

# **ST HILDA'S ASHFORD**



**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
WITH BAPTISM OF CARTER GARY  
10AM 09 MARCH 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**

**God is working his purpose out  
as year succeeds to year,  
God is working his purpose out  
and the time is drawing near;  
Nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
As the waters cover the sea.**

From utmost east to utmost west  
    where'er man's foot hath trod,  
By the mouth of many messengers  
    goes forth the voice of God:  
"Give ear to me, ye continents,  
    ye isles, give ear to me,  
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God  
    As the waters cover the sea."

What can we do to work God's work,  
    to prosper and increase  
The brotherhood of all mankind,  
    the reign of the Prince of Peace?  
What can we do to hasten the time,  
    the time that shall surely be,  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
    As the waters cover the sea?

March we forth in the strength of God  
    with the banner of Christ unfurled,  
That the light of the glorious gospel of truth  
    may shine throughout the world;  
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,  
    to set their captives free,  
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God  
    As the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth  
    unless God blesses the deed;  
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide  
    till God gives life to the seed;  
Yet near and nearer draws the time,  
    the time that shall surely be,  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
    As the waters cover the sea.

*[A C Ainger]*

## 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 are said; we pray with Junior Church.*

We rejoice today with the family of Carter Gary  
as they thank God for the gift of life  
and bring their child for baptism.

God our Creator,  
we thank you for the wonder of new life  
and for the mystery of human love.  
We give thanks for all whose support and skill  
surround and sustain the beginning of life.  
As Jesus knew love and discipline within a human family,  
may this child grow in strength and wisdom.  
As Mary knew the joys and pains of motherhood,  
give these parents your sustaining grace and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

## **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.

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

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your  
Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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 – Micah 6 vv 1 - 8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

‘O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab  
devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.’

‘With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading** – Romans 10 vv 8 - 13

But what does it say?

‘The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart’

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn**

**Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild,  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted and yet undefiled.**

Sunbeams scorching all the day,  
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed,  
Prowling beasts about thy way,  
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,  
And awhile from joys abstain,  
With thee watching unto prayer,  
Strong with thee to suffer pain.

And if Satan, vexing sore,  
Flesh or spirit should assail,  
Thou, his vanquisher before,  
Grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine,  
Holier gladness ours shall be,  
Round us too shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
Ever constant by thy side,  
That with thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide.

*[G H Smyttan and Francis Pott]*

### **Gospel Reading – Luke 4 vv 1 - 13**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to  
his voice. Harden not your hearts.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**



Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone.”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you”,

and

“On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

### Presentation of the Candidate

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome this child and uphold him in his new life in Christ?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

Parents and godparents, the Church receives Carter Gary with joy.

Today we are trusting God for his growth in faith.

Will you pray for him,

draw him by your example into the community of faith and walk with him in the way of Christ?

**P&G With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism Carter Gary begins his journey in faith.

You speak for him today.

Will you care for him,

and help him to take his place

within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

**P&G With the help of God, we will.**

### The Decision

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

## **Signing with the Cross**

Carter Gary, Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ Crucified:

**All Fight valiantly, as a disciple of Christ  
against sin, the world and the devil  
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life”**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of  
darkness,

restore in you the image of his glory,

and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

**All Amen.**

## Prayer over the Water

Praise God who made heaven and earth

**All Who keeps his promise forever**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**All it is right to give our thanks and praise**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water  
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of  
creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel  
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John  
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit

as the Messiah, the Christ,

to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,

we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in  
faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy  
Spirit,

they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with this candidate the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All 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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All 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.**

## **Baptism**

Carter Gary, I baptize you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

May God, who has received you by baptism into his  
Church,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace,  
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people  
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,  
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

**All Amen.**

## **Commission**

We have brought Carter Gary to baptism knowing that  
Jesus died and rose again for him and trusting in the  
promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have  
prayed that in Jesus Christ he will know the forgiveness of  
his sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As he grows up, he will need the help and encouragement  
of the Christian community, so that he may learn to know  
God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus  
Christ in the life of faith, serve him neighbour after the  
example of Christ, and in due course come to  
confirmation.

As his parents and godparents, you have the prime  
responsibility for guiding and helping him in his early  
years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the  
help and grace of God.

