

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

28 APRIL 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, and there activity sheets are available to occupy them.

Praying for peace in Israel and Gaza

Bishop Sarah encourages us to join in with Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem, who has offered the following prayer:

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
Liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluya, Alleluya,
Jesu, true and living Bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we,
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for Faith's discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluya, Alleluya,
Thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluya, Alleluya,
We in worship join with them

Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall forevermore remain.
Alleluya, Alleluya,
Cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
Stricken Rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluya, Alleluya,
Risen, ascended, glorified!

[G. H. Bourne]

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.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Words of welcome are said.

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

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

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

Amen

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
All and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

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

**Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.**

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Acts 8 vv 26 - 40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.’

The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – John 15 vv 1 - 8

Alleluia, Alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed

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

**All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers end with the following:

Merciful Father,

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

Bring us all to your heavenly city,
to the joyful gathering of thousands of angels,
to the assembly of your firstborn,
to the spirits of the saints made perfect,
to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant
and to the sprinkled blood that promises peace.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace – *All stand*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

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

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]

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

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
singing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
All God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

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

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
*Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

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

Let us proclaim the miracle of faith:

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

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hilda and all the
saints to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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 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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The president and people receive communion.

Communion Hymns

My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And grief's around me spread,
Be thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Saviour, then in love
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul.

[Ray Palmer]

God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there.

**Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling;
Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting;
Let us all revere and love him, God eternal:
Loving him, let each love Christ in all his brothers.**

God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there.

**When we Christians gather, members of one Body,
Let there be in us no discord, but one spirit;
Banished now be anger, strife and every quarrel:
Christ our God be present always here among us.**

God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there.

**Grant us love's fulfilment, joy with all the blessed,
When we see your face, O Saviour, in its glory;
Shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,
Be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises.**

God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there.

[from the Latin liturgy of Maundy Thursday tr. James Quinn

Text: 12 12 12 12 with refrain; Ubi caritas et amor; para. by James Quinn, SJ, 1919-2010, © 1969, 1988, James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Music: A. Gregory Murray, OSB, 1905-1992, © The Trustees of Downside Abbey. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

**Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.**

Not the labour of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes are closed in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne;
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

[Augustus Toplady]

Prayers after Communion

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

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
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 22 - 26

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ, is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Recessional Hymn

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks, and in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my Friend.

[John Bode]

SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 1st May 11am

with Mothers' Union

Sunday 5th May 10.00am

Junior Church have Messy Church in the Hall

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

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:

Michael Brown	Lena Richardson	Cyril
Ros Clifton	Esperado (son of Fr. Domingos)	David
John Hunt	King Charles	Demi
Pat Kyle	Catherine, Princess of Wales	Fiona
Ray Nation		Mary

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

Jo Greenwood	Trevor Weston	Saffi Cobham
Doreen Walker	Betty Collins	

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Winifred Ellen Louise Barnes	Mary Ann Brooker
Doris Hilda Durham	Dorothy Barnett-Roberts
William George Frank Durham	John Charles Manning
Pauline Pearl Levey	Robert Harris
Elsie Winifred May Swain	

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula
and for Christians facing persecution in countries such as North Korea,
Somalia, Libya, Eritrea and Yemen

for more details see <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

NOTICES

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

We will be holding the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and afterwards the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Sunday 28th April, 2024 at 11 am.**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is to elect the Churchwardens and we have two posts available. This meeting can be attended by any member of the civil electoral roll of the civil parish, as well as those on the electoral roll of St Hilda's Church, Ashford.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to report on changes to the electoral roll, general parish activities and financial matters. The annual meeting also elects new members to the PCC. All are welcome to attend but only those who are on the Church Electoral Roll of St Hilda's are entitled to vote.

Notices of these meetings have been put up in the entrance porch and on the PCC board in Church. There are also nomination forms for Churchwardens and for new members of the Parochial Church Council. Please consider what support you can give to the St Hilda's Church and if you want to know more about what the job of a Churchwarden involves please speak to Bobbie or Paula. For more information about being a member of the Parochial Church Council please seek out a member – our photos are on the board in the entrance porch.

St Hilda's Church exists with the effort and work done by volunteers who give their time to ensure the smooth running of services and other activities. Please think and pray how you could become more involved.

Liz Brian

PCC Secretary – St Hilda's Church, Ashford

Community Lunch - Wednesday at 12 noon

Join us in church for the Community Lunch at midday
If you are able to come forward and help, even once a month, please do liaise with Bobbie.

Bible Study Group –Wednesday at 7.45pm

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings. This week we are starting a new study on *The Kingdom*, mainly from Matthew's Gospel. You are very welcome to join us.

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 2nd May

(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.

Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday 7th May at 12.15pm

Jumble Sale - Saturday 11th May at 2pm

In church. Admission £1 Proceeds to church funds
Workers will be needed to sort the donations in the morning, sell the goods, and to clear up afterwards. If you can help, please sign on the sheet at the back of church.

Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 28th May at 2.30pm

Do come and join us .We meet on the 4th Tuesday, from 2.30pm – 4pm in Church with tea, coffee and cake, to explore topics on Christian themes. A donation of a £1 is welcomed to cover the cost of the refreshments.

28th May	Non Canonical Gospels
25th June	Jargon Busting
23rd July	Celtic Spirituality

St Hilda's Newsletter

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

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

The deadline for items for the **June/July** issue is **Sunday 5th May**.

Please send your contributions to: editor@sthilda.org

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

The deadline for items for the Service Sheet is noon on Thursday.

UPDATE ON CHURCH HALL ROOF

The great news is that the new roof is in place. The solar panels have been installed and we now have an APP that enables us to see how much electricity we are generating and using in the hall. The car park is open again but the heras fencing will remain as long as the scaffolding is in place.

Happytots and the other regular hirers have returned to the hall - but the only access remains through the side door as the scaffolding is still in place.

Huge thanks to Nick, Farhad, Mike Smith and Steve Smith who have been working on the fanlight windows, they have cleaned and treated the mould and should finish painting this weekend. It looks a great deal better! However, the painting team have discovered that two of the fanlights are literally "hanging by a thread" and will need urgent attention.

We hope that gutter lining will be finished this week (TBC).

Thank you all for your patience while this work has been going on. Whilst it isn't quite finished, the project has been very smooth to date and the contractors very supportive.

Paula Gething

Junior Church during Roof Repairs

Due to repairs to the Hall roof we are unable to use the Hall during April, however there will be a Junior Church activity in Church.

May's Messy Church will go ahead as usual on May 5th with the theme of Pentecost.

STAINES LAMMAS BAND

and

ASCOT BRASS

present

BRASS SYNERGY

A collaborative concert



Saturday 18th May at 7:30pm

St. Hilda's Church, Stanwell Rd, Ashford TW15 3QL

Adults £10 | Children £5 | Families (2 adults plus children) £25

Tickets available on the door or from
ascotbrasstickets.org.uk



Contact Information

Vicar

Vacant

Licensed Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwarden

Paula Gething

PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Vicky Palmer

treasurer@sthilda.org

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

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

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/>

Follow us on X <https://twitter.com/StHildaAshford>