

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 2023

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

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted and yet undefiled

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way,
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,
And awhile from joys abstain,
With thee watching unto prayer,
Strong with thee to suffer pain?.

And if Satan, vexing sore,
Flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before,
Grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine,
Holier gladness ours shall be,
Round us too shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side,
That with thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.

[G H Smyttan and Francis Pott]

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 are said; we pray with Junior Church.

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.**

Invitation to confession

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

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.

All Amen.

The Collect - *The Collect is said after a moment of silence*

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Genesis 2 vv 15 - 17, 3 vv 1 - 7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Romans 5 vv 12 - 19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 4 vv 1 - 11

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of
God.”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you”,
and “On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon – *We sit*

The Creed – *We stand*

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things
and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

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 – *We stand*

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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 to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.**

**O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail;**

**And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
And essence all divine.**

O generous love! that he, who smote
In Man for man the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

[John Henry Newman]

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.

All **Glory to you, O God, for ever.**

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our
Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and
singing:

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

Great is the mystery 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.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross, 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 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

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

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

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God**
the Father.

The president and people receive communion.

Communion Hymns

**Faithful Shepherd, feed me
In the pastures green;
Faithful Shepherd, lead me
Where thy steps are seen.**

**Hold me fast, and guide me
In the narrow way;
So, with thee beside me,
I shall never stray.**

**Daily bring me nearer
To the heavenly shore;
May my faith grow clearer,
May I love thee more.**

**Hallow every pleasure,
Every gift and pain;
Be thyself my treasure,
Though none else I gain.**

**Day by day prepare me
As thou seest best,
Then let angels bear me
To thy promised rest.**

[T B Pollock]

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
And purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free,
And make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
With care and woe oppressed;
Let me thy loving servant be,
And taste thy promised rest.**

Lord Jesus, think on me,
Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery
Be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
When flows the tempest high;
When on doth rush the enemy,
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
That, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
And share thy joy at last.

[Synesius of Cyrene, tr. A. W. Chatfield]

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
All now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey
His voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

*[Text: 10 10 10 10 10 10; Katharina von Schlegel; in Neue Sammlung
Geislicher Lieder, 1752;*

tr. by Jane Borthwick, 1813–1897. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957.]

Prayers after Communion

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living
bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

**All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
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 peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

God is working his purpose out
as year succeeds to year,
God is working his purpose out
and the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west
 where'er man's foot hath trod,
By the mouth of many messengers
 goes forth the voice of God:
"Give ear to me, ye continents,
 ye isles, give ear to me,
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God
 As the waters cover the sea."

What can we do to work God's work,
 to prosper and increase
The brotherhood of all mankind,
 the reign of the Prince of Peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
 the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
 As the waters cover the sea?

March we forth in the strength of God
 with the banner of Christ unfurled,
That the light of the glorious gospel of truth
 may shine throughout the world;
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin,
 to set their captives free,
That the earth may be filled with the glory of God
 As the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth
 unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
 till God gives life to the seed;
Yet near and nearer draws the time,
 the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
 As the waters cover the sea. *[A C Ainger]*

SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 1st March 11.00am
with Mothers' Union

Sunday 5th March 10.00am

Junior Church have a Godly Play presentation - see notice

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

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:

Michael Brown	Melvyn Jansen	Bernice
Lizio Cassar	Pat Kyle	Christine
Ros Clifton	Pauline Milton	Elaine
Joan Davies	Ray Nation	Nic
Wilfred Galloway	Betty Vince	
Vicky Hall	Barbara Warne	

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

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Davina Bassett	Collin Taylor	Roy Stone
Shelagh	Cedric Harris	Ken Clark
Fr Marco Lopes	Dan Blatchford	

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Florence Davenport	Caroline Mary Cutler
Eileen Margaret Byne	Laura Eileen Thomas
Frances Fredrick Kerry	Joan Beryl Corney
Connie Hunter	Joan Petre

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.

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 all welcome to join us for our Lent study course which starts this week.

Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 28th 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.

