

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



CANDLEMAS

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

10am 02 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

**When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised:
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:**

May Jesus Christ be praised.

**The night becomes as day
When from the heart we say,
 May Jesus Christ be praised.
The powers of darkness fear,
When this sweet chant they hear,
 May Jesus Christ be praised.**

**In heaven's eternal bliss
The loveliest strain is this,
 May Jesus Christ be praised.
Let earth, and sea and sky
From depth to height reply,
 May Jesus Christ be praised.**

**Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine,
 May Jesus Christ be praised:
Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages on,
 May Jesus Christ be praised.**

[German, 19th century, tr. Edward Caswall]

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 are in the hall for Messy Church)*

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

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

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

'I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness
but shall have the light of life.'

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light
and confess them in penitence and faith.

All **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
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 lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

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

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

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Malachi 3 vv 1 - 5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Hebrews 2 v 14 - 18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

**Lead us heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Self denying, death defying,
Thou to Calvary didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.**

[James Edmeston]

Gospel Reading – Luke 2 v 22 – 40

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

All Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all
peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

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

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

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

Prayers of Intercession

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

The prayers end with the following:

Merciful Father

All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and 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

**My God, how wonderful thou art,
Thy majesty how bright,
How beautiful thy mercy seat,
In depths of burning light!**

**How dread are thine eternal years,
O everlasting Lord,
By prostrate spirits day and night
Incessantly adored!**

**How wonderful, how beautiful,
The sight of thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power,
And awful purity!**

O, how I fear thee, living God,
With deepest, tenderest fears,
And worship thee with trembling hope,
And penitential tears!

Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,
Almighty as thou art,
For thou hast stooped to ask of me
The love of my poor heart.

No earthly father loves like thee,
No mother, e'er so mild,
Bears and forbears as thou hast done
With me, thy sinful child.

Father of Jesus, love's reward,
What rapture it will be,
Prostrate before thy throne to lie,
And gaze and gaze on thee!

[F. W. Faber]

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

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.

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 indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him
as the light to lighten the nations
while Anna spoke of him
to all who looked for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the Highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
*Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.*

Let us proclaim the miracle of faith:

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice
made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Hilda and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
and as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God,
All you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

The president and people receive communion.

Communion Hymns

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,
Lost in wonder, love and praise!

[Charles Wesley]

Anthem: Nunc Dimittis

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes
Let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with you
And here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days
Oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came
To the earth you created
All for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

[Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music]

Prayers after Communion

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

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Notices - see pages 25 - 27

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path.

All Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

All Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Go in the light of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory;
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

[Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music]

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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

John David Smith	Warren F Darling	Lawrence Alford
Jane Mitchell	M Dorothy C Pritchard	

**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 5th February 11.00am

Sunday 9th 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

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.

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 6th February 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.

Burns Night – Saturday 8th February at 6.30pm

Ticket price held at £10 per head (under 12s free), available from the back of church. This is a great family evening, including traditional haggis, tatties and neeps followed by ceilidh dancing. Nick's bar will also be open.

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.

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 a local restaurant - more details available later. 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

***** 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

Fr. Julius Anozie

vicar@sthilda.org

+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

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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