

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

10am 26 JANUARY 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

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

[Charles Wesley]

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; we pray with Junior Church.

Prayer of Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

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.

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 God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son 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 – Nehemiah 8 vv 1 – 3, 5 – 6, 8 – 10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading –1 Corinthians 12 vv 12 – 31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do

all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.
Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.
Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
To enrol thee:
E'en eternity's too short
To extol thee.

[George Herbert]

Gospel Reading – Luke 4 vv 14 – 21

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

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

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed!

Great David's greater Son!

Hail in the time appointed,

His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression,

To set the captive free;

To take away transgression

And rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy

To those who suffer wrong;

To help the poor and needy,

And bid the weak be strong;

To give them songs for sighing,

Their darkness turn to light,

Whose souls, condemned and dying,

Were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end:

O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest:
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever;
That name to us is Love.

[James Montgomery, based on Psalm 72]

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

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

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 honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

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:

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

O thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work and speak and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
'Til death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.

[Charles Wesley]

Father of heaven, whose love profound
A ransom for our souls has found,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy pardoning love extend.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
Our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy saving grace extend.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
The soul is raised from sin and death,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
To us thy quickening power extend.

**Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
Before thy throne we sinners bend:
Grace, pardon, life to us extend.**

[Edward Cooper]

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know,
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
in you, and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind,
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
Will you let me answer prayer
in you, and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free,
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
in you, and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside,
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
in you, and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you,
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you, and you in me.**

*[© Words: 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland
Music: 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland]*

Prayers after Communion

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

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
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 26 - 27**

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of
darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

All Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives
with his joy and 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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional Hymn

**Thy kingdom come, O God,
Thy rule, O Christ, begin;
Break with thine iron rod
The tyrannies of sin.**

**Where is thy reign of peace
And purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
As in the realms above?**

**When comes the promised time
That war shall be no more,
When lust, oppression, crime,
Shall flee thy face before?**

**We pray thee Lord, arise,
And come in thy great might;
Revive our longing eyes,
Which languish for thy sight.**

**O'er lands both near and far
Thick darkness broodeth yet:
Arise, O morning Star,
Arise, and never set.**

[Lewis Hensley]

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Stan Bishop	Sheila Freeman	Massimo Pellizzari
Michael Brown	Gemma Hart	Lena Richardson
Ben 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

Doris Matthews	Stanley Page	Michael Bray
Arthur Robert Strange	Victor Cockings	Edith Ruby Sharps
Marjorie Peace	Vera Myrtle Adams	Sidney Henry Divey
Joan Margaret Burness	Ronald George Hands	Hugh Rees Morris
Judith Ann Brown	Clifford Stanley Smith	Mary Fifield
Isabella Slimmond		

**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 29th January 11.00am

Sunday 2nd 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.

Candlelight Concert - Friday 31st January at 7.00pm

Tickets available ONLINE ONLY between £20 and £30 from

www.fatsoma.com

St. Hilda's is not selling tickets for this, but we will run a bar.

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

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

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

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