

St Hilda's Ashford



Easter Day

This service is being live streamed via the St Hilda's Facebook page

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

Happy Easter to you all!

Easter Day is when we remember that Jesus rose again from the dead and it is the most important day in our year. We have all journeyed through the dark and difficult Good Friday, and we now celebrate together as God's promises to us come true.

Easter is a day all about new life, and so during this service we renew our Baptism Vows which were made in the past.



THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection-light;
And, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, and earth her song begin,
The round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

[St. John of Damascus tr. J. M. Neale]

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

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. 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.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

At our baptism, God called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. Therefore, I ask:

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
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

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 65: 17 - end

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,

and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered
accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears

him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading - John 20: 1-18

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.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do

not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Profession of Faith

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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.

Commission

We 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?

All 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?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All 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

All With the help of God, I will.

God of mercy and love,
in baptism you welcome the sinner
and restore the dead to life.
You create a clean heart in those who repent,
and give your Holy Spirit to those who ask.
Grant that these your servants may grow
into the fullness of the stature of Christ.
Equip them with the gifts of your Holy Spirit,
and fill them with faith in Jesus Christ
and with love for all your people,
in the service of your kingdom.
Amen.

The Peace

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 risen Christ be always with you
All and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

**Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem,
Cleave the skies with shouts of praise;
Sing to him who found the ransom,
Ancient of eternal days,
God eternal, Word incarnate,
Whom the heaven of heaven obeys.**

**Ere he raised the lofty mountains,
Formed the sea, or built the sky,
Love eternal, free, and boundless,
Forced the Lord of life to die,
Lifted up the Prince of princes
On the throne of Calvary.**

**Now on those eternal mountains
Stands the sapphire throne, all bright,
With the ceaseless alleluias
Which they raise, the sons of light;
Sion's people tell his praises,
Victor after hard-won fight.**

**Bring your harps, and bring your incense,
Sweep the string and pour the lay;
Let the earth proclaim his wonders,
King of that celestial day;
He the Lamb once slain is worthy,
Who was dead, and lives for ay.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in love and One in splendour,
While unending ages run.**

[Job Hupton and J. M. Neale]

Lord of life,
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord.

All Amen.

The 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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.

Agnus Dei

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.

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

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The people and president receive communion.

Communion Hymns

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluya!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluya!
Who did once upon the Cross, Alleluya!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluya!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluya!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluya!
Who endured the Cross and grave, Alleluya!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluya!**

**But the pains which he endured Alleluya!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluya!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluya!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluya!**

[Lyra Davidica]

**This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow:**

***Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain;
But now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.***

**My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season slumber,
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number:**

Refrain

**Death's flood hath lost its chill,
Since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.**

Refrain

*[Text: 67 67 with refrain; George R. Woodward, 1848–1934, alt.
Music: Oudaen's David's Psalmen, 1685, alt.]*

**Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

**In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:
*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

*[J. M. C. Crum © Words: 1928 Oxford University Press
Music: 1928 Oxford University Press]*

Prayer after Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy:

grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

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.

All Amen.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Recessional Hymn

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

Refrain

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife,
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

Refrain

[Edmund Budry tr. Richard Hoyle]

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SERVICE TIMES
Wednesday 20th April 11am
Sunday 24th April 9.30am

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

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:

James Bedford	Jane Johnson	Rev. Peter Taylor
Robb Clarke	Pat Kyle	Carla Wells
Ann Considine	Chris Maddock	Sheila West
Julia Cowley	Mrs McCammon	Philip Willerton
Michael Dixon	Libby Mills	Chick Wilson
Anna Elwell	Raymond Nation	Peter Wilson
Jack Everett	Pat Parish	Jo Wood
Peter Garner	Peggy Pinfold	Erin
Eileen Gilbert	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Izzy
Ray Greenwood	Delphine Scrivener	Nic
Juilet Griffith	Riley Shaw	Baby Reuben
Alison Griffiths	Emily Smith	Bob
Vicky Hall	Elsie Stone	Margaret
Jean Iddiols	Roy Stone	

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Pauline Lewis	Robert Martin	Joan Harden
George Nicholas		

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Sarah Ratcliffe	Daphne M M Moore	Mary Mills
Rose Edith Blanchard	Win Heather	David F R Banks
Jill Elizabeth Baker	May Ellen Lawrence	Emily Gooch
Kathleen Newell	James Alan Perry	Dorothy A Goldsmith
John Arnold Lane	Amy Maud Clayton	Sidney Lovell Pinfold
Heather Susan Crozier	St George	

Please pray for our ALMA twin parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

NOTICES

**The Parish Office is available by phone weekdays 9am – 5pm
Visitors by appointment only**

Church Opening

St Hilda's is open for public worship services.

