

# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



## CANDLEMAS

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

28 JANUARY 2024

<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

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but thee;  
Yet possessing every blessing  
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,  
All our weakness thou dost know;  
Thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Self denying, death defying,  
Thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending  
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;  
Love with every passion blending,  
Pleasure that can never cloy;  
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy.

*[James Edmeston]*

## 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 or introduction are said; we pray with Junior Church.*

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

## 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

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

'I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness  
but shall have the light of life.'

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light  
and confess them in penitence and faith.

**All** **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
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 lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.  
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.

**All** **Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
All and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect** - *The Collect for the week is said after a moment of silence*

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Old Testament Reading – Malachi 3 vv 1 - 5

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

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

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

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading** – Hebrews 2 v 14 - 18

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

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading** – Luke 2 v 22 – 40

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

**All Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.**

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

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

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



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

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

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

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

### **The Creed**

**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

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,  
who has brought us out of darkness  
and into his own marvellous light.

*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 has broken upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and 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*

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
*Amazing love! How can it be,  
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

'Tis myst'ry all: th'Immortal dies:  
Who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.  
*'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
Let angel minds inquire no more.*

He left his Father's throne above  
So free, so infinite his grace;  
Emptied himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For O my God, it found out me!  
*'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For O my God, it found out me!*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.  
*My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.*

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

*Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

*[Charles Wesley]*

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

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;  
accept the gifts we bring before you  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name.

**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.**

It is indeed right and good,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.  
For on this day he appeared in the Temple  
in substance of our flesh  
to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people  
and brings to light the image of your splendour.  
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him  
as the light to lighten the nations  
while Anna spoke of him  
to all who looked for your redemption.  
Destined for the falling and rising of many,  
he was lifted high upon the cross  
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart  
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.  
And now we rejoice and glorify your name  
that we, too, have seen your salvation  
and join with angels and archangels  
in their unending hymn of praise:

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;  
Hosanna in the Highest.**

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

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

Let us proclaim the miracle of faith:

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice  
made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Hilda and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Believing the promises of God,  
and as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

## **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*

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**All Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

## **Communion Hymns**

**O thou who camest from above,  
The pure celestial fire to impart,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze,  
And trembling to its source return,  
In humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
To work and speak and think for thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire,  
And still stir up thy gift in me.**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,  
My acts of faith and love repeat,  
'Til death thy endless mercies seal,  
And make my sacrifice complete.**

*[Charles Wesley]*

## **Anthem: Nunc Dimittis**

**Father of heaven, whose love profound  
A ransom for our souls has found,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy pardoning love extend.**

**Almighty Son, incarnate Word,  
Our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy saving grace extend.**

**Eternal Spirit, by whose breath  
The soul is raised from sin and death,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy quickening power extend.**

**Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,  
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
Grace, pardon, life to us extend.**

*[Edward Cooper]*

## **Prayers after Communion**

*Silence is kept after which the Post-Communion prayer is said.*

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

**All Amen.**

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

**Notices** - see pages 21 - 23

## **THE DISMISSAL**

### **Blessing**

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
fill you with radiance  
and scatter the darkness from your path.

**All** **Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,  
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

**All** **Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,  
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

**All** **Amen.**

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 of Christ.

**All** **Thanks be to God.**

## Recessional Hymn

Thou whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard,  
And took their flight;  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And, where the gospel day  
Sheds not its glorious ray  
Let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring  
On thy redeeming wing  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
Let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,  
Life giving, holy Dove,  
Speed forth thy flight;  
Move o'er the waters' face  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light.

Blessèd and holy Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,  
Boundless as ocean's tide,  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the world far and wide,  
Let there be light.

*[John Marriott]*

## SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 11am

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 10am

*Junior Church will be in the hall from the start for Messy Church*

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 church in person so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services: the Sunday morning service is livestreamed and can also be viewed later our Facebook page.

### Please remember in your prayers this week:

#### THE SICK:

Michael Brown

Pat Kyle

Shelia West

Ros Clifton

Ray Nation

David

Saffi Cobham

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

Peter Garner

#### THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Isabella Slimmond

Ronald George Hands

Sidney Henry Divey

Stanley Page

Clifford Stanley Smith

Hugh Rees Morris

Victor Cockings

Michael Bray

Mary Fifield

Vera Myrtle Adams

Edith Ruby Sharps

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

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# NOTICES

## **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.  
You are very welcome to come and join us.

## **Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 1st February**

(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.

## **Parish Breakfast - Saturday 10th February at 9.30am**

## **PCC Meeting- Tuesday 13th February at 7.15pm for 7.30pm**

## **Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 27th February at 2.30pm**

Do come and join us .We meet on the 4th Tuesday, from 2.30pm – 4pm in Church with tea, coffee and cake, to explore topics on Christian themes. A donation of a £1 is welcomed to cover the cost of the refreshments.

27th Feb	The Wesleys
26th Mar	Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus
23rd Apr	St Hilda’s Church Window
28th May	Non Canonical Gospels
25th June	Jargon Busting
23rd July	Celtic Spirituality

### 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.

The deadline for items for the **April/May** issue is **Sunday 3rd March**.

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

### \*\*\* HELP WANTED \*\*\*

Would you like to do more to support our family of St. Hilda? There are lots of opportunities requiring anything from a few minutes to many hours of your time. Training is given if required. Some of them are:

**Altar Server:** some extra time before and after the service on duty days.

**Sunday refreshments:** more extra time before and after the service on duty days.

**Wednesday refreshments:** 10:30am - 1pm on duty days.

**Cleaning:** need ability to use a vacuum cleaner for about an hour once a week or fortnight.

**Treasurer:** need to be numerate and computer-literate. Several hours a month mostly at times of your choosing. Needed as soon as possible, but by APCM (28th April) at the latest.

**Church Warden:** need to be a responsible, organised leader. Several hours a week. Needed as soon as possible, but by APCM (28th April) at the latest - Paula needs help!

Ask any member of the PCC for more details, or about other ways of helping.

# Contact Information

## Vicar

*Vacant*

## Licenced 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

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CCLI: 708985

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