

# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



## THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

07 JANUARY 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.*

## 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

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 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.

**All** **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 v 1 – 12**

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**

### *Placing of the Three Magi in the Stable*

## **The Creed**

**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**

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*

**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]*

*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

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*[Jan Struther © Words: 1931, 1982 Oxford University Press]*

The eternal gifts of Christ the King,  
The Apostles' glorious deeds, we sing;  
And while due hymns of praise we pay,  
Our thankful hearts cast grief away.

The Church in these her princes boasts,  
These victor chiefs of warriors hosts;  
The soldiers of the heavenly hall,  
The lights that rose on earth for all.

'Twas thus the yearning faith of saints,  
The unconquered hope that never faints,  
The love of Christ that knows not shame,  
The prince of this world overcame.

**In these the Father's glory shone;  
In these the will of God the Son;  
In these exults the Holy Ghost;  
Through these rejoice the heavenly host.**

**Redeemer, hear us of thy love,  
That, with this glorious band above,  
Hereafter, of thine endless grace,  
Thy servants also may have place.**

*[Attributed to St. Ambrose tr. J. M. Neale]*

**Bethlehem, of noblest cities  
None can once with thee compare;  
Thou alone the Lord from heaven  
Didst for us incarnate bear.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning  
Was the star that told his birth;  
To the lands their God announcing,  
Seen in fleshly form on earth.**

**By its lambent beauty guided,  
See the eastern kings appear;  
See them bend, their gifts to offer,  
Gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh.**

**Solemn things of mystic meaning:  
Incense doth the God disclose,  
Gold a royal child proclaimeth,  
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.**

**Holy Jesu, in thy brightness  
To the Gentile world displayed,  
With the Father and the Spirit  
Endless praise to thee be paid.**

*[Prudentius, tr. Edward Caswall]*

## 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*

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

**All 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.

**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

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!**

**Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him—the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
He will accept for the name that is dear,  
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
Trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!**

**Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
Kneel and adore him—the Lord is his name!**

*[J. S. B. Monsell]*

## SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 11am

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 10am

The Sunday morning service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page following the teaching of 'Loving thy Neighbour' - If you feel unwell, we ask that you do not attend church in person so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services: the Sunday morning service is livestreamed and can also be viewed later our Facebook page.

### Please remember in your prayers this week:

#### THE SICK:

Michael Brown                      Pat Kyle                      Lena Richardson

Ros Clifton                      Finley Makriel                      David

Saffi Cobham                      Ray Nation                      Rachel

*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

Peter Garner

#### THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Sidney Cash                      Michael Jack Luff                      Lilian Kenyon Wilson

Terence Reynolds                      Edna May Street                      John Gething

Maureen Anne Clark                      Albert John Street                      Rose May Williamson

Elizabeth Lees                      George Edward Somes                      Marie Joan Flack

**Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula**

# NOTICES

**Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday 9th January at 12.15pm**

**PCC Meeting- Tuesday 9th January at 7.15pm for 7.30pm**

**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 7.30pm**

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm.

You are very welcome to come and join us.

We are continuing our Advent to Epiphany discussions.

**Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 23rd January 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.

23rd Jan	Bishops of London
27th Feb	St Hilda's Church Window
26th Mar	Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus
23rd Apr	The Wesleys
28th May	Non Canonical Gospels
25th June	Jargon Busting
23rd July	Celtic Spirituality



*Burns night supper*

Celebrate Burns Night  
With supper and dancing  
St Hilda's  
Church Hall,  
Saturday 27th January  
2024  
At 7pm

\* *Tickets £10* \* *sthilda.org* \* *Bar* \*



### **Ambling through Acts course –Thursday1st 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 Newsletter**

The latest issue of the Newsletter is available via the St. Hilda's web site (under "About Us"). We put a few printed copies at the back of church: please leave these for people without internet access and for visitors.

Contributions have been so few that we will be producing this every two months instead of monthly, and unless more people provide material the Newsletter will end.

**This is your magazine -if you want it to continue, start writing!**

The deadline for items for the **February/March** issue is **Sunday 7th January 2024**. Please send your contributions to: [editor@sthilda.org](mailto:editor@sthilda.org)

### **Help Wanted**

The team serving refreshments after Sunday services would appreciate more help. If you can volunteer please speak to Valerie Scott or Paula.

The cleaning team would also appreciate more help: they usually work on Thursday mornings at 10.30am. If you can spare about an hour every week or two, or occasionally, please speak to Rosemary Greenwood or Chris Holliday.

**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

*Vacant*

## Licenced Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young [rosalyn@sthilda.org](mailto:rosalyn@sthilda.org)

## Churchwarden

Paula Gething

## PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: [secretary@sthilda.org](mailto:secretary@sthilda.org)

## PCC Treasurer

Vicky Palmer

[treasurer@sthilda.org](mailto:treasurer@sthilda.org)

## Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

## The Parish Office:

St Hilda's Church, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex  
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Telephone: 01784 253525 Email: [office@sthilda.org](mailto:office@sthilda.org)

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CCLI: 708985

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