

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



**THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE
LENT
10AM 15 FEBRUARY 2026**

The Sunday service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/live_videos
or see: <https://www.youtube.com/@sthildachurch8263>

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 toddler's corner in the north aisle which young children are very welcome to use, and there activity sheets are available to occupy them.

Please indicate to the priest if you want a gluten free wafer during communion

We encourage parishioners to donate via PARISH GIVING:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/ashford-st-hilda-ashford/>



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THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone:
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia! Bread of Angels,
Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
Earth thy footstool, Heaven thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest.
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim
In the Eucharistic feast.

[W. Chatteron 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 are said. We pray with Junior Church.

Prayer of Preparation

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

Prayers of Penitence

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'
We long for the fire of God's cleansing
to touch our unclean lips,
for our guilt to be removed and our sin wiped out.
So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit
with repentance in our hearts.

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*

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Exodus ch 24 vv 12 - 18

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the

seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – 2 Peter ch 1 vv 16 - 21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

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

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

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

[Charles Wesley]

Gospel Reading – Matthew ch 17 vv 1 - 9

Alleluia, alleluia.
Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.
You have the words of eternal life.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Taizé chant:

Laudate dominum, (x2) omnes gentes, Alleluia!

The Sermon – All sit

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

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,
who has brought us out of darkness
and into his own marvellous light.

The prayers end with the following:

Merciful Father
**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name 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. You can use the QR code on page 3, and on the back of the chairs, for online donations.

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
Be thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord,
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Be thou mine Inheritance now and always:
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*[Irish c. 8th century
tr. Mary Byrne, versified Eleanor Hull]*

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

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.

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.

And now we give you thanks
because you are the source of light and life;
you made us in your image
and called us to new life in him.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
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.*

Let us proclaim 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

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us,
in the language of our hearts we pray:

We say the Lord's Prayer in our preferred language

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 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

The president says the invitation to communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The president and people receive communion.

All confirmed Anglicans, as well as all baptized Christians who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and are in a state of grace, are welcome to receive communion, provided they would normally do so in their own church. If you are not receiving communion today, you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing; please indicate this by bringing your order of service with you.

Communion Hymns

Christ is the world's true Light, its Captain of salvation,
The Daystar shining bright to every man and nation;
New life, new hope awakes, where'er men own his sway:
Freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting:
When Christ is throned as Lord, men shall forsake their fear,
To ploughshare bear the sword, to pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great name unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone thee;
The world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

[G. W. Briggs; words© Oxford University Press]

**Christ upon the mountain peak
Stands alone in glory blazing.
Let us, if we dare to speak,
With the saints and angels praise him - Alleluia! (x4)**

**Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the Prophets and the Law
Shout through them their joyful greeting - Alleluia! (x4)**

**Swift the cloud of glory came,
God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as his Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder! - Alleluia! (x4)**

**This is God's beloved Son.
Law and prophets fade before him,
First and last and only One,
Let creation now adore him: Alleluia! (x4)**

[Brian Wren © 1977, 1995 Stainer & Bell Ltd]

**Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
Wash me with water flowing from thy side.**

**Strength and protection may thy passion be,
O blessèd Jesu, hear and answer me;
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
So shall I never, never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
In death's dread moments make me only thine;
Call me, and bid me come to thee on high
When I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.**

[Attributed to Pope John XXII tr. Anon]

'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun,
Shine with unborrowed light.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
Thy beauty to behold,
Where Moses and Elijah stand,
Thy messengers of old

Fulfiller of the past,
Promise of things to be,
We hail thy body glorified,
And our redemption see.

Before we taste of death,
We see thy kingdom come;
We fain would hold the vision bright,
And make this hill our home.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
But since thou bidst us leave the mount
Come with us to the plain.

[J. Armitage Robinson]

Prayers after Communion

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

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Notices - see pages 22 - 23

THE DISMISSAL

St. Hilda's prayer

All May I be equal to your hope of me.
If I am weak, I ask that you send only what I can bear.
If I am strong, may I shrink from no testing
that shall yield increase of strength
or win security for my spirit.
I trust in thee, O Lord. I say, 'Thou art my God.'
My times are in thy hand. Amen

Blessing

God, who from the death of sin
raised you to new life in Christ,
keep you from falling
and set you in the presence of his 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.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional Hymn

Bright the vision that delighted
Once the sight of Judah's seer;
Sweet the countless tongues united
To entrance the prophet's ear

Round the Lord in glory seated
Cherubim and seraphim
Filled his temple, and repeated
Each to each the alternate hymn:

'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
Earth is with its fullness stored;
Unto thee be glory given,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

Heaven is still with glory ringing,
Earth takes up the angels' cry:
'Holy, holy, holy,' singing,
'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.'