We are no longer operating a ticket booking system for services, however, it will remain in place for Church events for catering purposes. Masks are optional.

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.

Feed my Sheep –Tuesday 26th April 2.30pm – 4pm

The theme is Prayers and Praying.

Ambling through Acts course – Next meeting Thursday 5th May (7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month)

Led by Fr Steve, a study of the Acts of the Apostles will entail a close reading of the text. We will see the unfolding story of the beginnings of the church through the eyes of the writer, try to discern his purposes, discover new things, and learn that though the context has changed, human nature remains much the same. Hence, the struggles of those first followers may find resonances in our own day as we live out our individual lives of discipleship and participate together in the life of the church.

Everyone is very welcome to attend. There will be refreshments at the end. We will 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 Breakfast –Saturday 14th May 9.30am

Join us for a hearty breakfast and a talk from a guest speaker who this month will be our Ordinand Helen. Please book by contacting the office or through the links on our website or Facebook page.

Community Lunch – every Wednesday

Join us 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 – every Wednesday

Bible Study group meet in Church at 7.30pm. All welcome.

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.

Paving Slabs needed

If anyone has any spare slabs that could be used in the Memorial Garden, please see Paula Gething.

Pilgrimage to Westminster Abbey – Date TBC

A parish pilgrimage 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.

St Hilda's News

We are still looking for a new editor(s) to take over.

Sponsor a church chair

It is not too late to sponsor a chair or a trolley as we would still like purchase more.

If you can help, please complete the form at the rear of the Church.

- £90 covers the cost of a chair
- £225 covers the cost of a stacking trolley

A Time to Worship Together – Sunday 15th May – 3pm

A service and activities led by Simon Shutt, suitable for all the family. Please book tickets via our link on our website or Facebook page.



**St Hilda's Church,
Ashford**



Come and join us for an hour on
**3.00pm Sunday 15th
May 2022**

A Time to Worship Together Service

Ascension - Jesus returns to Heaven

Things to make, songs to sing, prayers to join in with.

This event is being held in conjunction with FACT, a local Christian charity.

Bring everyone who lives with you, all your household.

Light refreshments afterwards.

01784 253525

office@sthilda.org



Dear children,

Before I became a Bishop, I was a vicar of a church, and we had our own little things that became traditions. I loved our Easter Garden. I'm sure you have seen one. They are little versions of the scene around the tomb where Jesus' body was placed after he died and where some of his disciples first met him after he came back to life. Everyone brought in things to go in it; a plant pot covered in moss for the tomb and flowers from someone's garden.

One family decided they wanted to bring in some chicks (not real ones!) to complete the scene and while they are not strictly in the Easter story, they did seem very 'Eastery' – until you saw them in the garden. They were huge, much bigger than anything else, even the tomb! They looked like yellow, fluffy monsters ready to eat anyone who tried to visit. But we loved them, and they came out year after year. As well as massive birds, that Easter Garden was full of hope. Easter is a story that is full of a special kind of hope, and all the gardens remind us of that.

I live right in the middle of London, and we don't have much of a garden – I wonder whether you have one, or some grass or maybe a balcony with pots? You will still know the story that gardens tell, because it happens in the park you walk past on the way home from school, or in the planters on your school playground.

Each year, we see the plants die back as autumn turns to winter and the cold arrives. But we know that no matter how long the winter seems to be, or however cold and dark it gets, spring is coming. To start with it's just hope – like a sunny morning so cold you can slide on ice – but then we start to see signs. It's getting lighter in the mornings, maybe we see some flowers poking up in the park, and we know: soon the garden is going to be full of life again.

That first Easter Garden must have felt very dark to Jesus' friends. He had been killed by the Romans and now His body, that they had come to care for, had gone; they did not know what to do. Suddenly, they met Jesus in the Garden! He was alive; that same garden must have seemed full of life and love. For them, nothing would ever be the same; Jesus would be always with them and they would always have a special hope.

'Hope' is a funny word; we often use it to describe things that would be nice to happen but probably won't. For example, "I hope I can keep my bedroom tidy!"

When Christians say 'hope' we mean something we have confidence in; just like we hope that spring will come, and I know it will. At Easter, we remember that when Jesus came back to life our world was given hope, that no matter how dark or scary the world got, Jesus was always with us.

I know that right now the world feels very dark and scary. I pray for you this Easter time, that you would know God's love and His hope, so that you know that Jesus is with us and that we are always loved.

Bishop Sarah

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Bobbie Bedford

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Denise Buttigieg

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