

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER TRINITY

01 OCTOBER 2023

<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

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home!
All be safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home!**

**All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall purge away
All that doth offend, that day;
Give his angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In his garner evermore.**

**Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home;
All be safely gathered in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified
In God's garner to abide:
Come, ten thousand angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest-home**

[Henry Alford]

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;
Junior Church present their harvest gifts before going to Messy Church.*

Blessing of the harvest gifts

Almighty Lord God,
You keep on giving abundance to men in the dew of
heaven, and food out of the richness of the soil.
We give thanks to your most gracious majesty
for the fruits of the field which we have gathered.
We beg of you, in your mercy, to bless our harvest,
which we have received from your generosity.
Preserve it, and keep it from all harm.
Grant, too, that all those whose desires you have filled
with these good things
may be happy in your protection.
May they praise your mercies forever,
and make use of the good things that do not last
in such a way that they may not lose those goods
that are everlasting,
through 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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of
the world.

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless,
and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:

All forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone,
as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy

All forgive us and help us.

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*

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
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 – Exodus 17 vv 1 - 7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place

Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Philippians 2 vv 1 - 13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed
me, not only in my presence, but much more now in
my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and
trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling
you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 21 vv 23 - 32

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for
harvesting.

Gather the fruit for eternal life.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

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

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

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

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

We meet in the name of Christ and share his 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

We plough the fields, and scatter

The good seed on the land,

But it is fed and watered

By God's almighty hand;

He sends the snow in winter,

The warmth to swell the grain,

The breezes and the sunshine,

And soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us

Are sent from heaven above,

Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,

For all his love.

He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey him,
By him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, his children,
He gives our daily bread.

Refrain

We thank thee, then, O Father,
For all things bright and good;
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer,
For all thy love imparts,
But that which thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

Refrain

[Matthias Claudus tr. Jane Campbell]

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

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
you bring forth bread from the earth.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
you create the fruit of the vine.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

Through him you have created us in your own image,
and made us stewards of your good creation.

Through him you teach us to exult in the birds of the air,
the lilies of the field,

the precious and life-giving crops of the earth.

Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to die upon the cross
and to rise again for our salvation.

Through him, you begin your work of new creation,
as we look for a new heaven and a new earth
in which your righteousness dwells.

Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,
and give voice to every creature under heaven,
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.

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

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

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

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

Christ is the bread of life:

All **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Hilda and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

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

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

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The president and people receive communion.

Communion Hymns

Song: As water to the thirsty

*[©Words: 1979 Dudley-Smith, Timothy
Music: 1986 Hope Publishing Company]*

Anthem: Thou visitest the earth

(Maurice Greene 1695-1755)

To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise
In hymns of adoration;
To thee bring sacrifice of praise
With shouts of exultation.
Bright robes of gold the fields adorn,
The hills with joy are ringing,
The valleys stand so thick with corn
That even they are singing.
And now, on this our festal day,
Thy bounteous hand confessing,
Upon thine altar, Lord, we lay
The first-fruits of thy blessing;
By thee the souls of men are fed
With gifts of grace supernal;
Thou who dost give us earthly bread,
Give us the bread eternal.
We bear the burden of the day,
And often toil seems dreary;
But labour ends with sunset ray,
And rest comes for the weary;
May we, the angel-reaping o'er,
Stand at the last accepted,
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore
To garners bright elected.

O blessèd is that land of God,
Where saints abide for ever;
Where golden fields spread far and broad,
Where flows the crystal river:
The strains of all its holy throng
With ours today are blending;
Thrice blessèd is that harvest-song
Which never hath an ending.

[W. Chatterton Dix]

Prayers after Communion

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

Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving
for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us
a reverence for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards
of the good things we enjoy;
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

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Refrain

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and brain's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:
Refrain

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Refrain

For thy Church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love:
Refrain

**For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven.
*Lord of all, to thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.***

[F. S. Pierpoint]

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SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 4th October 11am

with Mothers' Union

Sunday 8th October 10am

The Sunday 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 in person so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:

Michael Brown

Melvyn Jansen

Jonothan Wren

Lizio Cassar

Pat Kyle

David

Ros Clifton

Ray Nation

Elaine

Saffi Cobham

Pat Parker

Rachel

Joan Davies

Lena Richardson

Solange

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:

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Godfrey Walter Wyeth

Charles Makings

Henry William Turner

Richard Albert Eade

Edna Heath

Harry Forsbrey

George Roy Pink

THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE:

Andrew Milton and Amy Foreman

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

NOTICES

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 will be looking at some of the Psalms for the next few weeks, so each session will be stand-alone, making this a good time to come and see what we do.

Ambling through Acts course –Thursday 5thOctober

(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.

Frost Fair - Saturday 4th November from11.30am

We want screw top wine bottles - either full or empty

L'Or coffee jars - empty (please keep the ones from church!)

Prizes for raffle and tombola etc. - Please start collecting!

The next planning meeting will be after the service on Sunday 8th Oct.

Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday 10th October at 12noon

PCC Meeting - Tuesday 10th October at 7.15pm

Wednesday 18th October at 5.00pm

Fr. Joseph will be preaching in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 24th October 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.

Oct 24th St Francis of Assisi

Nov 28th Pick and Mix

Confirmation 5th November at St Hilda's

The preparation sessions continue on Saturdays at 9 am for adults and 10 am for children.

For more information please contact Rosalyn Young on

rosalyn@sthilda.org

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 **December/January** issue is **Sunday 5th November**. Please send your contributions to: editor@sthilda.org

The Parish Office is available by phone or email.

Any appointments in person must be booked.

Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman. Her office hours are:

Monday: 3.30-5pm

Wednesday: 3.30-6.30pm

Thursday 6.30-9.30pm

Saturday: 9.45-11.15am

Ashford Church of England



Primary School



School Road

Ashford TW15 2BW

**Do you have a child starting school in September 2024?
We would love to meet you! Please come along to one of our open
events.**

Saturday 7th October

10am - 12 noon

There will be a talk by the Headteacher at 10am and then time for you to meet the team and look around the school.

For further details and to book, please scan here



Tuesday 10th October

6pm - 8pm

There will be a talk by the Headteacher at 6pm and then time for you to meet the team and look around the school.

For further details and to book, please scan here



Contact Information

Vicar

Vacant

Licenced Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwarden

Paula Gething

PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Vicky Palmer

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

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