ST HILDA'S ASHFORD

THE EUCHARIST

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT 4 FEBRUARY 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

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 or introduction are said. (Junior Church have Messy Church in the hall).

Prayer of Preparation

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All Almighty God,
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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

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all

 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, 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, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Proverbs 8 vv 1, 22 – 31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above. when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Colossians 1 vv 15 – 20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – John 1 v 1 – 14

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

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

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour, Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and brain's delight, For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

For thy Church, that evermore Lifteth holy hands above, Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love: *Refrain*

For each perfect gift of thine, To our race so freely given, Graces human and divine, Flowers of earth and buds of heaven. Lord of all, to thee we raise This our sacrifice of praise.

[F. S. Pierpoint]

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.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people, unfolds for us your word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord. And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending song 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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: *Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

> Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving 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 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

Faithful Shepherd, feed me In the pastures green; Faithful Shepherd, lead me Where thy steps are seen. Hold me fast, and guide me In the narrow way: So, with thee beside me, I shall never stray. Daily bring me nearer To the heavenly shore; May my faith grow clearer, May I love thee more. Hallow every pleasure, Every gift and pain; Be thyself my treasure, Though none else I gain. Day by day prepare me As thou seest best, Then let angels bear me

To thy promised rest.

[T B Pollock]

The eternal gifts of Christ the King, The Apostles' glorious deeds, we sing; And while due hymns of praise we pay, Our thankful hearts cast grief away.

The Church in these her princes boasts, These victor chiefs of warriors hosts; The soldiers of the heavenly hall, The lights that rose on earth for all.

'Twas thus the yearning faith of saints, The unconquered hope that never faints, The love of Christ that knows not shame, The prince of this world overcame.

In these the Father's glory shone; In these the will of God the Son; In these exults the Holy Ghost; Through these rejoice the heavenly host.

Redeemer, hear us of thy love, That, with this glorious band above, Hereafter, of thine endless grace, Thy servants also may have place.

[Attributed to St. Ambrose tr. J. M. Neale]

Let us with a gladsome mind, Praise the Lord, for he is kind: For his mercies ay endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us blaze his name abroad, For of gods he is the God:

He with all-commanding might Filled the new-made world with light: He the golden-tressèd sun Caused all day his course to run: For his mercies ay endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

And the hornèd moon by night, Mid her spangled sisters bright:

All things living he doth feed, His full hand supplies their need:

Let us, with a gladsome mind, Praise the Lord, for he is kind: For his mercies ay endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

[John Milton]

Prayers after Communion

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

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; 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

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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

Love Divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down. Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown. Jesu, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art: Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart. Come, almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive; Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing. Serve thee as thy hosts above, Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love. Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be; Let us see thy great salvation, Perfectly restored in thee, Changed from glory into glory,

Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before thee,

ini we cast our crowns before thee,

Lost in wonder, love and praise!

[Charles Wesley]

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SERVICE TIMES Wednesday 7th February 11am

with Mothers' Union

Sunday 11th February 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 Ros Clifton Saffi Cobham Pat Kyle Ray Nation Lena Richardson

Shelia West David

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

Dolores Didrickson Norton Peter Garner

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

John David Smith Jane Mitchell Warren F Darling M Dorothy C Pritchard Lawrence Alford Samuel James Williamson Gwyneth Newman Stanley E P Talbot Kathleen Townend Megan Northcott

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

NOTICES

*** The Family Cross ***

As part of January's Messy Church the Junior Church made a cross with the names of members of the congregation on it - see it by the Children's Corner in church.

If your name is missing from this cross you can add it after today's service - slips of paper, pen and glue will be available by the cross.

*** Children's' Society Boxes ***

If you have a collecting box please bring it to church to be emptied during February. Boxes can be left on the table at the back of church when there is a service.

The first **Deanery Synod** of this year will be held on **Tuesday 6th of February** with refreshments from 7pm. Hosted by St Hilda's church, the meeting will feature a presentation by Oliver Home, the General Secretary for the Diocese of London.

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.

Parish Breakfast - Saturday 10th February at 9.30am

Do come along and enjoy good food and fellowship. Suggested donation £5, payable on the day

Mothers' Union Lunch- Tuesday 13th February at 12.15pm

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

Ash Wednesday Service- Wednesday 14th February at 7pm

** Jumble Sale and Auction-Saturday 17th February at 2pm **

In the Church. Admission £1. Proceeds in aid of Church funds. Please bring goods to be sold to the church from 10am.

Help is needed to set up (from 10am), to sell the goods, and to clear up afterwards (from about 3.30pm).

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 7th March

(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.

Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 27th February 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.

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

St Hilda's Newsletter

The latest issue of the Newsletter is available via the St. Hilda's web site (under "About Us"). Please leave the printed copies for people without internet access and for visitors.

The newsletter is now produced every two months, and unless more people provide material the Newsletter will end.

The deadline for items for the **April/May** issue is **Sunday 3rd March**. Please send your contributions to: <u>editor@sthilda.org</u>

*** 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.

Date for your diary - <u>**RED HOT STRINGS in concert Sat 27th April**</u> at St. Hilda's. Tickets £15. See posters in church for more details.

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

Stewardship Month and Parish Giving

At St Hilda's Church, February will be STEWARDSHIP MONTH. There will be a number of items during and after services, information in the service sheet and literature available, focusing on building a generous church.

The ministry and mission of the Church of England (and by default, St Hilda's Church) is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it. During Stewardship Month, we will talk about money but we will also talk about other things that people give; their time, their energy, their knowledge and their talents. All of these things make St Hilda's the welcoming community it is. All of these things maintain the buildings entrusted to our care.

Please listen, ask questions, challenge us and participate.

On the subject of money, if you currently donate to St Hilda's by Standing Order or by using the gift aid envelopes, please consider the **Parish Giving Scheme**. We are grateful for whatever people can give, but donating by Standing order and in cash creates a level of administration that we no-longer have people to carry out. **Parish Giving** collects the money and claims the gift aid for us and there is no charge either to St Hilda's or to you. It improves our cash flow and eliminates complex claims from HMRC, whilst leaving you in control of what you give; weekly, monthly or quarterly.

At present, just under half the regular income from Stewardship comes through the **Parish Giving Scheme**, meaning that we have to wait for the Gift Aid for the other half until the HMRC claim is successfully made.

The URL is https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-yourparish/ashford-st-hilda-ashford/ The QR code will take you to our Parish Giving page enabling you to fill out the application immediately.



There will be someone at the back of church after each service in February to deal with any questions or concerns about the Parish Giving Scheme. As always, Paula or any member of PCC would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in being more active in the community and the opportunities there are through St Hilda's.

Contact Information

<u>Vicar</u>

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

<u>The Parish Office:</u> St Hilda's Church, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3QL Telephone: 01784 253525 Email: <u>office@sthilda.org</u>

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Charity Number: 1134119 CCLI: 708985

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