

# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



**PALM SUNDAY**

**24 MARCH 2024**

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

*Welcome to St Hilda's. We are delighted that you are able to share in our morning worship today,*

*If you are new to the church please do take time to introduce yourself to the people at the back of the church and to the ministry team at the end of the service. We would be delighted to meet you.*

*If you are able please join us for tea or coffee after the service so we can get to know one another.*

*Should you need any help during the service please do not hesitate to ask those around you and we are sure they will be able to support you.*

*For children, Junior Church meets in the Church Hall during the first part of the service, and there is a children's corner in the north aisle which they are very welcome to use.*

## **Praying for peace in Israel and Gaza**

*Bishop Sarah encourages us to join in with Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem, who has offered the following prayer:*

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

## THE GATHERING

*If you have a palm cross do hold it.*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All and also with you.**

### Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection.

Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings we may share his risen life.

*The people hold up their palm crosses while this prayer is said.*

God our Saviour,  
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die;  
let these palms be for us signs of his victory  
and grant that we who bear them in his name  
may ever hail him as our King,  
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**All Amen**

## **The Palm Gospel** -John 12 vv 12 - 16

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

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

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—  
the King of Israel!’

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!’

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

*Those who can, process out around the curtilage of the church, holding the palm crosses, led by the altar party and the choir*

## **Processional Hymn**

*All glory, laud and honour  
To thee, Redeemer, King  
To whom the lips of children  
Make sweet hosannas ring.*

Thou art the King of Israel,  
Thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name comest,  
The King and blessèd One.

The company of angels  
Are praising thee on high,  
And mortal men and all things  
Created make reply.

The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before thee went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before thee we present.

To thee before thy passion  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To thee now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
Who in all good delightest,  
Thou good and gracious King.

Do thou direct our footsteps  
Upon our earthly way,  
And bring us by thy mercy  
To heaven's eternal day.

Within that blessèd City  
Thy praises may we sing,  
And ever raise hosannas  
To our most loving King.

*[St. Theodulph of Orleans tr. J. M. Neale]*

## **The Collect**

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.

**All Amen**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 50 vv 4 - 9**

The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he awakens—  
awakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backwards.  
I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.  
The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;

the moth will eat them up.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading** – Philippians 2 vv 5 - 11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Passion Reading – Mark 15 vv 1 - 47**

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him



release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

# The Sermon

## Prayers of Intercession

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin  
which mean spiritual death,  
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people,  
that through the suffering of the present time  
there may grow a rich union in Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws,  
interpret them, and administer them,  
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty  
to work openly for justice and peace,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and experiencing the agony of  
isolation,  
that they may find support and encouragement,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship,  
failure, or sorrow,  
feel that God is far from them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith,  
may find mercy in the day of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **The Peace – *We stand***

Once we were far off, but now  
in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near  
through the shedding of Christ's blood,  
for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Offertory Hymn

*During this hymn a collection will be taken*

**At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.**

**At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,  
All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,  
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,  
All the heavenly orders, in their great array.**

**Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
From the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
Faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious when from death he passed.**

**Bore it up triumphant with its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,  
To the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;  
Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.**

**In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
All that is not holy, all that is not true;  
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,  
Ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**

**Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
With the Father's glory, with his angel train;  
For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
And our hearts confess him King of glory now.**

*[Caroline Noel]*

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

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,  
ever giving yourself that the world might live,  
let us share your death and passion:  
make us perfect in your love.

**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.**

It is indeed right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near  
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden  
majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross  
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world  
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,  
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,  
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,  
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,  
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.**

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 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 The Blessed Virgin Mary, St 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. **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

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have come to us,  
You are one with us,  
    Mary's Son;  
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
Pouring your love and goodness in;  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
    Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Now and every day  
Teach us how to pray,  
    Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
This in remembrance, Lord, of you:  
Into our lives your power breaks through,  
    Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You have come to us,  
Born as one with us,  
    Mary's Son;  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
Risen from death to set us free,  
Living Lord Jesus, help us see  
    You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
live my life for you,  
    Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
Your many gifts will make me new,  
Into my life your power breaks through,  
    Living Lord.

