

2020-11-18 Video Reflection for mid-week message ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt

Hello, it's Revd Judy here with a message on 18th November 2020. I hope that you are OK in this second lockdown – do please get in touch if not

Are you someone who fills your diary with the birthdays or special anniversaries of friends? I try and write them in red in my new diary at the beginning of the year so that I don't miss them

Or indeed do you have a special diary just to note these people or events on the correct date?

The Church has this kind of diary ... it has the main Saints' days but also many others. When I look at today – 18th November, one caught my eye: **Elizabeth of Hungary** – described as a philanthropist from the early 13th century – you might like to look her up. This is part of what one of her friends wrote about her:

She set up a building where the sick who had no resources could come. She visited them several times a day, consoling them and encouraging them. She sold her own jewels so that she could meet their needs. She paid the most loving care to the worst cases amongst the children – the deformed, the dirtiest, the weakest, those suffering from the most repulsive illnesses.

You'll recall how Jesus said: **“Let the children come to me and do not stop them”**...

How can we do that in 2020? We can support and pray for the work of Messy Church here in Fauls, Tilstock and Whitchurch and we can support the work of the Children's Society. If you don't have a Collecting box for the Children's Society – let me know and we'll get one to you! And look out for how we're going to have our Christingle Service this year on 6th December and how you can give to the Children's Society through that or on line.

In 2021, they will be starting a new project in North Shropshire – based in Oswestry and Whitchurch working on mental health for children and young people: running 'understanding emotions and resilience' workshops in the secondary schools and primary schools in both towns. They will also be running 'walk in' sessions in both towns. So let's support them by prayer and funding – and in any other ways we can.

A prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for the example of Elizabeth of Hungary and many others since her time in the way that expresses Christian discipleship, love and practical care.

Help each of us to know how to respond to your call to do likewise. And we pray that you would prosper the work of the Children's Society in this area and throughout the country.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Thanks for watching / listening