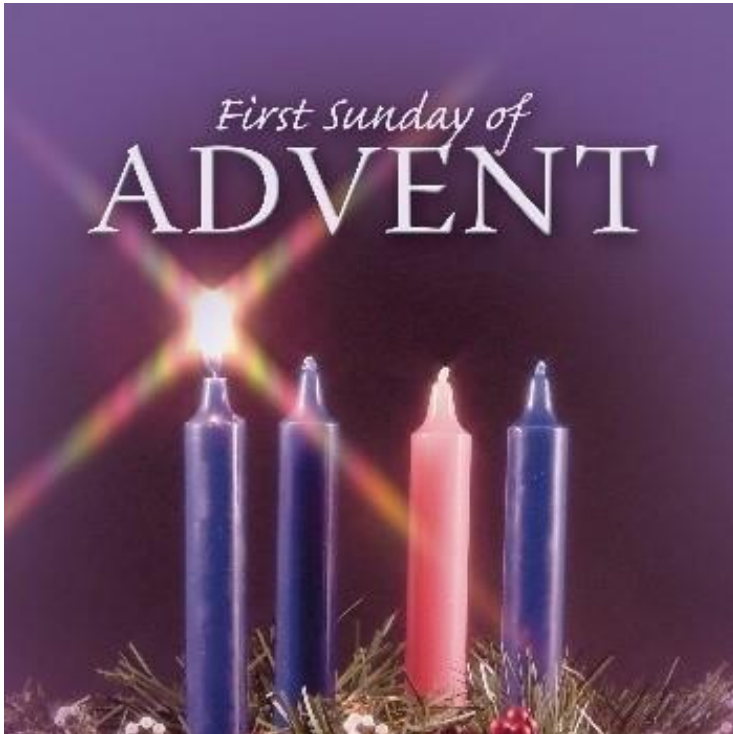


# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



**ADVENT SUNDAY**

**03 DECEMBER 2023**

<https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/>

*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.*

*For children, Junior Church meets in the Church Hall during the first part of the service, and there is a children's corner in the north aisle which they are very welcome to use.*

## **Praying for peace in Israel and Gaza**

*Bishop Sarah encourages us to join in with Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem, who has offered the following prayer:*

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

# THE GATHERING

## Introit Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory over the grave.

*Refrain*

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Refrain*

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

*Refrain*

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.

*Refrain*

*[Cologne 1710, based on the ancient Advent Antiphons  
tr. J. M. Neale]*

## **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.  
(Junior Church have Messy 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 is 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 64 v 1 – 9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading** – 1 Corinthians 1 v 3 – 9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading** – Mark 13 v 24 – 37

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

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



'But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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 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

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*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*[H F Lyte]*

*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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
All** 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,  
**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**

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 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

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]*

**Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,  
Regard thy servants when they call.**

**Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
Of all creation doomed to die  
Didst come to save a ruined race  
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.**

**Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to evening-tide;  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.**

**At thy great name, exalted now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
And things in heaven and earth shall own,  
That thou are Lord and King alone.**

**To thee, O holy One, we pray,  
Our judge in that tremendous day,  
Preserve us, while we dwell below,  
From every onslaught of the foe.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

*[From the Latin, 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]*

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## SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 11am  
with Mothers' Union

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10am - Parish Eucharist  
4pm - Christingle Service

The Sunday morning service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page Following the teaching of 'Loving thy Neighbour' - If you feel unwell, we ask that you do not attend in person so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services.

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

### THE SICK:

Michael Brown	Melvyn Jansen	David
Lizio Cassar	Pat Kyle	Elaine
Ros Clifton	Finley Makriel	Rachel
Saffi Cobham	Ray Nation	Solange
Joan Davies	Lena Richardson	

*If you would like a name added to or removed from the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office. If you know of someone ill or in hospital in need of prayer and support please tell our LLM Rosalyn Young (contact details on back cover).*

### THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Ann Jacqueline Haxton                      Ryan

### THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Dora Kingston	Doris Winifred Somes	Reginald Charles Baker
Ann Davey	Annie Louisa Smith	Babs [Edith Henrietta] King
Henry Edward Batchelor	Maureen Betty Brill	Dick Wootton
Joan Tunstall	Jean Garner	James Robert Beagley
Martin Mills	Gladys Elizabeth Saville	

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

## NOTICES

### **\*\*\* Can EVERYONE help us with January's Messy Church? \*\*\***

At the back of church is a small Jar and a box of small strips of coloured paper. Could you sign your CHRISTIAN name on one slip of paper and put it in the jar. Ideally we would like every member of the congregation including little people to take part.