The programme for the first half of the year is:

Feb 28th	Pick and Mix
Mar 28th	Hymn Writers
Apr 25 th	Tyndale and the English Bible
May 23rd	Names for Jesus
June 27th	Jargon Busting
July 25 th	Popes – part 2

Ambling through Acts course –Thursday 2nd March

(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.

World Day of Prayer Service - Friday 3rd March at 10.30am

This year's service is organised by the women of Taiwan, with the theme 'I have heard about your faith' (Ephesians 1:15-19.)

The Service will be held at **St Matthew's Church, Ashford.**

All are warmly welcome!

Junior Church - Sunday 5th March

We will begin and end in the Church Hall. We will have a Godly Play presentation – Faces of Easter. Godly Play is a scripted presentation using simple visual aids. This will be followed by craft, a short act of worship and refreshments.

Reports for APCM by Sunday 5th March

The Annual Church Parochial Meeting will be held on Sunday 30th April. Would all group leaders please ensure that they get reports to me by Sunday 5th March. Please send to secretary@sthilda.org.

St. Hilda's Breakfast - Saturday 18th March at 9:30am

Come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Please book via the link on the church web site, or through the office.

Suggested donation £5, payable on the day.

Children's Society Collecting Boxes

If you have a Children's Society collecting box, please bring it to Church and leave it on the table at the back of Church for the contents to be emptied, counted and banked by the end of March. Thank you.

Chris Davenport.

St Hilda's Newsletter - Editor wanted.

Unfortunately Karen is unable to continue as editor; we thank her for her hard work producing the recent editions.

This means we again looking for an editor, who needs to be computer literate and prepared to spend about 8-10 hours a month producing the newsletter. Volunteers please speak to Fr. Joseph; for more information about what is involved ask Rosemary Greenwood.

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.

The Food Bank is currently short of:

Shower gel

Shampoo

Kitchen & bathroom spray cleaners

J cloths

Small packs of washing powder and capsules

Toilet cleaner

Kitchen rolls and toilet rolls

and tinned vegetarian meals such as Macaroni cheese and

Vegetarian curry

WANTED - Clothing for Bronzefield

They are looking for leggings, leggings, leggings, winter coats, plain T-shirts and long-sleeved tops, and shoes and boots in sizes 5 and 6. Please put any donations in the blue bin at the back of church - they will be separated out from other donations.

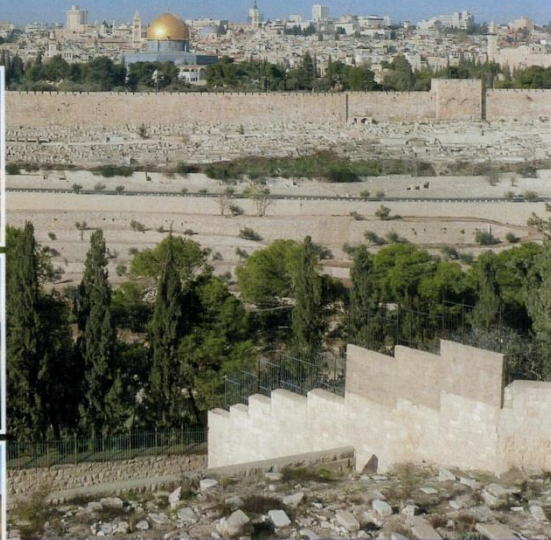
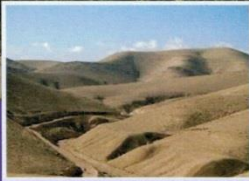
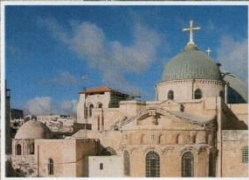
Brass Band Concert - Saturday 22nd April at 7.30pm

A date for your diary: Staines Brass Band and Ascot Brass Band are planning a joint concert to be held in St. Hilda's Church. More details later.

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A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

10 days based in Jerusalem & Galilee



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES

5 - 14 March 2024

**With Father Steve Gayle
& Father Joseph Fernandes**

For full details call or email

Tel: 07903 175038 or 01784 254237

steveagayle@yahoo.com or vicar@sthilda.org

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Churchwarden

Bobbie Bedford

PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Christopher Brown

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PA to Fr Joseph

Mariane Tank pa@sthilda.org

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

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