

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

21 JANUARY 2024

<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.

For children, Junior Church meets in the Church Hall during the first part of the service, and there is a children's corner in the north aisle which they are very welcome to use.

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

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

**Christ is the King! O friends rejoice!
Brothers and sisters, with one voice
Make all men know he is your choice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The first Apostles round them drew
Thousands of faithful men and true,
Sharing a faith for ever new:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Then magnify the Lord, and raise
Anthems of joy and holy praise
For Christ's brave saints of ancient days:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O Christian women, Christian men,
All the world over, seek again
The Way disciples followed then:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Christ through all ages is the same:
Place the same hope in His great name,
With the same faith His word proclaim:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let Love's unconquerable might
God's people everywhere unite
In service to the Lord of light.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

[George Bell]

The Greeting

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

All Amen

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

Words of welcome or introduction are said; we pray with Junior Church.

Prayer of Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
All and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

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

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Genesis 14 v 17 – 20

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,

'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
maker of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'

And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Revelation 19 v 6 – 10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

'Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;

to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure’—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – John 2 v 1 – 11

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples
had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave
out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’
And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you
and to me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to
the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,
who has brought us out of darkness
and into his own marvellous light.

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

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

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

**From the eastern mountains pressing on they come,
Wise men in their wisdom to his humble home;
Stirred by deep devotion, hasting from afar,
Ever journeying onward, guided by a star.**

**There their Lord and Saviour as an infant lay,
Wondrous light that led them onward on their way,
Ever now to lighten nations from afar,
As they journey homeward by that guiding star**

**Thou who in a manger once hast lowly lain,
Who dost now in glory o'er all kingdoms reign,
Gather in the peoples who in lands afar
Ne'er have seen the brightness of thy guiding star.**

**Gather in the outcasts, all who've gone astray,
Throw thy radiance o'er them, guide them on their way;
Those who never knew thee, those who've wandered far,
Guide them by the brightness of thy guiding star.**

**Onward through the darkness of the lonely night,
Shining still before them with thy kindly light,
Guide them, Jew and Gentile, homeward from afar,
Young and old together, by thy guiding star.**

**Until every nation, whether bond or free,
'Neath thy star-lit banner, Jesu, follows thee,
O'er the distant mountains to that heavenly home
Where nor sin nor sorrow evermore shall come.**

[Godfrey Thring]

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

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation..

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 honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
All 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.*

Let us proclaim the miracle 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 Hilda and 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

Believing the promises of God,
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

**Lamb of God,
All 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

The president says the invitation to communion
Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

The president and people receive communion.

Communion Hymns

Anthem: O taste and see how gracious the Lord is

[R. Vaughn Williams]

Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.

O magnify the Lord with me,
With me exalt his name;
When in distress to him I called,
He to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around
The dwellings of the just;
Deliverance he affords to all
Who on his succour trust.

O make but trial of his love,
Experience will decide
How blest are they, and only they,
Who in his truth confide.

Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
Have nothing else to fear;
Make you his service your delight,
Your wants shall be his care.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom we adore,
Be glory, as it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

[Tate and Brady]

**May the grace of Christ our Saviour,
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favour,
Rest upon us from above.**

**Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot afford.**

**To the God whose wisdom made us,
To the Son who set us free,
To the sanctifying Spirit,
Glory, endless glory, be!**

[John Newton]

Prayers after Communion

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

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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.

Notices - see pages 21 - 23

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of
darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

All Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives
with his joy and peace.

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 to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional Hymn

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.**

**O let me see thy footmarks, and in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my Friend.**

[John Bode]

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SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 24th January 11am

Sunday 28th January 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

Pat Kyle

Lena Richardson

Ros Clifton

Finley Makriel

David

Saffi Cobham

Ray Nation

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

Edward Kingston

Arthur Robert Strange

Judith Ann Brown

Elizabeth May Webber

Marjorie Peace

Doris Matthews

Joan Margaret Burness

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

NOTICES

Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 23rd January at 2.30pm

Do come and join us .We meet on the 4th Tuesday, from 2.30pm – 4pm in Church with tea, coffee and cake, to explore topics on Christian themes. A donation of a £1 is welcomed to cover the cost of the refreshments.

23rd Jan	Bishops of London
27th Feb	St Hilda's Church Window
26th Mar	Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus
23rd Apr	The Wesleys
28th May	Non Canonical Gospels
25th June	Jargon Busting
23rd July	Celtic Spirituality

Community Lunch - Wednesday at 12 noon

Join us in church for the Community Lunch at midday
If you are able to come forward and help, even once a month, please do liaise with Bobbie.

Bible Study Group – Wednesday at 7.30pm

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm.
You are very welcome to come and join us.

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 1st February

(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.

Parish Breakfast - Saturday 10th February at 9.30am

PCC Meeting- Tuesday 13th February at 7.15pm for 7.30pm



Burns night supper

Celebrate Burns Night
With supper and dancing
St Hilda's
Church Hall,
Saturday 27th January
2024
At 7pm

* *Tickets £10* * *sthilda.org* * *Bar* *



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.

The deadline for items for the **April/May** issue is **Sunday 3rd March**.

Please send your contributions to: editor@sthilda.org

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

***** HELP WANTED *****

Would you like to do more to support our family of St. Hilda? There are lots of opportunities requiring anything from a few minutes to many hours of your time. Training is given if required. Some of them are:

Altar Server: some extra time before and after the service on duty days.

Sunday refreshments: more extra time before and after the service on duty days.

Wednesday refreshments: 10:30am - 1pm on duty days.

Cleaning: need ability to use a vacuum cleaner for about an hour once a week or fortnight.

Treasurer: need to be numerate and computer-literate. Several hours a month mostly at times of your choosing. Needed as soon as possible, but by APCM (28th April) at the latest.

Church Warden: need to be a responsible, organised leader. Several hours a week. Needed as soon as possible, but by APCM (28th April) at the latest - Paula needs help!

Ask any member of the PCC for more details, or about other ways of helping.

Contact Information

Vicar

Vacant

Licenced Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwarden

Paula Gething

PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Vicky Palmer

treasurer@sthilda.org

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

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