### **Vacancies for Altar Servers**

We are currently seeking volunteers to join the team of Altar Servers. St Hilda's Church currently has a team of 7 altar servers, down from the 12 we used to have pre Covid. Primarily servers are required for the 10 o'clock Sunday services but they also assist with the Wednesday morning 11 o'clock service and other special services e.g., confirmation, candles of remembrance, St Hilda's day, Easter Eve and Midnight Mass. Support and training will be given to undertake this role. If interested please either speak to me or to any of the current servers.

Thank you. Alan Sloan (Head Server)

### **More Help Wanted**

The team serving refreshments after Sunday services would appreciate more help. If you can volunteer please speak to Valerie Scott or Paula.

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

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

### **Bible Study Group – Wednesday at 7.30pm**

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm.  
We are currently using an Advent-to Epiphany course: you are very welcome to come and join us even if for just one session.

### **Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday 12th December at 12.15pm**

**Ambling through Acts course –Thursday \*\*14th\*\* December**

(7:30pm usually 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.

**St Hilda's Newsletter**

The latest issue of the Newsletter is available via the St. Hilda's web site (under "About Us"). We put a few printed copies at the back of church: please leave these for people without internet access and for visitors.

Contributions have been so few that we will be producing this every two months instead of monthly, and unless more people provide material the Newsletter will end.

**This is your magazine -if you want it to continue, start writing!**

The deadline for items for the **February/March** issue is **Sunday 7th**

**January 2024**. Please send your contributions to: [editor@sthilda.org](mailto:editor@sthilda.org)

**The Parish Office** is available by phone or email.

Any appointments in person must be booked.

Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman. Her office hours are:

Monday: 3.30-5pm

Wednesday: 3.30-6.30pm

Thursday 6.30-9.30pm

Saturday: 9.45-11.15am





# GREEK NIGHT

St Hilda's Church presents

# A merry meze

**Saturday 16th December**  
**7.00pm**

Greek food and Christmas carols

St Hilda's Church  
Ashford, TW15 3QL  
Tickets £12 / Bar / Raffle



St Hilda's  
Ashford



Tickets from [office@shilda.org](mailto:office@shilda.org)

### Advent and Christmas Services

Every Sunday except 24th 10am Parish Eucharist  
Every Wednesday 11am Holy Communion

*Sunday 3rd 3pm Lodge Bros Memorial Service*

Sunday 10th 4pm Christingle Service

*Wednesday 13th 4pm Ashford CofE School*

*Friday 15th all day St. James School*

Sunday 17th 6pm Carol Service

Sunday 24th 10am Crib Service

11pm Midnight Mass (with the Bishop of Kensington)

Christmas Day 10am Holy Communion

### **Crib Service Appeal - Sunday 24th December at 10am**

This is a service of the word aimed at young people and children.

To enter into the spirit of the occasion please could everyone (big and little, young and old) wear a head-dress representing a character from the Nativity Story?

Be brave and join me – I've given you plenty of warning !

### **Food Bank at Christmas**

We are continuing to collect donations for the Food Bank in the chest at the back of church. Please consider giving something special as a Christmas treat for someone who is struggling to make ends meet - but make sure that any food is well within its Best Before date.

**Covid Precautions**

As Covid infections are increasing again, the PCC would like to remind you that masks and bottles of hand sanitizer are available at the back of church if you wish to use them.

During the Peace, please be considerate to those who feel vulnerable and only shake hands with people who are happy with the contact.

# Contact Information

## Vicar

*Vacant*

## Licensed Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young [rosalyn@sthilda.org](mailto:rosalyn@sthilda.org)

## Churchwarden

Paula Gething

## PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

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

## PCC Treasurer

Vicky Palmer

[treasurer@sthilda.org](mailto:treasurer@sthilda.org)

## Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

## The Parish Office:

St Hilda's Church, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex  
TW15 3QL

Telephone: 01784 253525 Email: [office@sthilda.org](mailto:office@sthilda.org)

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

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CCLI: 708985

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