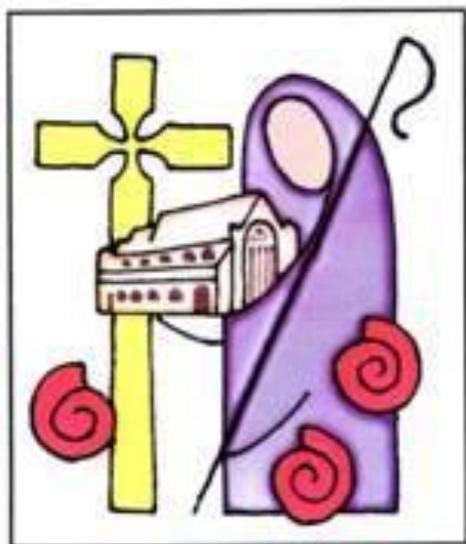


# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



**THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**

**10AM 02 MARCH 2025**

<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.*

# THE GATHERING

## Introit Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest - to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish - but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

*[Walter Chalmers Smith]*

## 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 are said.  
(Junior Church are in the hall for Messy 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**

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'  
We long for the fire of God's cleansing  
to touch our unclean lips,  
for our guilt to be removed and our sin wiped out.  
So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
with repentance in our hearts.

**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. **Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**  
*All* **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 Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
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** – Exodus 34 vv 29 - 35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading** – 2 Corinthians ch 3 v 12 – ch 4 v 2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

*[Charles Wesley]*

## Gospel Reading – Luke 9 vv 28 - 43

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.  
You have the words of eternal life.

**All Alleluia.**

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

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

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon**

## **The Creed**

**All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come  
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

Christ is our peace.

He has reconciled us to God  
in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his 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*

Bright the vision that delighted  
Once the sight of Judah's seer;  
Sweet the countless tongues united  
To entrance the prophet's ear

Round the Lord in glory seated  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Filled his temple, and repeated  
Each to each the alternate hymn:

'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;  
Earth is with its fullness stored;  
Unto thee be glory given,  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

Heaven is still with glory ringing,  
Earth takes up the angels' cry:  
'Holy, holy, holy,' singing,  
'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.'

With his seraph train before him,  
With his holy Church below,  
Thus unite we to adore him,  
Bid we thus our anthem flow:

'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;  
Earth is with its fullness stored;  
Unto thee be glory given,  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

*[Richard Mant]*

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

God of life, saviour of the poor,  
receive with this money  
gratitude for your goodness,  
penitence for our pride  
and dedication to your service  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our  
Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks  
because you are the source of light and life;  
you made us in your image  
and called us to new life in him.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

**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 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 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** Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.

## **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*

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

## Communion Hymns

*Song:* As water to the thirsty

*[© Words: 1979 Dudley-Smith, Timothy  
Music: 1986 Hope Publishing Company]*

*Song:* Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

***Refrain:* Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.**

*[© 1993, 2000, Bernadette Farrell  
Published by OCP. All rights reserved]*

**Christ upon the mountain peak  
Stands alone in glory blazing.  
Let us, if we dare to speak,  
With the saints and angels praise him -  
Alleluia! (x4)**

**Trembling at his feet we saw  
Moses and Elijah speaking.  
All the Prophets and the Law  
Shout through them their joyful greeting -  
Alleluia! (x4)**

**Swift the cloud of glory came,  
God proclaiming in its thunder  
Jesus as his Son by name!  
Nations, cry aloud in wonder! -  
Alleluia! (x4)**

**This is God's beloved Son.  
Law and prophets fade before him,  
First and last and only One,  
Let creation now adore him:  
Alleluia! (x4)**

*[Brian Wren © 1977, 1995 Stainer & Bell Ltd]*

## Prayers after Communion

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

Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know his power to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our 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.**

**Notices** - see pages 23 - 27

## THE DISMISSAL

### Blessing

God, who from the death of sin  
raised you to new life in Christ,  
keep you from falling  
and set you in the presence of his glory;  
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**

