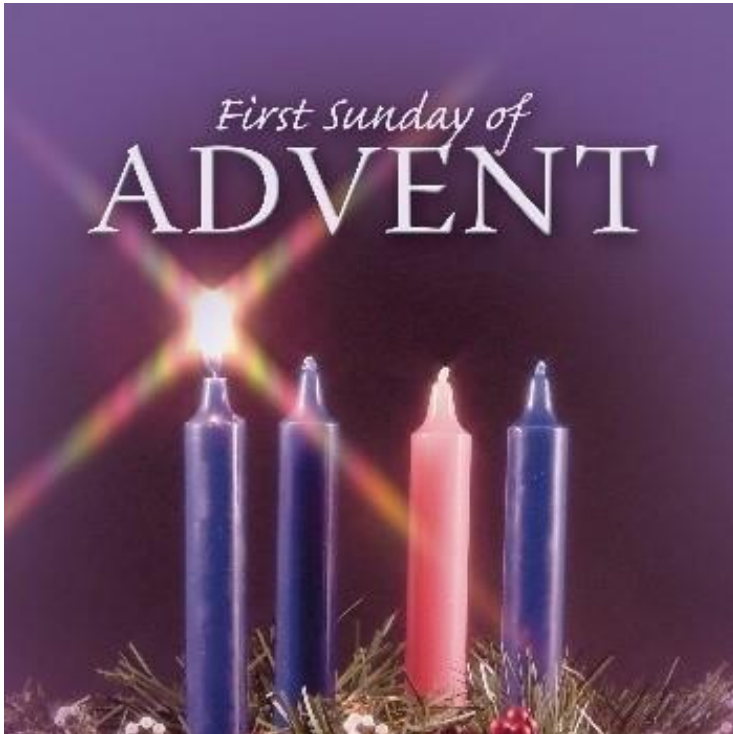


ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



ADVENT SUNDAY

10AM 01 DECEMBER 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 service, and there is a children's corner in the north aisle which they are very welcome to use.

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne**

[Charles Wesley]

The Greeting

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

All Amen

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

*Words of welcome or introduction are said.
(Junior Church have Messy Church in the hall).*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

First Candle - The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent
and we will light the first candle for hope.

We light the first candle

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

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

(Silent reflection)

In the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy
has promised forgiveness of sins
to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith
turn to him: have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Jeremiah 33 vv 14 – 16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3 vv 9 – 13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Luke 21 vv 25 – 36

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

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

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Creed

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

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

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

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

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn a collection will be taken

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! (x3)**

God appears on earth to reign.

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing (x3)
Shall their true Messiah see.**

Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture (x3)
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! (x3)
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

[Charles Wesley]

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

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

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 You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
*Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.*

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

(Silent reflection)

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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

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

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.

The president and people receive communion.

Communion Hymns

Carol: This is the truth sent from above

**Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
Regard thy servants when they call.**

**Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.**

**Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide;
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.**

**At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
And things in heaven and earth shall own,
That thou are Lord and King alone.**

**To thee, O holy One, we pray,
Our judge in that tremendous day,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every onslaught of the foe.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

[From the Latin, tr. J M. Neale]

**The Lord will come and not be slow;
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.**

**Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then,
And justice, from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.**

**Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
This wicked earth redress;
For thou art he who shalt by right
The nations all possess.**

**The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord!
And glorify thy Name!**

**For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.**

[John Milton]

Taizé: **Wait for the Lord, his day is near
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart.**

Prayers after Communion

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

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
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 22 - 26

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

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

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting. Amen

Recessional Hymn

Hills of the North, rejoice,

Echoing songs arise,

Hail with united voice

Him who made earth and skies:

He comes in righteousness and love,

He brings salvation from above.

**Isles of the Southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,
Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the sons of earth be blest.**

*[New English Hymnal Editors, based on C. E. Oakley
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Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Michael Brown	John Hunt	Delia Woodley
Ros Clifton	Pat Kyle	Ben
Kariss Clarke	Ray Nation	David
Tony Diggins	Pat Parish	Fiona
Kathy Ford	Massimo Pellizzari	John
Sheila Freeman	Lena Richardson	King Charles
Gemma Hart	Martine Simpson	Catherine, Princess of Wales
Matthew Hutnell		

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

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Reginald Clarke	Joan Tunstall	David Raymond Warne
Doris May Kerry	Martin Mills	Henry Edward Batchelor
Julie Weiszberg	Doris Winifred Somes	Gladys Elizabeth Saville
Thomas Peterson	Annie Louisa Smith	Reginald Charles Baker
Dora Kingston	Maureen Betty Brill	Babs [Edith Henrietta] King
Ann Davey	Jean Garner	

**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/>

Praying for peace in the Middle East

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

SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 4th December 11am

with Mothers' Union

Sunday 8th December 10am - Parish Eucharist

4pm - Christingle Service

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.

