ST HILDA’S ASHFORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

WITH BAPTISM OF SADIE AND LILA

7TH MAY 2023

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

Introit Hymn

Christ is our Cornerstone,
    On him alone we build;
With his true saints alone
    The courts of heaven are filled:
On his great love our hopes we place
    Of present grace and joys above.

Oh, then with hymns of praise
    These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
    The Three in One to sing;
And thus proclaim in joyful song
    Both loud and long, that glorious Name.

Here may we gain from heaven,
    The grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given,
    Be with us evermore,
Until that day when all the blest
    To endless rest are called away.

[Latin c. 7th century  tr. John Chandler]
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.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All  He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Words of welcome are said.

Prayer of Preparation

All  Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Prayers of Penitence

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

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen
Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
All  and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

All  Amen.
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Acts 7 vv 55 - 60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – 1 Peter 2 vv 2 - 10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’
To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner’,

and

‘A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading** – John 14 vv 1 - 14

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

*All* Alleluia.

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

*All* Glory to you, O Lord.
‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon – All sit
The Liturgy of Initiation

*The candidates for baptism gather with the president at the baptismal font. The congregation faces the baptismal font.*

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery, we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

Presentation of the Candidates

*The candidates are presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their sponsors.*

**The president asks the candidates for baptism**

Lila and Sadie, do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

**The president addresses the whole congregation**

Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

*All* With the help of God, we will.

The Decision / Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*The president addresses the congregation and the candidates for baptism*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:
Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

_All_ I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

_All_ I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

_All_ I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

_All_ I turn to Christ

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

_All_ I submit to Christ

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

_All_ I come to Christ

**Signing with the Cross**

*The president makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying*

  Christ claims you for his own.
  Receive the sign of his cross.

*When the candidates for baptism have been signed, the president says to them*

  Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

_All_ Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

_All_ Amen.
Prayer over the Water

The president stands before the water of baptism and says

    Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

Saving God,

All give us life.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

Saving God,

All give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death, you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Saving God,

All give us life.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Saving God,

All give us life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Saving God,

All give us life.
Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess with Lila and Sadie the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, Who gives life to the people of God And makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Baptism

Lila and Sadie is this your faith?

The candidates answer in their own words, or
This is my faith.

The president or another minister pours water on each candidate, saying
[Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.
The president says

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All Amen.

Commissioning

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?
With the help of God, I will.
Will you acknowledge Christ’s authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

**All** Amen.

**Welcome**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
Sadie and Lila, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**All** We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

*The congregation may greet the newly baptized.*

**Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray for Lila and Sadie, baptised today, to grow in the journey of faith.

Lord, have mercy.

**All** Christ, have mercy.

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life. Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel: look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.

Lord, have mercy.

**All** Christ, have mercy.
Father, we pray for those struggling in body, mind or spirit, that they may find healing and peace in you.
Lord, have mercy.

All  Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.
Lord, have mercy.

All  Christ, have mercy.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

Giving of a Lighted Candle

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All  Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.
THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace – *All stand*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, ‘Peace be with you.’
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.
The peace of the 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*

Through all the changing scenes of life,
   In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
   My heart and tongue employ.

O magnify the Lord with me,
   With me exalt his name;
When in distress to him I called,
   He to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around
   The dwellings of the just;
Deliverance he affords to all
   Who on his succour trust.

O make but trial of his love,
   Experience will decide
How blest are they, and only they,
   Who in his truth confide.
Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
    Have nothing else to fear;
Make you his service your delight,
    Your wants shall be his care.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
    The God whom we adore,
Be glory, as it was, is now,
    And shall be evermore.

[Tate and Brady]

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

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
singing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;*
*do this in remembrance of me.*

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

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

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hilda and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.  
All Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
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  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*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*The president and people receive communion.*

Communion Hymns

**Anthem:** Lift your heads, ye gates eternal..

**Anthem:** O taste and see how gracious the Lord is.

*R. Vaughn Williams*

In Christ there is no East or West,
   In him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love
   Throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere
   Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
   Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, brothers of the faith,
   Whatever your race may be;
Who serves my Father as a son
   Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
   In him meet South and North;
All Christlike souls are one in him,
   Throughout the whole wide earth.