**Alleluia! sing to Jesus!**

**His the sceptre, his the throne;**

**Alleluia! His the triumph,**

**His the victory alone:**

**Hark the songs of peaceful Sion**

**Thunder like a mighty flood;**

**Jesus, out of every nation,**

**Hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**Alleluia! not as orphans**

**Are we left in sorrow now;**

**Alleluia! He is near us,**

**Faith believes, nor questions how;**

**Though the cloud from sight received him**

**When the forty days were o'er**

**Shall our hearts forget his promise,**

**'I am with you evermore'?**

**Alleluia! Bread of Angels,**

**Thou on earth our food, our stay;**

**Alleluia! here the sinful**

**Flee to thee from day to day;**

**Intercessor, Friend of sinners,**

**Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,**

**Where the songs of all the sinless**

**Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia! King eternal,  
Thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
Earth thy footstool, Heaven thy throne:  
Thou within the veil hast entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest.  
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
In the Eucharistic feast.**

*[W. Chatterton Dix]*

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

**THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:**

Michael Brown	Gemma Hart	Massimo Pellizzari
Ben Bishop	John Hunt	Lena Richardson
Stan Bishop	Matthew Hutnell	Martine Simpson
AnneMarie Bough	Pat Kyle	Delia Woodley
Ros Clifton	Mary Mills	Ben
Tony Diggins	Ray Nation	David
Maureen Firth	Pat Parish	Fiona
Sheila Freeman		

**THE RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Rev. Peter Keslake      Paul Ingram

**THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK**

Caroline Mary Cutler	Walter Edward Stone	Anthony Peter Hill
Laura Eileen Thomas	Harold E Bishop	Mary Martha Jansen
Joan Beryl Corney	Florence Hilda Quiller	Gordon Laing
Joan Petre	Frederick Quiller	

**Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula, and for  
Fr. Domingos and his family**

also for Christians facing persecution in countries such as North Korea,  
Somalia, Libya, Eritrea and Yemen.

for more details see <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

## SERVICE TIMES next week

**Ash Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am and 7pm**

11am with Mothers' Union

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10am**

The Sunday service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page

[https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/live\\_videos](https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/live_videos)

or see: <https://www.youtube.com/@sthildachurch8263>

## NOTICES

*The deadline for items for the Service Sheet is noon on Thursday.*

### **Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon**

Do join us!

If you are able to help, even once a month, please liaise with Bobbie.

There is **no Bible Study Group** meeting this week so members can attend the Ash Wednesday service.

During Lent we will meet in our new venue: the **Hawley room** in the church hall: use the side door (which opens outwards) and follow the corridor left and left again. We meet most Wednesday evenings at 7.45pm. We will be continuing our look at John's Gospel, following the last hours of Jesus' life on earth. You are very welcome to join us.

### **Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 6th March at 7.30pm**

(Usually 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.

**World Day of Prayer – Friday 7th March at 10.30am**

At the Salvation Army Hall, Woodthorpe Road

All are welcome.

The service has been produced by women of the Cook Islands

**St. Hilda's Breakfast - Saturday 8th March at 9:30am**

Do come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.

There will be a list at the back of church: if you intend to come please sign it so we know how many to cater for.

Suggested donation £5, payable on the day.

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on Sunday 27th April. Would all group leaders please ensure that they get reports to me by **Sunday 9th March, 2025**. Please send to [lizbrian17@aol.com](mailto:lizbrian17@aol.com).

Many thanks,

*Liz Brian*

PCC Secretary - St Hilda's Church, Ashford

**Mothers' Union Lunch – Tuesday 11th March at 12 noon**

**PCC – Tuesday 11th March at 7.15pm for 7.30pm**

**Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 25th March at 2:30pm**

\*\*\* The meeting will be in the Small Hall. \*\*\*

Our topic will be: **St. Patrick and St. George**

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

April: No meeting

27th May: Letters of Peter John and James

**\*\*\* Children's Society Collecting Boxes \*\*\***

This is the time of year for the opening of The Children's Society Boxes, and for the contents to be sent to The Children's Society. Please let **Chris Davenport** have your box, which will be returned after emptying. If you would like Chris to collect your box from you, or would like to have a box for the first time, please let Chris know. Thank you.

**Bible Reading Notes**

If you wanted to be able to read all or some parts of the Bible but not sure where to begin then maybe some bible reading notes might help. I have been ordering Bible Reading Fellowship notes for members of the congregation for some time. They come in different editions offering a variety of ways to help your understanding of bible passages. If you are interested, please speak to **Liz Brian** (PCC Secretary) or grab one of the sample books on the table at the back of church.