Please send any items to the Parish Office.

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.

Christingle Service - Sunday 8th December at 4pm

Christingle is the opportunity to donate to the Children's Society which cares for vulnerable children and teenagers who face abuse, exploitation or mental health challenges. Last year the Society was able to run 73 services nationwide helping thousands of young people build a happy, hopeful future. Christingle collection boxes or envelopes are available at the back of the Church, you can also donate on line using givestar.io/gs/st-hildas-church-ashford

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 12th December 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.



**St Hilda's
Ashford**

Stanwell Road, Ashford, TW15 3QL | office@sthilda.org

**The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council
invite you to the Collation and Induction of**

The Reverend Onyekachi Julius Anozie

as

Vicar of the Parish of St Hilda, Ashford

by The Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington
& The Venerable Richard Frank, Archdeacon of Middlesex

on Monday 16 December 2024, at 7.30 p.m.



*Clergy and LLMs are invited to robe Cassock Surplice or
Cassock Alb with White Stole*

R.S.V.P. by Wednesday 11 December 2024

If you would like to attend Fr. Julius' induction but are not able to get to St Hilda's Church for the service please let Laura, the Parish Administrator know by e-mail - office@sthilda.org or by phone on 01784 253525 so that a lift can be arranged.

The service will be streamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Please pray for him as he prepares to move from his current parish in the Derby Diocese, to London.

More December Dates for your Diary:

Fridays 6th and 13th December, Saturdays 7th and 14th December:
St. Hilda's Entertainers present *Scrooge The Panto*. See
<http://www.sthildasentertainers.com> for more details

Sunday 1st	3pm:	Lodge Bros. Service of Remembrance
Sunday 15th	4pm	Carol Service
Sunday 22nd	10am	Eucharist with Crib Service
Tuesday 24th	11pm	Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25th	10am	Christmas Day Parish Eucharist

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 December/January issue is **1st**

December. Please send your contributions to: editor@sthilda.org

***** WANTED - Ladies' socks! *****

The churches in Spelthorne Deanery have been asked whether they can provide a pair of socks for each of the ladies in Bronzefield for Christmas. The PCC have agreed that St. Hilda's will take part in this, so we will be collecting **new** pairs of ladies' socks (sizes 4-7 or 6-8). There will be a box at the back of church for these until 15th December.

Bible Reading Fellowship Notes

For some years now I have been ordering BRF Notes for members of the congregation. BRF Ministries has been publishing Bible reading notes since 1922. Each series has a distinctive approach to suit different needs and preferences, offering a variety of ways to resource your spiritual journey and help you understand and apply scripture to your daily life.

New Daylight: is for everyone on their daily journey with God.

New Daylight Deluxe: all the content of New Daylight, but with bigger text

Guidelines: Bible reading notes aimed at church leaders, students and those who seek to interpret and apply the biblical text with confidence in today's world.

The Upper Room: written by its readers all over the world, The Upper Room focuses on finding God in daily experience.

Day by Day with God: this series is written for women, by women who have themselves found the Bible a source of strength and inspiration for life.

Bible Reflections for Older People: these Bible reflections aimed at older people will bring hope, assurance and sustenance to the reader.

If you would like to know more about any of these reading notes please see me after the main Sunday Service.

Liz Brian

***** NEEDED *****

Computer-literate people prepared to give time to help the church

We are looking for people to do several important jobs:

1. Manage Gift Aid claims. We have just recovered over £8,500 from HMRC from donations in 2022. We need to make the claim for 2023 by next September - we expect this to involve at least 30hrs work, mostly data input. A team will help explain the system to be used and will provide the data. Then we need to document the process and work on this year's donations...
2. Edit the Newsletter. Our current Editor is moving from the area. She has offered to produce the December/January edition but we need someone to take it on from next year. This involves 8-10hrs work every other month.

For more details of what is involved speak to one of the Church Wardens.

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

Vacant

Licensed Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwardens

Paula Gething

Stuart Young

PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Khadijeh

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

Website: www.sthilda.org

Charity Number: 1134119

CCLI: 708985

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