*John Oxenham*
Ye that know the Lord is gracious,
   Ye for whom a Corner-stone
Stands, of God elect and precious,
   Laid that ye may build thereon,
See that on that sure foundation
   Ye a living temple raise,
Towers that may tell forth salvation,
   Walls that may re-echo praise.

Living stones, by God appointed
   Each to his allotted place,
Kings and priests, by God anointed,
   Shall ye not declare his grace?
Ye, a royal generation,
   Tell the tidings of your birth,
Tidings of a new creation
   To an old and weary earth.

Tell the praise of him who called you
   Out of darkness into light,
Broke the fetters that enthralled you,
   Gave you freedom, peace and sight:
Tell the tale of sins forgiven,
   Strength renewed and hope restored,
Till the earth, in tune with heaven,
   Praise and magnify the Lord.

[C. A. Alington]
Prayers after Communion

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

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;
who 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.

Banns of Marriage and Notices

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

All   Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Recessional Hymn

Judge eternal, throned in splendour,
   Lord of lords and King of kings,
With thy living fire of judgment
   Purge this realm of bitter things:
Solace all its wide dominion
   With the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining
   For the hour that brings release:
And the city's crowded clangour
   Cries aloud for sin to cease;
And the homesteads and the woodlands
   Plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;
   Cleave our darkness with thy sword;
Feed the faithless and the hungry
   With the richness of thy word:
Cleanse the body of this nation
   Through the glory of the Lord.

[Henry Scott Holland]
SERVICE TIMES
Wednesday 10th May 11am
Sunday 14th April 10.00am

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

Please remember in your prayers this week:

**THE SICK:**
- Ann Bilais
- Michael Brown
- Lizio Cassar
- Ros Clifton
- Saffi Cobham
- Joan Davies
- Vicky Hall
- Melvyn Jansen
- Pat Kyle
- Pauline Milton
- Ray Nation
- Barbara Warne
- Bernice
- Christine
- Elaine
- Nic
- Solange

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

**THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:**
- Alan Hatchman
- Percy Sibley
- Diane Owen
- Fr. Stephen Blood
- Delphine Scrivener
- Betty Vince
- Rita Ford
- Libby Mills

See page 27 for details of Fr. Blood's funeral.

**THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK**
- Rose Marion White
- John C F Bearfoot
- William Henry Bembridge
- Samuel Cash
- Edgar Francis Sharps
- Harry Northcott
- Patricia Jane Shelly
- Edgar John Sidwell
- John Du Bock
- Thomas Graham Inglis
- Ronald Cash
- Frances Louise Bray
- Halina Dura
- Oliver Springer
- Thomas Henry Boswell

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

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

*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.*

**Junior Church**

Junior Church are having a Messy Church day today. Children and parents will in the Hall for the whole service.

Today’s theme is “I have seen a Ghost”. You can only find out what it is about if you know the secret sign!

The next Messy church is on **June 4th** which will have a Pentecost theme.

There will be a service to celebrate the coronation in St. Hilda's Church **TODAY, 7th May** at 3pm

All are welcome to join us

**A Greeting from Mother Helen Calner**

From the bottom of my heart I want to express my deepest gratitude for everything all of you at St Hilda have given me during my training. You have carried me with such warmth and love, enabling me to grow on so many levels, more than you might realise.

I am truly blessed for being part of St Hilda and I will always hold you close to my heart.

And we will meet again!

With blessing, Helen
**Farewells**
Carolyn and Gordon will be leaving St. Hilda's at the end of May; however, we will be saying our goodbyes to them on the **14th May**, again with coffee and cake.

Sadly, Fr. Joseph and his family will also be leaving. His last service at St. Hilda's will be the **21st May**. Fr Joseph would like us to celebrate his last day with us by having a shared lunch.

Please put these dates in your diary.

**Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday at 12 noon**

**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.

**PCC Meetings - Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th May**
Tuesday’s meeting is at 7.30pm with refreshments from 7pm, Wednesday's is at 7pm; both are in church.

