ST HILDA’S ASHFORD

First Sunday of ADVENT

Advent Sunday

2022

https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/
THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

Hark a herald voice is calling:
  'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
  O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
  Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
  Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb so long expected,
  Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
  One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with glory,
  And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
  On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
  To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
  While unending ages run.

[from the Latin, tr. E. Caswall]
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 or introduction are said; we pray with Junior Church.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

First Candle - The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and we will light the first candle for hope.

We light the first candle

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 hear our Lord’s blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

(Silent reflection)

In the light of Christ let us confess our sins.
O King enthroned on high,  
filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name,  
Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who in his great mercy  
has promised forgiveness of sins  
to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith  
turn to him: have mercy on you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and bring you to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect - The Collect for the week are said after a moment of silence  
Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 2 vv 1 - 5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord’s house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.
**New Testament Reading** – Romans 13 vv 11 - 14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading** – Matthew 24 vv 36 - 44

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

*All*  Glory to you, O Lord.

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner
of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon – All sit

The Creed – All Stand

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

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.    Amen.
Prayers of Intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

*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 shall break 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*
The Lord will come and not be slow;  
   His footsteps cannot err;  
Before him righteousness shall go,  
   His royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,  
   Shall bud and blossom then,  
And justice, from her heavenly bower,  
   Look down on mortal men.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,  
   This wicked earth redress;  
For thou art he who shalt by right  
   The nations all possess.

The nations all whom thou hast made  
   Shall come, and all shall frame  
To bow them low before thee, Lord!  
   And glorify thy Name!

For great thou art, and wonders great  
   By thy strong hand are done:  
Thou in thy everlasting seat  
   Remainest God alone.

[John Milton]

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

As this bread was scattered  
   and then gathered and made one,  
so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;  
   she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.  
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

All 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.
All You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
All He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.
As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

All As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

(Silent reflection)

The Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

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

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

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

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God,
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

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.
Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.

The president and people receive communion.

Communion Hymns

Carol: This is the truth sent from above

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
And manifest thy virgin-birth:  
Let every age adoring fall,  
Such birth befits the God of all.  
Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, thou art still  
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
The Saviour, now to us displayed.
O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

[St. Ambrose, tr. J. M. Neale]

Taizé:   Wait for the Lord, his day is near
         Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart.

Prayers after Communion

_Silence is kept after which the Post-Communion prayer is said._

   O Lord our God,
   make us watchful and keep us faithful
   as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
   that, when he shall appear,
   he may not find us sleeping in sin
   but active in his service
   and joyful in his praise;
   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

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.
Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.
Amen.

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Our Lord says, ‘I am coming soon.’
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
Amen
Recessional Hymn

Hills of the North, rejoice,
    Echoing songs arise,
Hail with united voice
    Him who made earth and skies:
He comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
    Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
    Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
    He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
    Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,
    Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
    In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
    Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
    From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the sons of earth be blest.

[New English Hymnal Editors, based on C. E. Oakley
© Oxford University Press]
SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 30th November 11.00am
Sunday 4th December 10.00am

The Sunday service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:
Lizio Cassar           Pat Kyle           Barbara Warne
Ros Clifton           Pauline Milton      Lisa
Joan Davies           Ray Nation         Nic
Vicky Hal             Roy Stone
Melvyn Jansen I       Betty Vince

If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office.

We pray for Ashford C of E Primary school: the child who died of an infection, the child hospitalised, their families, the staff, other pupils and their parents.

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:
Mary Congdon           Ray Greenwood      David Mitchell

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK
Elsie Mary Pinfold    Thomas Peterson
Laura Wilkinson       Dora Kingston
Reginald Clarke       Ann Davey
David Raymond Warne   Henry Edward Batchelor
Doris May Kerry        Joan Tunstall
Julie Weiszberg       Martin Mills

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula
NOTICES

The Parish Office is available by phone or email. Visitors by appointment only.

Church Opening

St Hilda’s is open for public worship services.

Following the teaching of ‘Loving thy Neighbour’ - If you feel unwell, we ask that you do not attend so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services.

Community Lunch – Wednesday at 12 noon *** in church ***

Join us for the Community Lunch at midday, back in the church.
If you are able to come forward and help, even once a month, please do liaise with Bobbie.

Bible Study – every Wednesday

Bible Study group meet in Church at 7.30pm. All welcome.
On 30th November we will be starting a short Advent study.

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 1st December

(7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month)
Everyone is very welcome to attend. There will be refreshments at the end. We finish by saying Compline (Night Prayer) together round about 9pm. I hope to see you there. Please bring a bible – ideally the NRSV, but any version will do.

The Mermaid's Tale

St. Hilda's Entertainers present their pantomime on:

- Fridays 2nd and 9th December at 7.45pm
- Saturdays 3rd and 10th December at 2.30pm and 7.00pm.

Book online via the website: www.sthildasentertainers.com, or phone 0333 666 3366.
St. Hilda’s Church Nativity Festival - 10th & 11th December

Christingle Service - Sunday 11th December at 4pm

Turkiye and tinsel - Saturday 17th December at 7pm
(Like curry & carols): Turkish food (not turkey) and carols. 7pm in the Church. £10. Book through the link on the church website home page or via the Parish Office.

Carol Service - Sunday 18th December at 4pm

Crib Service - Thursday 24th December at 4pm

Midnight Mass - Thursday 24th December at 11pm

Christmas Day Eucharist - Friday 24th December at 10am
Parish administrator
Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman; her hours of work are:
  Monday:  3-4pm
  Tuesday:  3-4pm
  Wednesday:  10-11am; 2-3pm
  Thursday:  3-4pm
  Friday:  3.30-6.30pm
Note that any appointments in person must be booked.

St Hilda’s News
Please send items for the Newsletter to kmroach45@gmail.com
Note that it makes the Editor's job much easier if you submit an item as
a Word document rather than in the body of an e-mail.

Food Bank Donations
Please use the wooden chest at the rear of the Church to place any
donations for the local food bank, such as tinned and dried goods and
toiletries.
The Food Bank is currently short of:
  Shower gel
  Shampoo
  Kitchen roll
  Kitchen & bathroom spray cleaners
  J cloths
  Small packs of washing powder and capsules
  Toilet cleaner
  Kitchen rolls and toilet rolls
  and tinned vegetarian meals such as Macaroni cheese and
  Vegetarian curry
**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 5th-14th March 2024**
10 days based in Jerusalem and Galilee
With Father Steve Gayle and Father Joseph Fernandes.
See literature at the back of church for more details.

**Visit to Westminster Abbey – Date TBC**
A parish pilgrimage (but not walking there!) is being arranged to Westminster Abbey, please sign up on the sheet at the rear of the Church or contact the office. A date will be arranged if we have enough interest.

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Contact Information

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**Churchwarden**
Bobbie Bedford

**PCC Secretary**  **PCC Treasurer**
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