

# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER 10 AM 26 APRIL 2026

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>

*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

Jesus, where'er thy people meet,  
There they behold thy mercy-seat;  
Where'er they seek thee, thou art found,  
And every place is hallowed ground.

For thou, within no walls confined,  
Inhabitest the humble mind;  
Such ever bring thee where they come,  
And going, take thee to their home.

Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,  
Thy former mercies here renew;  
Here to our waiting hearts proclaim  
The sweetness of thy saving name.

Here may we prove the power of prayer,  
To strengthen faith and sweeten care;  
To teach our faint desires to rise,  
And bring all heaven before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but thou art near;  
Nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear;  
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,  
And make a thousand hearts thine own!

*[William Cowper]*

## 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**

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**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*

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading** – Genesis ch 7

Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.' And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the

fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading** – Acts ch 2 vv 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading** – John ch 10 vv 1-10

Alleluia, Alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

**All Alleluia.**

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

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

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will

not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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 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**

Jesus our exalted Lord has been given all authority.  
Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be  
perfected by his prayer.

*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 – *We stand***

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you. Alleluia.**

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 2, and on the back of the chairs, for online donations.*

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
Praise to our victorious King:  
Who hath washed us in the tide  
Flowing from his piercèd side;  
Praise we him whose love divine  
Gives the guests his blood for wine,  
Gives his body for the feast,  
Love the victim, Love the Priest.**

**Mighty Victim from on high,  
Powers of hell beneath thee lie;  
Death is broken in the fight,  
Thou hast brought us life and light.  
Now thy banner thou dost wave,  
Conquering Satan and the grave.  
See the prince of darkness quelled;  
Heaven's bright gates are open held.**

**Paschal triumph, Paschal joy,  
Only sin can this destroy;  
From sin's death do thou set free,  
Souls re-born, dear Lord, in thee.  
Hymns of glory, songs of praise,  
Father, unto thee we raise.  
Risen Lord, all praise to thee,  
Ever with the Spirit be.**

*[From a Latin Breviary hymn tr. Robert Campbell]*

*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, it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;  
through him you have created all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead  
and exalted him to your right hand on high.  
Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own possession.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you  
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.  
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,  
and has taken away the sin of the world.  
By his death he has destroyed death,  
and by his rising to life again  
he has restored to us everlasting life.  
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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
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.*

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All** Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
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.*

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.

## **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*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*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

Faithful Shepherd, feed me in the pastures green;  
Faithful Shepherd, lead me where thy steps are seen.

Hold me fast, and guide me in the narrow way;  
So, with thee beside me, I shall never stray.

Daily bring me nearer to the heavenly shore;  
May my faith grow clearer, may I love thee more.

Hallow every pleasure, every gift and pain;  
Be thyself my treasure, though none else I gain.

Day by day prepare me as thou seest best,  
Then let angels bear me to thy promised rest.

*[T B Pollock]*

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone,  
And I will trust in you alone,  
For your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And he anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on his pure delights.

*Refrain*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For you are with me, and your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

*Refrain*

*[Stuart Townend © 1996 Thankyou Music]*

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
Thy head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
Weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,'  
Behold, I freely give  
The living water, thirsty one;  
Stoop down, and drink, and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that life giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
    'I am this dark world's Light;  
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
    And all thy day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
    In him my Star, my Sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk,  
    Till travelling days are done.

*[Horatius Bonar © Music: Oxford University Press ]*

## **Prayers after Communion**

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

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

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

***Notices - see page 22***

## 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 perfect in you the image of his glory  
and gladden your hearts  
with the good news of his kingdom;  
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 the light and peace of Christ. . Alleluia, Alleluia

**All** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

### Recessional Hymn

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,  
All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,  
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,  
All the heavenly orders, in their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
From the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
Faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant with its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,  
To the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;  
Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
All that is not holy, all that is not true;  
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,  
Ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
With the Father's glory, with his angel train;  
For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
And our hearts confess him King of glory now.

*[Caroline Noel]*

*Please join us for tea or coffee after the service*

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

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

Emma Bennet, Ben Bishop, Stan Bishop, Wendy Butt, Brenda Charlton, Tony Charlton Tony Diggins, Robert Dobbie, Sheila Freeman, Gemma Hart, Kevin Harwood, John Hunt, Lorna Jackson, Carole Kelly, Julia Kirkby, Pat Kitto, Pat Kyle, Ray Nation, John Parish, Massimo Pellizzari, Rev Chris Rogers, Annette Scott, Elsie Stone, Christine Taylor, Barbara Warne, Claire West, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abby, Ben, Christine, Darren, Eva, Fiona, Peter, Ramin

*If you know of someone who can be removed from this list, please tell Rosemary or email [communication@sthilda.org](mailto:communication@sthilda.org)*

**THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:**

Jennifer Wrightson, Sheila Simon, Frank Staples, Barbara Carpenter

**THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:**

Kenneth Goldsmith, Anne Fulton Minns, Elvina Maud Stone, Winifred Ellen Louise Barnes, Doris Hilda Durham, William George Frank Durham, Pauline Pearl Levey, Elsie Winifred May Swain, Mary Ann Brooker, Dorothy Barnett-Roberts

**THOSE PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION:**

Elizabeth, Gabriel, Nima, Malachi, Charlotte, Jenny, Teddy, Oliver, Farhad, Khadijeh, Ben, Adam

**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, Lebanon, Israel, Iran; India and Pakistan; Ukraine and Russia; Sudan; Myanmar.

**SERVICE TIMES next week**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 11.00am**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 10am** Junior Church have Messy Church

## NOTICES

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

Send to [\*\*communication@sthilda.org\*\*](mailto:communication@sthilda.org)

### **Bible Study Group – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

In the Hawley Room in the church hall. We continue to learn about the Holy Spirit. New members or visitors welcome!

### **Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon**

### **Confirmation Classes** next meetings:

Youth Group (in person) 29<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> May

Senior Group (on-line) 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> May

The Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The April meeting of **Feed My Sheep** has been cancelled.

### **\*\*\* WANTED! \*\*\* Items for Newsletter**

We have a new editor – thank you, Nima!

The plan is to produce it quarterly. Please send contributions to [\*\*editor@sthilda.org\*\*](mailto:editor@sthilda.org)



# **Contact Information**

## **Vicar**

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+447359 876498

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Stuart Young

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## **PCC Secretary**

Tyler Pannone

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

## **PCC Treasurer**

Khadijeh

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## **Parish Safeguarding Officer**

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## **Church Hall Bookings**

Chris Davenport

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### **The Parish Office:**

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*Office hours are:* Monday by appointment only

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

Notices etc. Email: [communcation@sthilda.org](mailto:communcation@sthilda.org)

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

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