

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10am 09 FEBRUARY 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

**We have a dream: this nation will arise,
and truly live according to its creed,
that all are equal in their makers eyes,
and none shall suffer through another's greed.**

**We have a dream; our children shall be free
from judgements based on colour or on race;
free to become whatever they may be,
of their own choosing in the light of grace.**

**We have a dream that truth will overcome
the fear and anger of our present day;
that black and white will share a common
home,
and hand in hand will walk the pilgrim way.**

*[Adapted by Michael Forster
from a speech by Martin Luther King]*

The Greeting

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

All Amen

We stand before the throne of God with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.

**All Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour,
power and might be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

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

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.

We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;

Lord, be merciful:

All Forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;

Lord, be merciful:

All Forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;

Lord, be merciful:

All Forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;

Lord, be merciful:

All Forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Lord, be merciful:

All Forgive us our sin.

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins and make you holy
to serve him in the world,
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

Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives 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 – Micah 6 vv1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab
devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.’

‘With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Romans 10 vv 8-13

But what does it say?

‘The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart’

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

**For the healing of the nations
Lord, we pray with one accord,
For a just and equal sharing
Of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
Help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom,
From despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
All may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
Fear will die and hope increase.**

**You, Creator God, have written
Your great name on humankind;
For our growing in your likeness
Bring the life of Christ to mind;
That by our response and service
Earth its destiny may find.**

[Fred Kaan © 1968 Stainer & Bell Ltd]

Gospel Reading – Matthew 25 vv31-46

Alleluia, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels
with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the
nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate
people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep
from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and
the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right

hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me."

Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptised 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

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

I, the Lord of sea and sky,

I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin

My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*[Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music: Dan Schutte,
© 1981, OCP. All rights reserved].*

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

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law
and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.
As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we
echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore praising you and singing:

**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 God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ

you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.
Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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.*

Therefore we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.
As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.
Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with
Hilda and all your saints at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in 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

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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 this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

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

Agnus Dei

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to 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.

Communion Hymns

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
 Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
 In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
 Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
 Rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
 O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
 Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
 Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
 The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
 Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
 O still small voice of calm!

[John Whittier]

**Thee we adore, O hidden Saviour, thee,
Who in thy Sacrament art pleased to be;
Both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail,
Yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.**

**O blest memorial of our dying Lord,
Who living Bread to men doth here afford!
O may our souls for ever feed on thee,
And thou, O Christ, for ever precious be.**

**Fountain of gladness, Jesu, Lord and God,
Cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
Increase our faith and love, that we may know
The hope and peace which from thy presence flow.**

**O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
May what we thirst for soon our portion be,
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
The vision of thy glory and thy grace.**

[St. Thomas Aquinas tr. James Woodford]

**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
All now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey
His voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

*[Text: 10 10 10 10 10 10; Katharina von Schlegel; in Neue Sammlung
Geislicher Lieder, 1752;
tr. by Jane Borthwick, 1813–1897. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957.]*

Prayers after Communion

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

Blessed God,
help us, whom you have fed and satisfied in this eucharist,
to hunger and thirst for what is right;
help us, who here have rejoiced and been glad,
to stand with those who are persecuted and reviled; help
us, who here have glimpsed the life of heaven, to strive for
the cause of right
and for the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, who 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 26 - 27

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

The blessing of God the Father,
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth;
of God the Son, who bought us for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation;
and of God the Spirit,
who brings us together in unity,
be with 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

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
Fellow trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.**

[Richard Gillard

© 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing]

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

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

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Paul Ingram Paul Ashbey Edward Harris John Hollister

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Samuel James Williamson	Howard George Fox
Gwyneth Newman	Elsie Edith Sidwell
Stanley E P Talbot	Sidney William Callaway
Kathleen Townend	Peggy Pitcher
Megan Northcott	Sydney Elliott Pitcher
Michael John Furniss	Laurence Curness

**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

Wednesday 12th February 11.00am

Sunday 16th February 10.00am

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

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.

FLOWER TEAM

I would like to get the St Hilda's flower team up and running again this year. If you were a member prior to the pandemic and would like to continue or if you would like to be involved, please let me know.

The invitation to join the flower team is open to all members of the church, we have evolved from "flower ladies" and are an inclusive group. You do not have to have done any flower arranging in the past. If there are enough new people I will run a couple of classes to set out the basics and you will be paired with an experienced member of the team when it is your turn on the rota.

This is an opportunity to give your time and talent to help keep our church a welcoming place. The more people that are involved the less we will have to do as individuals.

Make 2025 the year you learn a new skill.

Pauline Milton

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.

Many thanks,

Liz Brian

PCC Secretary - St Hilda's Church, Ashford

Mothers' Union Lunch – Tuesday 11th February at 12 noon

Deanery Synod meeting – Tuesday 11th February at 7.30pm

In St. Hilda's Church (refreshments served from 7pm). The speaker is The Reverend Kate Hartley, the Managing Chaplain at HMP Bronzefield. She will speak on the subject "Journeying with those doing time – a Prison Chaplaincy perspective".

Any church member interested in Prison Ministry is invited to join the meeting.

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.

Bible Study Group - Wednesday at 7.45pm

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings. We will be continuing our look at John's Gospel. You are very welcome to join us.

Jumble Sale – Saturday 15th February at 2pm

Helpers are required in the morning to sort the jumble from 9.30am, in the afternoon to sell it from 1.45pm, and afterwards to clear up. If you are able to help please sign the sheet at the back of church.

PCC Meeting – Tuesday 18th February at 7.15 for 7.30pm

Ladies' Night Out – Friday evening 21st February

At M2 Pizza Pasta. See the sign-up sheet at the back of church.

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

Our topic will be: Bishop Morley and the Winchester Cathedral library
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.

25th March: St. Patrick and St. George

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

***** 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 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

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+447359 876498

Licenced Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young

rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwardens

Paula Gething

Stuart Young

PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Khadijeh

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Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

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