

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 10AM 22 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[G H Smyttan and Francis Pott]

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen

The Lord 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

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

or other appropriate sentences

**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.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Absolution

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**

The Collect -

The Collect for the Week is said after a moment of silence

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading -Romans ch 8 vv 14–17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

All ye who seek a comfort sure
In trouble and distress,
Whatever sorrow vex the mind,
Or guilt the soul oppress,

Jesus, who gave himself for you
Upon the cross to die,
Opens to you his sacred heart;
O to that heart draw nigh.

Ye hear how kindly he invites;
Ye hear his words so blest -
"All ye that labour come to me,
And I will give you rest."

O Jesus, joy of saints on high,
Thou hope of sinners here,
Attracted by those loving words
To thee I lift my prayer.

**Wash thou my wounds in that dear blood
Which forth from thee doth flow;
New grace, new hope inspire, a new
And better heart bestow.**

*[C18th Latin tr Edward Caswall
© Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd]*

Gospel Reading -Matthew ch 6 vv 5 - 18

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

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

‘Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Taizé chant: **Miserere mei Domine, miserere me.**

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

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

The prayers end with the following:

Merciful Father,

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace – *All stand*

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

[A C Ainger]

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

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

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

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

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

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
All God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying: *Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith :
**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

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

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

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Hilda and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Agnus Dei

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

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy upon us.

Jesus, redeemer 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.**

**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

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us, you are one with us,
Mary's Son;
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Now and every day teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of you:
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
You have come to us, born as one with us,
Mary's Son;
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
I would come to you, live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

[Patrick Appleford

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

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

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

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

[Francis Stanfield]

Lord, teach us how to pray aright,
With reverence and with fear;
Though dust and ashes in thy sight,
We may, we must draw near.

**We perish if we cease from prayer;
O grant us power to pray;
And when to meet thee we prepare,
Lord, meet us by the way.**

**God of all grace, we come to thee
With broken, contrite hearts;
Give, what thine eye delights to see,
Truth in the inward parts;**

**Faith in the only sacrifice
That can for sin atone,
To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes,
On Christ, on Christ alone;**

**Patience to watch, and wait, and weep,
Though mercy long delay;
Courage our fainting souls to keep,
And trust thee though thou slay.**

**Give these, and then your will be done;
Thus, strengthened with all might,
We, through thy Spirit and thy Son,
Shall pray, and pray aright.**

[James Montgomery]

Prayers after Communion

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

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

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

Notices - see pages 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

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

All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ

All Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that always feels thy blood
So freely spilt for me.

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My dear Redeemer's throne;
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone.

A humble, lowly, contrite, heart,
Believing, true and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From him that dwells within:

A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine,
Perfect and right and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of thine.

My heart, thou know'st, can never rest
Till thou create my peace;
Till of mine Eden repossess,
From self, and sin, I cease.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above;
Write thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new, best name of love.

[Charles Wesley]

Please join us for tea or coffee after the service

SERVICE TIMES next week

Wednesday 25th February 11.00am
Sunday 1st March 10am + Messy Church

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, Christine, Darren, Eva, Fiona, Peter, Ramin

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED: Irene (Chick) Wilson

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:

Ethel Mary Scott, Florence Peckham, Florence Davenport. Eileen Margaret Byne

**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

Spelthorne Orchestr Concert * TODAY *** at 4 - 6pm**

In St. Hilda's Church. Tickets £10, (under 10s free) available on the door.

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.

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

The video for the first week in Lent can be found here:

[https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrlg28YebzIfrcM4eKNtgG11jv71uRc1G&si=twGNZCu7kXtUgfn)

[list=PLrlg28YebzIfrcM4eKNtgG11jv71uRc1G&si=twGNZCu7kXtUgfn](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrlg28YebzIfrcM4eKNtgG11jv71uRc1G&si=twGNZCu7kXtUgfn)

Lent Bible Study Groups

Monday at 7.30pm in the Hawley Room in the church hall.

Tuesdays at 7pm in the Vicarage.

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

Young Adults meeting - Saturday 7th of March at 6pm in church hall

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

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The Parish Office:

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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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