

# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



## CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

25 DECEMBER 2023

<https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/>

*Welcome to St Hilda's. We are delighted that you are able to share in our morning worship today,*

*If you are new to the church please do take time to introduce yourself to the people at the back of the church and to the ministry team at the end of the service. We would be delighted to meet you.*

*If you are able please join us for tea or coffee after the service so we can get to know one another.*

*Should you need any help during the service please do not hesitate to ask those around you and we are sure they will be able to support you.*

*There is a children's corner in the north aisle which children are very welcome to use.*

# THE GATHERING

## Introit Hymn

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of angels:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
*Refrain*

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*Refrain*

Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?  
*Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
*Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing.  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

*[Latin 18th century  
tr. Frederick Oakeley and others]*

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

*Words of welcome or introduction are said.*

## The Christmas Candle

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

*(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

The new light of your incarnate Word  
gives gladness in our sorrow,  
and a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,  
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*(We light the fifth candle, to mark the Birth of Christ)*

People of God: shout and sing!  
Tell the good news of peace on earth.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.  
All God's people shout:

**All Amen!**

Angels dance and the bright star shines.  
All creation bows to the Lord of all.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.  
All God's people shout:

**All Amen!**

One with us, yet born to save,  
he will show us the way to God.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.  
All God's people shout:

**All Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:

**All Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Amen.**

## Invitation to confession

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
We have sinned:

**All forgive and heal us.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**The Collect** - *The Collect for the week is said after a moment of silence*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

**All Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 9 vv 2 - 7**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading – Titus 2 vv 11 - 14**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading** – Luke 2 vv 1 - 14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

### The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

*The prayers end with the following:*

Merciful Father

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

## The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Offertory Hymn

*During this hymn a collection will be taken*

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.**

**'Fear not,' said he, (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind**

**'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'**

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
    Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
    Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
    And on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
    Begin and never cease.'

*[Nahum Tate]*

*The table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

**All Amen.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,  
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,  
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;  
Hosanna in the Highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit ☩,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

*Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith

*All*

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice

made once for the sins of the whole world;

rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming in glory,

we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,

we bring before you this bread and this cup

and we thank you for counting us worthy

to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people

and gather into one in your kingdom

all who share this one bread and one cup,

so that we, in the company of all the saints,

may praise and glorify you for ever,

through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,

for ever and ever.

*All*

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
And as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**All** Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

## **Giving of Communion**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**All** Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*The president and people receive communion.*

*At St Hilda's, we welcome communicant members of all churches to receive Holy Communion. Alternatively, you are invited to receive a personal blessing. If you would like a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest to help us know your intention. Come one, come all!*

## Prayers after Communion

*Silence is kept after which the Post-Communion prayer is said.*

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**All Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

**All Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

God rest you merry, gentlemen.

Let nothing you dismay.

Remember Christ our Saviour

Was born on Christmas Day.

To save us all from Satan's power

When we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,*

*Comfort and joy!*

*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father

A blessed angel came,

And unto certain shepherds

Brought tidings of the same,

How that in Bethlehem was born

The Son of God by name:

*Refrain*

**And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Saviour lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling down,  
Unto the Lord did pray:**

***Refrain***

**Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other new embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth deface  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!***

*[Traditional]*

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 10am

The Sunday morning service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page Following the teaching of 'Loving thy Neighbour' - If you feel unwell, we ask that you do not attend church in person so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services: the Sunday morning service is livestreamed and can also be viewed later our Facebook page.

### **Please remember in your prayers this week:**

#### **THE SICK:**

Michael Brown	Melvyn Jansen	David
Lizio Cassar	Pat Kyle	Elaine
Ros Clifton	Finley Makriel	Rachel
Saffi Cobham	Ray Nation	Solange
Joan Davies	Lena Richardson	

*If you would like a name added to or removed from the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office. If you know of someone ill or in hospital in need of prayer and support please tell our LLM Rosalyn Young (contact details on back cover).*

#### **THE RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Peter Garner

#### **THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK**

Alexander Milton	Isobel Johnson	Dorothy Madeline Smith
Louie Maud Batchelor	Alfred George Barnes	Leonard Lambert
Edward George Clayton	Elsie Goodbarne	Eva Frances Voysey
Herbert Salter	Verna Rose Bembridge	Brenda Eaglestone

**Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula**

## NOTICES

**\*\*\* No Community Lunch this week \*\*\***

Please note that there will be no Community Lunch this week.  
They will resume at noon on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

**Can EVERYONE help us with January's Messy Church?**

At the back of church is a small Jar and a box of small strips of coloured paper. Could you sign your CHRISTIAN name on one slip of paper and put it in the jar. Ideally we would like every member of the congregation including little people to take part.

**\* No Bible Study Group this week - next meeting 3rd January \***

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm.  
We are currently using an Advent-to Epiphany course: you are very welcome to come and join us even if for just one session.

**Ambling through Acts course –Thursday 4th January**

(7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month)

Everyone is very welcome to attend. There will be refreshments at the end. We finish by saying Compline (Night Prayer) together round about 9pm. I hope to see you there. Please bring a bible – ideally the NRSV, but any version will do.

**Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday 9th January at 12.15pm**

### **St Hilda's Newsletter**

The latest issue of the Newsletter is available via the St. Hilda's web site (under "About Us"). We put a few printed copies at the back of church: please leave these for people without internet access and for visitors.

Contributions have been so few that we will be producing this every two months instead of monthly, and unless more people provide material the Newsletter will end.

**This is your magazine -if you want it to continue, start writing!**

The deadline for items for the **February/March** issue is **Sunday 7th**

**January 2024**. Please send your contributions to: [editor@sthilda.org](mailto:editor@sthilda.org)

### **Help Wanted**

The team serving refreshments after Sunday services would appreciate more help. If you can volunteer please speak to Valerie Scott or Paula.

The cleaning team would also appreciate more help: they usually work on Thursday mornings at 10.30am. If you can spare about an hour every week or two, or occasionally, please speak to Rosemary Greenwood or Chris Holliday.

**The Parish Office** is available by phone or email.

Any appointments in person must be booked.

Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman. Her office hours are:

Monday:	3.30-5pm
Wednesday:	3.30-6.30pm
Thursday	6.30-9.30pm
Saturday:	9.45-11.15am

## Praying for peace in Israel and Gaza

*Bishop Sarah encourages us to join in with Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem, who has offered the following prayer:*

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



# Contact Information

## Vicar

*Vacant*

## Licenced Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young [rosalyn@sthilda.org](mailto:rosalyn@sthilda.org)

## Churchwarden

Paula Gething

## PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: [secretary@sthilda.org](mailto:secretary@sthilda.org)

## PCC Treasurer

Vicky Palmer

[treasurer@sthilda.org](mailto:treasurer@sthilda.org)

## Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

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## The Parish Office:

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