*[Patrick Appleford © Words and music: 1960 Josef Weinberger Ltd]*

**Anthem: Ave Verum Corpus**

*[Mozart]*

**Take up thy cross, the Saviour said  
If thou wouldst my disciple be;  
Deny thyself, the world forsake,  
And humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy cross, let not its weight  
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear thy spirit up  
And brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
The Lord for thee the Cross endured  
To save thy soul from death and hell.**

**Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
And calmly every danger brave;  
'Twill guide thee to a better home,  
And lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
Nor think till death to lay it down;  
For only he who bears the cross  
May hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the One in Three  
All praise forevermore ascend;  
O grant us in our home to see  
The heavenly life that knows no end.**

*[Charles Everest]*

## Prayers after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father

**All Amen.**

**All Faithful God,  
may we who share this banquet  
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our salvation, life and hope,  
who reigns as Lord now and for ever  
Amen.**

**Notices** - see pages 23 - 27

## THE DISMISSAL

### Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself,  
to find in him a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
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**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry,  
Thy humble beast pursues his road  
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
O'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The wingèd squadrons of the sky  
Look down with sad and wondering eyes  
To see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
The Father on his sapphire throne  
Awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

*[Henry Milman]*

## **Please remember in your prayers this week:**

### **THE SICK:**

Michael Brown	John Hunt	Lena Richardson
Ros Clifton	Pat Kyle	David
Saffi Cobham	Ray Nation	Fiona
Esperado (only son of Fr. Domingos of Murrupula)		

*If you would like a name added to or removed from the prayer list, please contact the Parish Office. If you know of someone ill or in hospital in need of prayer and support please tell our LLM Rosalyn Young (contact details on back cover).*

### **THE RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Betty Collins	Graham Thompson	Mark Goff
Pat Deanes	Mary Eyers	Pamela Middleton
Sheila West		

### **THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK**

Gordon Thurlow James Pritchard	Brian Sidney Pinfold
Michael Alan Young	Glyn Bickerdike
Edward William Davies	Fred Veitch
Robert John Hands	Thomas Charles McLennan
Kathleen Mildred Grace Nunn	

**Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula**  
and for Christians facing persecution in countries such as North  
Korea, Somalia, Libya, Eritrea and Yemen  
for more details see <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Join us for  
**Holy Week at St Hilda's**



**7pm - Short reflection followed by Compline**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March



**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

7pm – Holy Communion

Institution of the Lord's Supper and Washing of feet

8-8.30pm Watch



**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

9am-5pm – Church open -Stations of the Cross

10.30am – Churches Together Walk of the Witness

Departing St Hilda's

12-3pm – The Three Hours

2-3pm – Children's Activity in the Church Hall



**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

10am – Holy Communion

Followed by Junior Church Easter  
Egg hunt



and also for the usual Wednesday Eucharist at 11am, led by  
Rev. Helen Calner

# NOTICES

## **\*\*\* ELECTORAL ROLL \*\*\***

Prior to the APCM each year the Electoral Roll goes through a revision, and names can be added. If you feel that St Hilda's is your spiritual home and your parish church, you should be included. At the APCM, only those on the Electoral Roll may cast their vote to elect representatives to the PCC and the Deanery Synod, so it is a very important step to take. The Roll will close on Easter Sunday, so please see me after the services to fill in a form. *Jane Dobbie.*

## **Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 26th March 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.

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

## **Community Lunch - Wednesday at 12 noon**

## **Bible Study Group –Wednesday at 7.45pm**

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings; this week we will meet after the service of Compline.

You are very welcome to come and join us for our Lent study course: *Approaching Jesus.*

## **\*\*\* GOOD FRIDAY Walk of Witness \*\*\***

The walk and the service will take place as usual on Good Friday. We will gather at St Hilda's from 10.30, and will join with musicians from the Salvation Army to walk down to the Old Town Square for our 11 o'clock Service. Please join us, either for the walk or at the square.



**\*\*\* Decorating the Church - Easter Saturday from 9.30am \*\*\***

The "Flower Ladies" will be arranging the Easter Lilies on Saturday morning and would appreciate help (including with clearing up), greenery, and small flowers for the Easter Garden.

**Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 4th April**

(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.

**Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday 9th April at 12.15pm**

**PCC Meeting- Tuesday 9th April at 7.15pm for 7.30pm**

**Parish Breakfast - Saturday 13th April at 9.30am**

Do come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.  
Suggested donation £5, payable on the day

Date for your diary - **RED HOT STRINGS in concert Sat 27th April**

at St. Hilda's. See posters in church for more details.

Tickets £15 from <http://ticketsource.co.uk/st-hildas-church-ashford>,  
or on sale in church.

**St Hilda's Newsletter**

The latest issue of the Newsletter is available via the St. Hilda's web site (under "About Us"). Please leave the printed copies for people without internet access and for visitors.

The newsletter is now produced every two months, and unless more people provide material the Newsletter will end.

The deadline for items for the **June/July** issue is **Sunday 5th May**.

Please send your contributions to: [editor@sthilda.org](mailto:editor@sthilda.org)

## **UPDATE ON CHURCH HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT**

### **Work planned from 25th March to 13th May (approx)**

Works to Replace the church hall roof and install solar panels will start on 25th March and will take approximately SIX WEEKS.

The scaffolding will arrive during that week and a compound set up at the top end of the car park. The bins will need to be temporarily relocated to the area behind the gate. The compound will be protected by Heras Fencing.

From Monday 2nd April the car park will be OUT OF ACTION during weekdays, except for funerals. All church and hall users will need to find alternative parking for this period. This is necessary for safety reasons to allow the roofing contractors free movement. Access to the church will be via the pedestrian gate ONLY and access to the church hall will ONLY be via the pedestrian gate in Stanwell Road.

During the weekends, the car park will be partially open but visitors are asked to take care on site and to avoid the compound and scaffolding areas. The contractors will use the toilets at the front of the hall during the holidays and the rear of the hall at other times.

To take off the existing roof and install a new roof will take 7 working days – we therefore need to put the hall out of action for up to TWO WEEKS. This also allows for a few days delay in case of wet weather. We will have scaffolding up for approximately SIX WEEKS.

Work will commence on the roof on Tuesday 2nd April. The whole building will be out of bounds while the contractors are exchanging the roof sheets which will hopefully be no more than two weeks from 2nd April and within the school holidays. Whilst the building will be out of bounds during the day, some activity will be allowed in the Small Hall (Thornton Room) outside of working hours. Access will ONLY be through the side door.

The scaffolding will surround 3 sides of the hall, meaning the main door will also be out of use while the scaffolding is in place.

Once the roof sheets have been replaced, the remaining time is required to seal the roof, flashings etc. and also to install the solar

panels. This may take up to SIX weeks. Therefore at least until the week of 13th May, the scaffolding and the compound will remain in place. Restrictions to access via the main door and the car park will remain in place until further notice or until the scaffolding and compound has been removed.

The church hall roof has leaked for many years and the internal damage is very visible. This work is mostly being paid for by a grant from Spelthorne Borough Council. We are aware it is likely to be disruptive, we are working very hard to keep the disruption to a minimum but would ask for your patience, particularly with the restrictions we have to impose on the car-park. The work is long-overdue, but safety of users is paramount.

Paula Gething  
Churchwarden  
1st March 2024

### **Junior Church during Roof Repairs**

On **Easter Sunday** there is no Junior Church however we will provide some activity sheets to occupy the children whilst in Church.

Due to repairs to the Hall roof we are unable to use the Hall during April, however there will be a Junior Church activity in Church, although there will be **no April Messy Church**. **May's Messy Church** will go ahead as usual on May 5th with the theme of Pentecost.

**The Parish Office** is available by phone or email.

Any appointments in person must be booked.

Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman. Her office hours are:

Monday: 3.30-5pm  
Wednesday: 3.30-6.30pm  
Thursday 6.30-9.30pm  
Saturday: 9.45-11.15am

*The deadline for items for the Service Sheet is noon on Thursday.*

# Contact Information

## Vicar

*Vacant*

## Licensed Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young [rosalyn@sthilda.org](mailto:rosalyn@sthilda.org)

## Churchwarden

Paula Gething

## PCC Secretary

Liz Brian

Email: [secretary@sthilda.org](mailto:secretary@sthilda.org)

## PCC Treasurer

Vicky Palmer

[treasurer@sthilda.org](mailto:treasurer@sthilda.org)

## Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

## The Parish Office:

St Hilda's Church, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex  
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