

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 2023

<https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/>

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high.

Refrain

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Refrain

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

[John H. Hopkins]

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.

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.
Amen

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
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*

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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 – Isaiah 60 vv 1 - 6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord..

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Ephesians 3 vv 1 - 12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 2 vv 1 - 12

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory

All Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed

with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon – All sit

Placing of the Three Magi in the Stable

The Creed – All Stand

**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

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away: behold, everything has become
new.

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 – *All stand*

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

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most glorious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.**

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

(W. Chatterton Dix)

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

Anthem: If ye love me, keep my commandments

[Thomas Tallis [© Oxford University Press 2002]

**Child of the stable's secret birth,
The Lord by right of the lords of earth,
Let angels sing of a King new-born -
The world is weaving a crown of thorn:
A crown of thorn for that infant head
Cradled soft in the manger bed.**

**Eyes that shine in the lantern's ray;
A face so small in its nest of hay,
Face of a child who is born to scan
The world of men through the eyes of man:
And from that face in the final day
Earth and heaven shall flee away.**

**Voice that rang through the courts on high
Contracted now to a wordless cry,
A voice to master the wind and wave,
The human heart and the hungry grave:
The voice of God through the cedar trees
Rolling forth as the sound of seas.**

**Infant hands in a mother's hand,
For none but Mary can understand
Whose are the hands and the fingers curled
But his who fashioned and made our world;
And through these hands in the hour of death
Nails shall strike to the wood beneath.**

**Child of the stable's secret birth,
The Father's gift to a wayward earth,
To drain the cup in a few short years
Of all our sorrows, our sins and tears -
Ours the prize for the road he trod:
Risen with Christ; at peace with God.**

[© 1969 Dudley-Smith, Timothy]

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.**

**Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all who love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

*[from St. Patrick's Breastplate
tr. Mrs. C. F. Alexander]*

Prayers after Communion

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

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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

Notices and Banns

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.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.
Amen.

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional Hymn

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all!**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

[Reginald Heber]

SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 11th January 11.00am

Sunday 15th January 10.00am

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

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:

Lizio Cassar	Pat Kyle	Barbara Warne
Ros Clifton	Pauline Milton	Lisa
Joan Davies	Ray Nation	Nic
Vicky Hal	Roy Stone	
Melvyn Jansen I	Betty Vince	

If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office.

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Terence Reynolds	George Edward Some
Maureen Anne Clark	Lilian Kenyon Wilson
Elizabeth Lees	John Gething
Michael Jack Luff	Rose May Williamson
Edna May Street	Marie Joan Flack
Albert John Street	Michael James Harden

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

NOTICES

The Parish Office is available by phone or email. Visitors by appointment only.

Following the teaching of 'Loving thy Neighbour' - If you feel unwell, we ask that you do not attend so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services.

Community Lunch - Wednesday at 12 noon

Join us 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 – every Wednesday

Bible Study group meet in Church at 7.30pm. All welcome.

We are starting to looking at various Old Testament characters. (Do you know who Achan was?) Each of these studies is self-contained, so this would be a good opportunity to come and see what we do.

St. Hilda's Breakfast - Saturday 14th January at 9:30am

Do come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.

This month's guest speaker will be Fr. Joseph, who will be sharing some reflections about his recent trip to Mozambique.

Please book via the Parish Office or Ticket Tailor (link on the Church web site), so we know how many to cater for. Suggested donation £5, payable on the day.

PCC - Tuesday 17th January at 7pm

Burns Night Supper and Dancing - Saturday 28th January at 7pm

With cash bar. Tickets £10 available in church or via Ticket Tailor (link on the Church web site).

Ambling through Acts course –Thursday 2nd February

(7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month)

Everyone is very welcome to attend. There will be refreshments at the end. We finish by saying Compline (Night Prayer) together round about 9pm. I hope to see you there. Please bring a bible – ideally the NRSV, but any version will do.

St Hilda's News

Please send items for the Newsletter to kmroach45@gmail.com

Note that it makes the Editor's job much easier if you submit an item as a Word document rather than in the body of an e-mail.

Parish administrator

Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman; her hours of work are:

Monday: 3-4pm
Tuesday: 3-4pm
Wednesday: 10-11am; 2-3pm
Thursday: 3-4pm
Friday: 3.30-6.30pm

Note that any appointments in person must be booked.

Food Bank Donations

Please use the wooden chest at the rear of the Church to place any donations for the local food bank, such as tinned and dried goods and toiletries.

The Food Bank is currently short of:

Shower gel
Shampoo
Kitchen & bathroom spray cleaners
J cloths
Small packs of washing powder and capsules
Toilet cleaner
Kitchen rolls and toilet rolls
and tinned vegetarian meals such as Macaroni cheese and
Vegetarian curry

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 5th-14th March 2024

10 days based in Jerusalem and Galilee

With Father Steve Gayle and Father Joseph Fernandes.

See literature at the back of church for more details.

St Hilda's is a Registered Charity No. 1134119
CCLI License no. 708985
One License no. A-739460
Copyright Archbishops' Council of the Church of England

Contact Information

Vicar

Fr Joseph Fernandes

vicar@sthilda.org

Vicarage 01784 254237

Parish Office 01784 253525

Mobile 07999 053433

Licensed Lay Ministers

Carolyn Clark carolyn@sthilda.org

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwarden

Bobbie Bedford

PCC Secretary

PCC Treasurer

Christopher Brown

PA to Fr Joseph

Mariane Tank pa@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 Twitter <https://twitter.com/StHildaAshford>