

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



PENTECOST

28 MAY 2023

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

Today we celebrate the coming down of the Holy Spirit upon the eleven Apostles following the Ascension of our Lord.

In line with his promise to leave us 'not comfortless' the Holy Spirit descended upon those who were now called to go out into the world and build a church and the new Body of Christ.

Often referred to as Whit, or Whitsun Sunday in the UK, today is also regarded as the 'Birthday of the Church' of which we are all members.

The Holy Spirit, one of the three persons of the Trinity, can be understood as the energy and love of God, that part of God that touches us and our lives in this age. What we do as Christians we do by the power of the Holy Spirit given to us as an act of grace by the Father.

As such, today forms the central focus of celebration for the side of God which connects most directly with us in our daily lives.

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

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Words of welcome are said; we pray with Junior Church.

Prayer of Preparation

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

**All Almighty God,
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.**

Prayers of Penitence

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

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*

**Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Acts 2 vv 1 - 21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved.”

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – 1 Corinthians 12 vv 3 - 13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to

another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – John 20 vv 19 - 23

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to

them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed – *We stand*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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

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 – *All stand*

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. 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

**Come down, O love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

[Bianco de Siena tr. R. F. Littledale]

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

Generous God,
creator, redeemer, sustainer,
at your table we present this offering,
symbol of the work you have given us to do;
use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the 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, it is our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

This day we give you thanks
because in fulfilment of your promise
you pour out your Spirit upon us,
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,
and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of
one faith.

Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,
to proclaim your gospel to all nations
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.
Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,
to proclaim the glory of your name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with 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

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God,
All you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

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

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:**

**Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight:**

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace:
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of Both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along
This this may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

[John Cosin, based on Veni, creator Spiritus]

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.

[Edwin Hatch]

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 Thy head upon my breast.'

I came to Jesus as I was,
 Weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
 And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,'
 Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
 Stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 Of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
 And all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk,
 Till traveling days are done.

[Horatius Bonar]

Holy Spirit, come, confirm us
In the truth that Christ makes known;
We have faith and understanding
Through your promised light alone.

Holy Spirit, come, console us,
Come as advocate to plead;
Loving Spirit from the Father,
Grant in Christ the help we need.

Holy Spirit, come, renew us,
Come yourself to make us live;
Holy through your loving presence,
Holy through the gifts you give.

Holy Spirit, come, possess us,
You the love of Three in One;
Holy Spirit of the Father,
Holy Spirit of the Son.

[© 1988 Hope Publishing Company
Contributors: Brian Foley, V. Earle Copes]

Prayers after Communion

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

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
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.
Amen.

Notices

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing of Light

The ministers go to the Easter Candle.

A minister says

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.

Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Each member of the congregation has a candle which is lit.

Commission

When all the candles are lit the president says

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord
Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death.
We have proclaimed God's mighty acts
and we have prayed that the power that was at work
when God raised Jesus from the dead
might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church here in St Hilda,
I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.
Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be
your guide?

All By the Spirit's power, we will.

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in
love?

All We will.

Will you dare to share your riches in common
and minister to each other in need?

All We will.

Will you dare to pray for each other
until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

All We will.

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ
into the world's dark places?

All We will.

Conclusion

The president says

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

The president blesses the people, saying

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

All Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin
when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

All Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

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.

Filled with the Spirit's power,
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Recessional Hymn

**We have a gospel to proclaim,
Good news for men in all the earth,
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall,
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of his death at Calvary,
Hated by those he came to save,
In lonely suffering on the cross:
For all he loved, his life he gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
Empty the tomb, for he was free:
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share his victory.**

**Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified:
He sends his Spirit on his Church
To live for him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim;
We sing his glory, tell his worth.**

[Edward Burns © 1968 The Lorenz Corporation]

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SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 31st May 11am

Sunday 4th June 10.00am

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

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:

Ann Bilius	Don Dunbar	Barbara Warne
Michael Brown	Vicky Hall	Christine
Lizio Cassar	Melvyn Jansen	Elaine
Ros Clifton	Pat Kyle	Nic
Saffi Cobham	Pauline Milton	Solange
Joan Davies	Ray Nation	baby Verity

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

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Alan Hatchman	Diane Owen	Delphine Scrivener
Percy Sibley	Fr. Stephen Blood	

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Laura Ann Gardner	Joan Royall	Lilian Ethel Monks
Edmund Maurice Rand	Anna S Phillipson	Jean Gallagher
Jeanne Webster Hands	Thomas Andrew Garner	

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.
We are starting to look at Christian Community. You are very welcome to come and join us.

Ambling through Acts course –Thursday 1st June at 7.30pm

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.

JUMBLE SALE AND AUCTION - Saturday 10th June at 2pm

Admission £1

Proceeds to Church Funds

Helpers and Donations of goods welcome at the church from 10am.

St. Hilda's Breakfast - Saturday 17th June at 9:30am

Do come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.
Speaker to be confirmed. Please book via the Parish Office or Ticket Tailor (link on the Church web site), so we know how many to cater for.
Suggested donation £5, payable on the day.

Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 27th June 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.

June 27th Jargon Busting

July 25th Popes – part 2

***** 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.

***** WANTED: a Fair Trade rep *****

We are looking for someone to replace Carolyn as our Fair Trade representative, to promote the use of Fair Trade products in church and by the congregation at home. If you are interested please contact one of the Church Wardens.

Contact Information

Vicar

Vacant

Licensed Lay Ministers

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwardens

Paula Gething

Christopher Brown

PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Kieran Stevens

Email: treasurer@sthilda.org

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

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