Faithful and loving God,  
bless those who care for this child  
and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.  
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,  
and protect their home from all evil.  
Fill them with the light of your presence  
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

We pray to the Lord for courage to give ourselves to him  
this Lent.

*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 Welcome and Peace**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
Carter Gary, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one  
body.

**All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;  
we are children of the same heavenly Father;  
we welcome you.**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **Offertory Hymn**

*During this hymn a collection will be taken*

**My God, how wonderful thou art,  
Thy majesty how bright,  
How beautiful thy mercy seat,  
In depths of burning light!**

**How dread are thine eternal years,  
O everlasting Lord,  
By prostrate spirits day and night  
Incessantly adored!**

**How wonderful, how beautiful,  
The sight of thee must be,  
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power,  
And awful purity!**

**O, how I fear thee, living God,  
With deepest, tenderest fears,  
And worship thee with trembling hope,  
And penitential tears!**



Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,  
Almighty as thou art,  
For thou hast stooped to ask of me  
The love of my poor heart.

No earthly father loves like thee,  
No mother, e'er so mild,  
Bears and forbears as thou hast done  
With me, thy sinful child.

Father of Jesus, love's reward,  
What rapture it will be,  
Prostrate before thy throne to lie,  
And gaze and gaze on thee!

[F. W. Faber]

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

God of life, saviour of the poor,  
receive with this money  
gratitude for your goodness,  
penitence for our pride  
and dedication to your service  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our  
Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and  
singing:

**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.*

Great is the mystery of faith :

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of 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**

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All**    **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
All**    **have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*The president says the invitation to communion*

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink

in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*The president and people receive communion.*

## Communion Hymns

Sweet sacrament divine,  
Hid in thine earthly home,  
Lo, round thy lowly shrine,  
With suppliant hearts we come;  
Jesu, to thee our voice we raise,  
In songs of love and heartfelt praise:  
Sweet sacrament divine. (x2)

Sweet sacrament of peace,  
Dear home for every heart,  
Where restless yearnings cease  
And sorrows all depart;  
There in thine ear all trustfully  
We tell our tale of misery:  
Sweet sacrament of peace. (x2)

Sweet sacrament of rest,  
Ark from the ocean's roar,  
Within thy shelter blest  
Soon may we reach the shore;  
Save us, for still the tempest raves,  
Save, lest we sink beneath the waves,  
Sweet sacrament of rest. (x2)

Sweet sacrament divine,  
Earth's light and jubilee,  
In thy far depths doth shine  
The Godhead's majesty;  
Sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,  
That earthly joys may fade away,  
Sweet sacrament divine. (x2)

*[Francis Stanfield]*

**Anthem: Lead me, Lord**

*[Samuel S Wesley]*

Jesu, the very thought of thee  
With sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far thy face to see,  
And in thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,  
Nor can the memory find,  
A sweeter sound than thy blest name,  
O Saviour of mankind!

O hope of every contrite heart,  
O joy of all the meek,  
To those who fall, how kind thou art!  
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this  
Nor tongue nor pen can show;  
The love of Jesus, what it is  
None but his loved ones know.

Jesu, our only joy be thou,  
As thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesu, be thou our glory now,  
And thru eternity.

*[Latin C12th, Tr. Edward Caswall]*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And his righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.*

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek, and ye shall find,  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone,  
But by ev'ry word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God;  
Allelu, alleluia.

Where two or three are gathered in my name,  
There am I in their midst;  
And whatsoever you ask I will do;  
Allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.*

*[© 1972 CCCM Music Universal  
Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing]*

## **Prayers after Communion**

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

Lord God,  
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and  
living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**



**All** Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Notices** – *see pages 28 - 31*

## **THE DISMISSAL**

### **Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.

## **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives thy service find,  
In deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!**

*[John Whittier]*

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**Please remember in your prayers this week:**

**THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:**

Michael Brown	Gemma Hart	Massimo Pellizzari
Ben Bishop	John Hunt	Lena Richardson
Stan Bishop	Matthew Hutnell	Martine Simpson
AnneMarie Bough	Pat Kyle	Delia Woodley
Tony Diggins	Mary Mills	Ben
Maureen Firth	Ray Nation	David
Sheila Freeman	Pat Parish	Fiona

**THE RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Rev. Peter Keslake

**THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK**

Peter William Blundell	James Forsbrey	James Chippendale
Matthew James Scott	Sheila Du Bock	Constance Harrison
Joy Irene Constance Strange	Dennis Glover	Ramon George Kitto

**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/>

**SERVICE TIMES next week**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am**  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 10am**

The Sunday service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page  
[https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/live\\_videos](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.*

### **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 our new venue: the **Hawley room** in the church hall: use the side door (which opens outwards) and follow the corridor left and left again. We meet most Wednesday evenings.