With his seraph train before him,
With his holy Church below,
Thus unite we to adore him,
Bid we thus our anthem flow:

'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
Earth is with its fullness stored;
Unto thee be glory given,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

[Richard Mant]

Please join us for tea or coffee after the service

SERVICE TIMES next week

Ash Wednesday 18th February 11.00am and 7pm

Sunday 22nd February 10am

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Anna Anderton, Cyril Anderton, Ben Bishop, Stan Bishop, Wendy Butt, Brenda Charlton, Tony Charlton, Tony Diggins, Robert Dobbie, Sheila Freeman, Wendy Grantham, Gemma Hart, Kevin Harwood, John Hunt, Lorna Jackson, Carole Kelly, Pat Kyle, Ray Nation, John Parish, Massimo Pellizzari, June Prentice, Marion Scholar, Annette Scott, Elsie Stone, Andrew Watson (Bishop of Guildford), Claire West, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abby, Ben, Darren, Eva, Fiona, Peter, Ramin

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED: Irene (Chick) Wilson

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:

Laurence Curness, Georgina Adelaide Carr, Richard Anthony Pegler, Donald Anton Ross, Constance May Anderson, Violet Clara Brown, Michael Rex Jackson, Hilda Lund, Adele Beatrice Crow, Peter Harris, Walter Oldfield, Ernest Charles Titt, Betty Mills, Warren Francis Morrison, Kenneth Ingham

**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, Yemen, Iran and Nigeria.

for more details see <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Pray for the areas of the world where there is conflict, including:
the Middle East including Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Iran;
India and Pakistan; Ukraine and Russia; Sudan; Myanmar.

NOTICES

The deadline for items for the Service Sheet is noon on Thursday.

Send to **communication@sthilda.org**

St Hilda Ashford Lent Course – How It Works

The St Hilda Ashford Lent Course is designed to be explored through a combination of video and shared discussion. Each week includes a recorded talk by a guest speaker, followed by a course manual to help deepen reflection and conversation.

The weekly videos will be released on the Sunday of each week, with the exception of Ash Wednesday, when the video will be released on that day.

Participants are encouraged to watch the video and then use the manual to go deeper into the themes through discussion and prayer. If you are unable to join the Bible study group, please arrange to meet with at least two other people once a week to work through the material together using the manual.

As part of our safeguarding guidelines, we ask that you let us know who is in your group, and where and when you will be meeting.

We hope this course will be a meaningful opportunity to reflect, share, and grow together during Lent.

Fr Julius

Childrens' Society Collecting Boxes

Please bring your box to church and give it to Chris Davenport to be emptied.

Bible Study Group - Monday 16th February at 7.30pm

In the Hawley Room in the church hall. All are welcome to join us.

Shrove Tuesday 17th February at 6.00pm

Junior Church invite you to join them for pancakes.

Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon

Feed My Sheep- Tuesday 24th February at 2.30pm

In the Small Hall. The topic will be Bishops of London (part2)

PCC Meeting - Tuesday 24th February at 7 for 7.30pm

Jumble Sale and Auction – Saturday 28th February at 2pm

In St. Hilda's Church in aid of the Hall Toilet Fund. Admission £1
Goods (and help) to the church from 10am
If you can help, please sign the list at the back of church

Ambling Through Acts – Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm in church

Parish Breakfast – Saturday 14th March at 9.30am

Confirmation Classes next meetings:

Youth Group (in person) 4th March, 18th March

Senior Group (on-line) 25th Feb, 11th March, 25th March

The Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 17th May 2026

Garden of Repose

Following on the success of the Garden of Repose which was created in the Lady Chapel last Easter, we would like to do this again this year. If possible we would like to make it even better than last year, but we cannot do it without the help of the St Hilda's family. Donations of spring flowering plants or small planted up pots/ troughs would be wonderful and will be returned to the donor to enjoy in their own garden or replanted in the church grounds after Easter.

If you would like to help in any way at all, please speak to Pauline Milton.

The Archdeacon of Middlesex, Richard Frank, is recruiting for a PA to provide comprehensive administrative support , working closely with clergy, churchwardens, parish officers, and diocesan colleagues. Your work would directly support local churches across West London, helping parishes flourish, buildings be cared for, clergy supported, and key diocesan processes run smoothly. The role would be full-time for the first 18 months, based out of our Twickenham offices, with hybrid working welcomed.

To find out more, go to <https://pathways.churchofengland.org/> and search for "Archdeacon of Middlesex". If you would like an informal chat about the role, do drop me a line at: archdeacon.middlesex@london.anglican.org The closing date is 24th February.

Contact Information

Vicar

Fr. Julius Anozie

vicar@sthilda.org

+447359 876498

Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young

rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwardens

Alison Garner

Stuart Young

Email: warden@sthilda.org

PCC Secretary

Tyler Pannone

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Khadijeh

treasurer@sthilda.org

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Nick Gething

safeguarding@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

Office hours are: Monday by appointment only

Tue: 9am-6pm, Wed: 12 noon-4:00pm, Thur: 9am-6pm

Notices etc. Email: communcation@sthilda.org

Website: www.sthilda.org

Charity Number: 1134119

CCLI: 708985

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