

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



CANDLEMAS THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

10AM 01 FEBRUARY 2025

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.

<p><i>Please indicate to the priest if you want a gluten free wafer during communion</i></p>
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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

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory;
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

[Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music]

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **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. (Junior Church are in the hall for Messy 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

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all

**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

**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

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - Malachi ch 3 vv 1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading - Hebrews ch 2 vv 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: Responsorial Psalm 98

The response is:

***All the ends of the earth have seen :
the salvation of our God.***

Gospel Reading - Luke ch 2 vv 22-40

Alleluia, alleluia.

Our eyes have seen your salvation,
a light to enlighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
 according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she

came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

**Faithful vigil ended,
Watching, waiting, cease;
Master, grant thy servant
His discharge in peace.**

**All the Spirit promised,
All the Father willed;
Now these eyes behold it
Perfectly fulfilled.**

**This thy great deliverance
Sets thy people free;
Christ, their light, uplifted
All the nations see.**

**Christ, thy people's glory!
Watching, doubting, cease:
Grant to us thy servants
Our discharge in peace.**

*[© Words: 1981 Dudley-Smith, Timothy;
Music: Public Domain]*

The Sermon – All sit

The Creed

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

**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 the Father through Christ our light and life.

The prayers end with the following:

Merciful Father,

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace – *All stand*

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way 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. You can use the QR code on page 3, and on the back of the chairs, for online donations.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

All **Christ, be our light!**
 Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in Your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us Your living voice.

All **Refrain**

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us Your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

All **Refrain**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us Your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

All **Refrain**

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making Your kingdom come.

All **Refrain**

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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.

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten
the nations,
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your
redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending 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, 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

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.

All We do not presume

to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.

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

Anthem: Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness

*[Text: Based on Psalms 5:8, 4:8. Music: Samuel S. Wesley. 1861.
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Canticle: Nunc Dimitis

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Virgin-born, we bow before thee:
Blessed was the womb that bore thee;
Mary, Mother meek and mild,
Blessèd was she in her Child.
Blessèd was the breast that fed thee;
Blessèd was the hand that led thee;
Blessèd was the parent's eye
That watched thy slumbering infancy.

Blessèd she by all creation,
Who brought forth the world's salvation,
And blessèd they, for ever blest,
Who love thee most and serve thee best.
Virgin-born, we bow before thee;
Blessèd was the womb that bore thee;
Mary, Mother meek and mild,
Blessèd was she in her Child.

*[Tune: Louis Bourgeois, Harm. by Claude Goudimel; Text: Reginald
Heber*

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Prayers after Communion

Silence is kept after which the post-Communion collect is said.

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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.

<p>Notices - see pages 22-23</p>

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

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
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

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise!

[Charles Wesley]

Please join us for tea or coffee after the service

SERVICE TIMES next week

Wednesday 4th February 11am

Sunday 8th February 10am

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Ben Bishop, Stan Bishop, AnneMarie Bough, Wendy Butt, Brenda Charlton, Tony Charlton Tony Diggins, Robert Dobbie, Sheila Freeman, Wendy Grantham, Gemma Hart, Kevin Harwood, John Hunt, Lorna Jackson, Pat Kyle, Ray Nation, John Parish, Massimo Pellizzari, Marion Scholar, Annette Scott, Elsie Stone, Claire West, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abby, Ben, Darren, Eva, Fiona, Peter, Ramin

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Chick Wilson

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:

John David Smith, Jane Mitchell, Warren F Darling, M Dorothy C Pritchard, Lawrence Alford

**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**

Childrens' Society Collecting Boxes

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

Bible Study Group - Monday 2nd February at 7.30pm

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

Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon

Ambling Through Acts – Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm

Service of Thanksgiving for Julie Carr - Saturday 7th Feb at 2 pm

In St. Hilda's. Julie's daughter Liz writes: Everyone is welcome, so please do come, if you would like to. We intend to make it a joyous occasion. There is no dress code, but Mum loved singing. So, just bring yourselves and your voices! Looking forward to seeing you there, if you can make it.

Parish Breakfast – Saturday 14th February at 9.30am

The Spelthorne Orchestra - Sunday 22nd February at 4pm

See leaflets in church for more details

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

Confirmation Service – Sunday 17th May 2026

Classes will be held on Wednesdays:

for the Youth Group (in person) Feb, 4th March, 18th March.

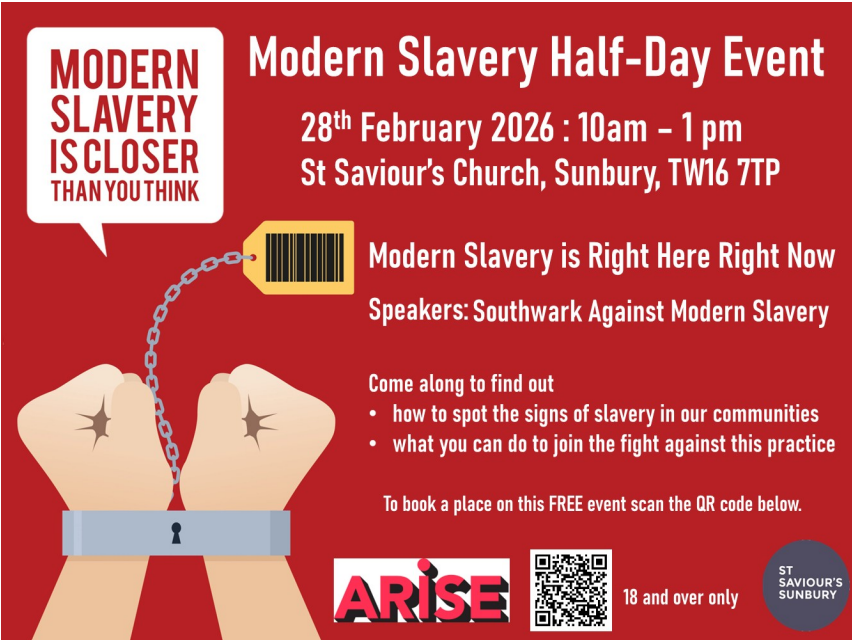
for the Senior Group (on-line) 4th Feb, 25th Feb, 11th Mar. 25th Mar.

Sign-up forms for the classes are available at the back of church. If you are interested in being confirmed please fill one in and return it to the Parish Office

The Parish Office : Office hours are -

Mon: by appointment only,

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



**MODERN
SLAVERY
ISCLOSER
THAN YOU THINK**

Modern Slavery Half-Day Event

28th February 2026 : 10am – 1pm
St Saviour's Church, Sunbury, TW16 7TP


Modern Slavery is Right Here Right Now
Speakers: Southwark Against Modern Slavery

Come along to find out

- how to spot the signs of slavery in our communities
- what you can do to join the fight against this practice

To book a place on this FREE event scan the QR code below.

ARISE



18 and over only

ST SAVIOUR'S
SUNBURY

Contact Information

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01784 252170

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