We will be continuing our look at John's Gospel, following the last hours of Jesus' life on earth. You are very welcome to join us.

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on Sunday 27th April. Would all group leaders please ensure that they get reports to me by **Sunday 9th March, 2025**. Please send to [lizbrian17@aol.com](mailto:lizbrian17@aol.com).

Many thanks,

*Liz Brian*

PCC Secretary - St Hilda's Church, Ashford

### **Mothers' Union Lunch – Tuesday 11th March at 12 noon**

### **PCC – Tuesday 11th March at 7.15pm for 7.30pm**

**\*\*\* Children's Society Collecting Boxes \*\*\***

This is the time of year for the opening of The Children's Society Boxes, and for the contents to be sent to The Children's Society. Please let *Chris Davenport* have your box, which will be returned after emptying. If you would like Chris to collect your box from you, or would like to have a box for the first time, please let Chris know. Thank you.

**\*\*\* THE ELECTORAL ROLL NOTICE \*\*\***

At an APCM, only those who are on the Electoral Roll may take part in the voting for Churchwardens and PCC Members. This year is special, as it has to be a complete revision of the Roll. That means that everyone will need to re-apply. The process will begin at the end of this month, and this is just a friendly warning that there is work to be done.

If you consider that St Hilda's is your regular place of worship I am sure that you would wish to be included on our Electoral Roll. This is to ensure that you are able to take part in the decision-making for the parish. To that end, you will need to complete an Electoral Roll application form. These will be available either from me after the Sunday service, or from the office. The Electoral Roll will be closed for revision on **31st March 2025**, and applications will have to have been received by that date. So you have six weeks before the deadline.

*Jane Dobbie*, Electoral Roll Officer  
01784 252051

**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

**\*\*\* Walk a Mile, Pray a Mile – Lent 2025 \*\*\***

This Lent, embark on a journey of faith and intercession with Walk a Mile, Pray a Mile, a powerful project for the 40 days of Lent (excluding Sundays). We invite every member of our church family to walk at least one mile a day—with intention, with prayer, and with love for our parish and its people.

Walk to work, to the shops, or for leisure. Walk for your health, for reflection, and for the spiritual renewal of our community. As you walk, pray. Pray for the streets you tread, the homes you pass, and the people you encounter. Take different paths, explore new corners, and let your prayers rise from places that speak to your heart—be it a historic street, a quiet green space, or a busy neighbourhood. Like Joshua and the children of Israel walking around Jericho, let us walk in faith, knowing that through prayer, God can bring down walls, heal hearts, and bless lives.

To support your prayers, prayer resources will be available at the back of the church from Ash Wednesday. These will guide and inspire your intercessions as you walk. Additionally, in the front of the church, you'll find a parish map where you can mark the streets and paths you've walked each week. Together, let's aim to cover every corner of our community with prayer, ensuring no place or person is left untouched by God's love.

If you are unable to walk due to age or health, please know you are a vital part of this journey. Stand in your garden, by your doorstep, or at a window, and pray as you face different directions. Let your prayers join the chorus of intercession as others walk.

This Lent, let's commit to walking and praying together. Let's saturate our parish with love, hope, and faith—trusting that God will move powerfully among us as we journey with Him.

# **Contact Information**

## **Vicar**

Fr. Julius Anozie

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

+447359 876498

## **Licenced Lay Minister**

Rosalyn Young

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

## **Churchwardens**

Paula Gething

Stuart Young

## **PCC Secretary**

Liz Brian

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

## **PCC Treasurer**

Khadijeh

[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  
TW15 3QL

Telephone: 01784 253525 Email: [office@sthilda.org](mailto:office@sthilda.org)

Website: [www.sthilda.org](http://www.sthilda.org)

Charity Number: 1134119

CCLI: 708985

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