**\*\*\* THE ELECTORAL ROLL NOTICE \*\*\***

At an APCM, only those who are on the Electoral Roll may take part in the voting for Churchwardens and PCC Members. This year is special, as it has to be a complete revision of the Roll. That means that everyone will need to re-apply. The process will begin at the end of this month, and this is just a friendly warning that there is work to be done.

If you consider that St Hilda's is your regular place of worship I am sure that you would wish to be included on our Electoral Roll. This is to ensure that you are able to take part in the decision-making for the parish. To that end, you will need to complete an Electoral Roll application form. These will be available either from me after the Sunday service, or from the office. The Electoral Roll will be closed for revision on **31st March 2025**, and applications will have to have been received by that date. So you have six weeks before the deadline.

*Jane Dobbie*, Electoral Roll Officer  
01784 252051

**\*\*\* Walk a Mile, Pray a Mile – Lent 2025 \*\*\***

This Lent, embark on a journey of faith and intercession with Walk a Mile, Pray a Mile, a powerful project for the 40 days of Lent (excluding Sundays). We invite every member of our church family to walk at least one mile a day—with intention, with prayer, and with love for our parish and its people.

Walk to work, to the shops, or for leisure. Walk for your health, for reflection, and for the spiritual renewal of our community. As you walk, pray. Pray for the streets you tread, the homes you pass, and the people you encounter. Take different paths, explore new corners, and let your prayers rise from places that speak to your heart—be it a historic street, a quiet green space, or a busy neighbourhood. Like Joshua and the children of Israel walking around Jericho, let us walk in faith, knowing that through prayer, God can bring down walls, heal hearts, and bless lives.

To support your prayers, prayer resources will be available at the back of the church from Ash Wednesday. These will guide and inspire your intercessions as you walk. Additionally, in the front of the church, you'll find a parish map where you can mark the streets and paths you've walked each week. Together, let's aim to cover every corner of our community with prayer, ensuring no place or person is left untouched by God's love.

If you are unable to walk due to age or health, please know you are a vital part of this journey. Stand in your garden, by your doorstep, or at a window, and pray as you face different directions. Let your prayers join the chorus of intercession as others walk.

This Lent, let's commit to walking and praying together. Let's saturate our parish with love, hope, and faith—trusting that God will move powerfully among us as we journey with Him.

**\*\*\* Trees at St. Hilda's \*\*\***

Ashford residents will be aware that we had part of the perimeter wall repaired recently. This was caused by roots from the trees nearby undermining their foundations and was causing a safety risk for pedestrians. Having identified the risk we are obliged to put things in place to prevent an accident occurring.

We have had the trees assessed by a qualified arborist and it would appear that their roots are likely to undermine most of the wall as well as the drains underneath. We have had a quote for the whole wall which was substantial and is money we do not have. We have other responsibilities and priorities that need the funds that we do have.

So, It is with a heavy heart that we, at St. Hilda's Church, have had to make the difficult decision to remove the four trees from within the church gardens. We recognise that these trees are a cherished part of our grounds, and we understand the distress this may cause to our congregation and neighbours. However, this decision has not been made lightly and after consulting with professionals, it is clear that removing the trees is the most responsible course of action to avoid even greater damage down the road.

We remain committed to ensuring that our grounds are welcoming and beautiful for everyone, and hope that our efforts to replace the trees with thoughtful plantings will continue to enhance the environment while protecting the church and its surroundings for years to come.

We appreciate your understanding and remain grateful for the support of the Ashford community.

**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

# Contact Information

## Vicar

Fr. Julius Anozie

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

+447359 876498

## Licenced Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young

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

## Churchwardens

Paula Gething

Stuart Young

## PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

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

## PCC Treasurer

Khadijeh

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

## Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

## The Parish Office:

St Hilda's Church, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex  
TW15 3QL

Telephone: 01784 253525 Email: [office@sthilda.org](mailto:office@sthilda.org)

Website: [www.sthilda.org](http://www.sthilda.org)

Charity Number: 1134119

CCLI: 708985

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