed hour in our church gardens as we watch for bats emerging at dusk and learn more about these remarkable creatures. There will be a bat-themed quiz and refreshments. Our church grounds can provide valuable habitats for wildlife, and this event is a wonderful opportunity to discover how we can care for nature right on our doorstep. Everyone is very welcome - come along and see what takes flight after dark!

Finally, please save the date for Friday 11 September at 6.45pm-8:45pm, when we will be hosting a public screening of the People's Emergency Briefing. This accessible and thought-provoking film brings together leading UK scientists and experts to explain the latest evidence about climate change and what it means for everyday life, including extreme weather, food security, health and the cost of living.

Based on the National Emergency Briefing held in Westminster last year and featuring contributors including Chris Packham and Deborah Meaden, the film aims not only to explain the challenges we face but also to highlight practical solutions and reasons for hope. Whether climate and environmental issues are something you follow closely or you're simply curious to learn more, everyone is welcome. After the screening there will be an informal discussion about what it means for our local community and the positive actions we can take together. We intend to invite our MP and other local leaders to be part of the conversation.

Finally, thank you to everyone who continues to support, encourage and pray for the work of the Eco Group. Your involvement, whether through practical action, prayer or simply taking an interest, helps us to care for God's creation while strengthening our connections with both our local community and the natural world.

James, Parish Environmental Contact

Scriptural Reasoning with the Dialogue Society

A few of us have taken part in Scriptural Reasoning with Muslim neighbours and we are looking forward to more evenings together this quarter. We usually share some food and then look at scriptures from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Qur'an, sharing thoughts, questions and ideas. The group is open to anyone – you don't need to be an expert or scholar! Dates for this quarter are; 19th July.

For more information please ask Jenni.

Conservatoire concerts

We are pleased to say that concerts given by Conservatoire students will continue in this Spring. They offer the chance to hear a wide range of music, from classical to folk and jazz, with free entry. However, donations are welcome to help cover costs of heating and performer expenses. There is the chance to talk to these very talented musicians over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits after their recitals, which you will not get in a concert hall!

The concerts last between 45 minutes and one hour. They take place twice a month on the second Friday, starting at 13.00 on the last Saturday, starting at 19.30. Students like giving recitals at St.Hilda's, because we have excellent acoustics, a lovely piano and they feel welcomed. The dates for this quarter are; Saturday 25th July and Saturday 26th September.

Stephen Crewes, a Conservatoire graduate, will give a piano recital on Saturday 5th September at 7:30pm, performing the Rachmaninov preludes Op. 32.

If you wish to be kept up to date about concerts, please contact sthildasconcerts@gmail.com and we will add you to our mailing list.

Rambles

The St Hilda's rambler group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month. If you'd like to join one of the walks please contact Julie Batham (details on the back page) for more information.

Youth group: Second Sunday of the month, 5:30-7:30pm

Open to anyone in school years 7-11, we meet monthly for food, creativity, conversation and games. Our dates for this quarter are: 13th September and 11th October.



Open Church: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays

Church will be continue to be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays between 9:30 and 5pm.

Worship and Prayer at St Hilda's

Sundays at 10:30am – 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday family service

Tuesdays at 9am – Morning Prayer (in the choir vestry)

Wednesdays at 10:00am – Holy Communion or occasionally Morning Prayer (in the choir vestry).

On the third Friday of the month at 10am is Breathing Space, a time to practise the ancient Christian tradition of contemplative silent prayer. It is an invitation to simply be present with God. To discover God's peace in a noisy world. And when we are at peace we might create ripples of peace in the world around us". All are welcome to join others in the choir vestry (entry through the church's back door) on: 21st August, 18th September 10am - 10.45am. If you want to know more please speak to Fran.

October 26 News sheet

If you'd like to have anything included in the next newsletter please email it to Jenni by 29th September.

Paper copies of this bulletin are available in the church. If you would like a printed copy sent to your home please let Jenni know.

The Hut

The Scouts left last year and now we have a vacant building on our site. The hut has it's own small kitchen and toilets, electricity supply as is separate from the hall and church. The PCC are inviting the congregation and community to think about what it could be used for.

List of non negotiables;

- It needs to be financially sustainable.
- Cause of conflict with parking (i.e. 6 cars during hall and church's busiest times)
- Minimal noise, with no activities after 10pm.
- It can't be aimed at ex-offender groups with folk who might be on child sex register (because of the amount of children's groups in the hall)
- No groups/activities that are not in line with church ethos and mission values.

The hut needs a lot of work! We are open to partnering with a charity, social enterprise or organisation and will seek funding for the work that needs to be done to make it fit for it's next purpose.

Questions we'd love you to think and pray about, and answer on the board at the back of church (or email to the Church Wardens or Jenni);

Where is the 'treasure' in our communities? What gifts, skills and assets do we have?

What are the needs of our communities?

What do you think God might be saying to us about how the hut could be used?

Useful Contacts

Rev'd. Jenni Crewes	Vicar (day off Monday)	07377363915 or 0121 429 1384 revjennicrewes@gmail.com
Mother Diane Reeves	Curate (working days Wednesday- Sunday)	07977464696 dianereeves89@gmail.com
Mrs Julie Batham	Churchwarden	07931133951, juliebatham60@gmail.com
Mr Ian Dickinson	Churchwarden	07950666654, ian_fatbudgie@hotmail.com
Mrs Fran Ellis	Reader	0121 429 6267
Liz and Jon	CAMEO	sthildascameo@gmail.com
James Atkinson	Eco Church PEC	jda85@hotmail.com
Enquires about hiring hall or church		sthildasbooking@gmail.com
Safeguarding Team		07946 147 703 https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding
<u>Safeguarding information</u> 1. Never promise to keep a secret. 2. Assure the person that what they say will be taken seriously. 3. You might say "I will have to talk about what you have told me to the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Vicar or the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor, and this will be with as much confidentiality as is possible". http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html		

For weekly notices see our weekly pewsheet on Sundays. You can also download it at www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Hilda-Warley-Woods



St Hilda's is proud to be a member of the Inclusive Church Network.