*** **Bible Study Group – No meeting this week ***
We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

**Sing along with MAMMA MIA! –Saturday 13th May at 7pm**
In St. Hilda's church, with Ploughman's Supper, Bar and Raffle.
Tickets £10 via the web site [www.sthilda.org](http://www.sthilda.org) or at the back of church.

**Beating the Bounds - Rogation Sunday 14th May at 2.30pm**
We will meet at the Church, leaving at 2.30pm, have a gentle walk round the bounds of the Parish, and end with Fish & Chips back at the church. There will be a sign-up sheet so we know numbers for Fish & Chips.
May Play - 19th & 20th May
Our play this year is the hilarious ‘Murder In Play’, written by Simon Brett.
Performances are in St Hilda’s Hall on Friday 19th May at 7.45pm and Saturday 20th May at 2.30pm and 7.00pm.
Tickets - £12 (concessions £10) - can be booked online via the St Hilda’s Entertainers website, following the Box Office link, or by phoning 0333 666 3366.

Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 23rd May 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.

The programme for the first half of the year is:
- May 23rd Names for Jesus
- June 27th Jargon Busting
- July 25th Popes – part 2

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 1st June at 7.30pm
(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.
*** St Hilda’s Newsletter ***
We have a new Editor! Sara Lee has agreed to take on this role. The aim is to produce the newsletter monthly, to be available on the last Sunday of the month, with the deadline for contributions as the first Sunday of the month. The deadline for items for the July issue will therefore be Sunday 4th June. This will be your magazine - so start writing! Please send your contributions to: saralee7@btinternet.com

Parish administrator
Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman. Her office hours are:
- Monday: 3.30-5pm
- Wednesday: 3.30-6.30pm
- Friday: 3.30-6.30pm
- Saturday: 9.45-11.15am
Any appointments in person must be booked.

CAR POOL?
Can you offer a lift to church for someone who can no longer drive? Do you need a lift to church? Can you and a neighbour share a car journey to church? Would you be prepared to co-ordinate a car sharing scheme? For both practical and environmental reasons we would like to start a car sharing scheme. If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes", please see Rosemary Greenwood.

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.
**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.

**Mother Helen Calner**

Please pray for Helen and those who will be made priest with her by Emma, Bishop of Kensington at St. Paul's Church, Hammersmith at 2pm on 17th June.

Helen will offer her first Mass on Sunday 2nd July at 10.30am at St. Philip's Church, Earls Court: all welcome!

Please also pray for Revd. Pippa Turner and the people of St. Philip's Church among whom Helen will serve.

**WANTED: a Parish Safeguarding Officer**

We are looking for a new Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to take up the role from the APCM at the end of April.

The PSOs "play an essential role in fulfilling the Parish’s commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. The PSOs are the key link between the Diocese and the Parish concerning safeguarding matters. They will have an overview of all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults and will seek to ensure the implementation of all relevant safeguarding policies and guidance in the Parish, ensuring that all allegations or suspicions of abuse are taken seriously and responded to in a timely manner."

If you would consider this role and would like more information please speak to a member of the PCC.
Funeral of Fr. Stephen Blood - Wednesday 10th May at 11.30am

This invitation is extended to everyone who knew Fr. Blood:

The funeral will take place at 11.30am on 10 May at:
   All Saints Church
   Church Lane, Kings Langley
   Herts   WD4 8JS

Followed by the Committal at 1pm at:
   South Chapel, West Herts Crematorium
   High Elms Lane
   Watford   WD25 0JS

We should then be very pleased if everyone would join us to continue to remember and celebrate Stephen’s life: venue TBC on the day.

If you plan to go, please let the Parish Office know so we can tell the family the number to expect.
Contact Information

Vicar
Fr Joseph Fernandes
vicar@sthilda.org
Parish Office 01784 253525
Vicarage 01784 254237
Mobile: 07999 053433

Licenced Lay Ministers
Carolyn Clark  carolyn@sthilda.org
Rosalyn Young  rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwarden
Bobbie Bedford

PCC Secretary
Liz Brian
Email:  secretary@sthilda.org
PCC Treasurer
Christopher Brown
Email:  treasurer@sthilda.org

PA to Fr Joseph
Mariane Tank  pa@sthilda.org

Church Hall Bookings
Chris Davenport  01784 252170

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