

# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



**CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST**

**10AM 25 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.*

*There is a children's corner in the north aisle which children are very welcome to use.*

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# THE GATHERING

## Introit Hymn

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of angels:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
*Refrain*

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*Refrain*

Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?  
*Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:  
*Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing.  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

*[Latin 18th century  
tr. Frederick Oakeley and others]*

## 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.*

## The Christmas Candle

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

*(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)*

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

The new light of your incarnate Word  
gives gladness in our sorrow,  
and a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,  
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*(We light the fifth candle, to mark the Birth of Christ)*

People of God: shout and sing!  
Tell the good news of peace on earth.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.  
All God's people shout:

**Amen!**

Angels dance and the bright star shines.  
All creation bows to the Lord of all.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.  
All God's people shout:

**Amen!**

One with us, yet born to save,  
he will show us the way to God.  
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.  
All God's people shout:

**Amen!**

People of God: shout and sing:

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

## Invitation to confession

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call  
to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to your will.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks  
to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star  
to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.  
We have sinned:

*All* **forgive and heal us.**

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.**

**The Collect** - *our Prayer for the Day*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

**.All Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading** – Isaiah 52 vv 7 - 10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,

you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading** – Hebrews 1 vv 1 - 12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

'You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you'?

Or again,

'I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son'?



And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’

Of the angels he says,

‘He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire.’

But of the Son he says,

‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,  
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your  
kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’

And,

‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;  
like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.’

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading – John 1 vv 1 - 14**

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

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

*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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince 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*

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,**

**All seated on the ground,**

**The angel of the Lord came down,**

**And glory shone around.**

**'Fear not,' said he, (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);**

**'Glad tidings of great joy I bring**

**To you and all mankind**

**'To you in David's town this day**

**Is born of David's line**

**A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;**

**And this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly babe you there shall find**

**To human view displayed,**

**All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,**

**And in a manger laid.'**

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
    Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
    Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,  
    And on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
    Begin and never cease.'

[Nahum Tate]

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

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.  
**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 glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,  
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,  
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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, 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.*

Great is the mystery of faith

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice  
made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of 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**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
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**

**All** 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,  
have mercy on us.

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



## **Giving of 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.*

*At St Hilda's, we welcome communicant members of all churches to receive Holy Communion. Alternatively, you are invited to receive a personal blessing. If you would like a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest to help us know your intention. Come one, come all!*

## **Prayers after Communion**

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

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the 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.**

## THE DISMISSAL

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**All Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with joy and peace.

**All Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**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 peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

**All Glory, thanks and praise to God.**

## Recessional Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen.  
Let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day.  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy!  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:  
*Refrain*

And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Saviour lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling down,  
Unto the Lord did pray:  
*Refrain*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other new embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth deface  
*Refrain*

*[Traditional]*

# Contact Information

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