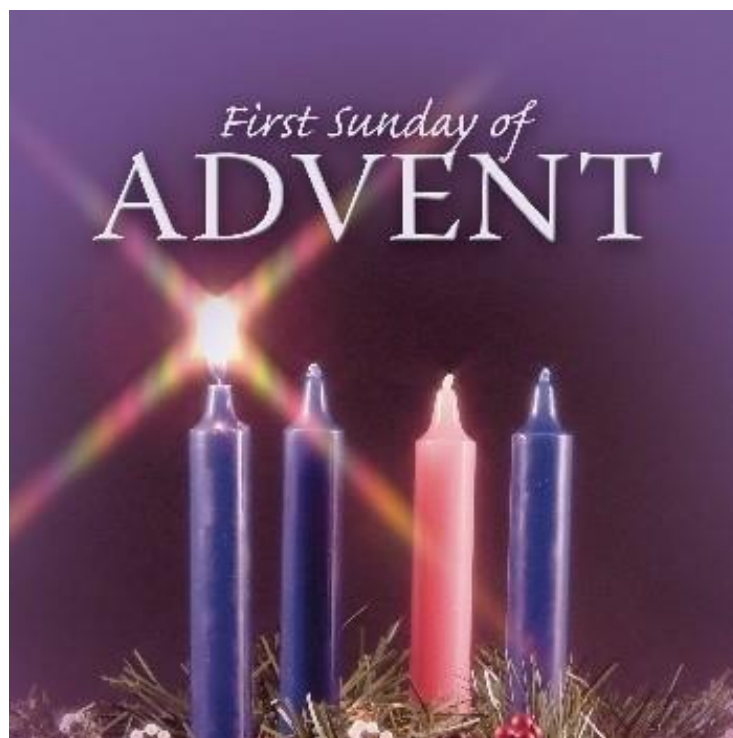


ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



PARISH EUCHARIST

ADVENT SUNDAY

**THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVE STREAMED VIA THE
ST HILDA'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

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

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 or introduction are said.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

First Candle - The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent and we will light the first candle for hope.

(We light the first candle)

Prayer of Preparation – *Sit or kneel*

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

Prayers of Penitence

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

(Silent reflection)

In the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy
has promised forgiveness of sins

to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith
turn to him: have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin into the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Mark 13:24-end

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon – All sit

The Creed – *All Stand*

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

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

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.

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.

Prayers of Intercession – *We sit or kneel*

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

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*

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of 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.

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.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

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.

**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.**

(Silent reflection)

The Lord's Prayer

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,
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

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

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

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful

as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Notices are given.

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

Amen.

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SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

Sunday 6th December 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	Sandra Swain
Michael Browne	Libby Mills	Rev. Peter Taylor
Pamela Claridge	Raymond Nation	Chick Wilson
Robb Clarke	June Prentice	Peter Wilson
Rebecca Cohen	John Radford	Jo Wood
Ann Considine	Elizabeth Savill-Burgess	Nic
Michael Dixon	Delphine Scrivener	Martyn
Peter Garner	Riley Shaw	Joey
Eileen Gilbert	Anne Shenton	Erin
Jim Hennessey	Elsie Stone	
Jean Iddiols	Roy Stone	

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Reginald Clarke	David Raymond Warne	Doris May Kerry
Julie Weiszberg	Thomas Peterson	Dora Kingston
Ann Davey	Henry Edward Batchelor	Joan Tunstall
Martin Mills	Doris Winifred Somes	Annie Louisa Smith

Please pray for those affected by the Corona Virus

NOTICES

**The Parish Office is closed to visitors, we are still available by phone daily.
Please note we currently have a technical issue with our email,
so please call or message via Facebook. Thank you**

Church Opening

St Hilda's will be open for private prayer on Wednesday 2nd December between 9.30am – midday during the current lockdown. We will reopen for public services on Sunday 6th December and tickets can be booked through the link on Facebook, our website or by calling the office.

Ashford Christmas Craft Trail

Unfortunately, the organisers have cancelled this event due to the currently Covid regulations. If you have been making cakes for this please consider donating them towards the Salvation Army Christmas hampers. Thank you.

Bishop's Teaching Evening – Mon 7th December 7-8.30pm

In past years, Bishop Graham has offered teaching evenings across the Deaneries on issues such as Prayer, the Problem of Evil and, most recently, Brexit. This year he is hosting an evening looking at the theme 'Freedom'.

The evening session will be taking place this year via Zoom. It is open to anyone in the Kensington Area, and should be an excellent time to think together about how our Christian faith works out in practice through one of the most important ideas of our time. It will not assume prior theological knowledge, though hopefully will be a theologically rich discussion!

Bishop Graham will be speaking on the topic: 'What is True Freedom?'

Freedom is one of the big ideas of our culture. We long for it, fight wars over it and guard our freedoms jealously. Some have even seen the imposition of restrictions during the pandemic as an infringement of civil liberties. Christian faith also speaks of freedom, yet in ways that can seem strange, with ideas such as obedience to the will of God, and the value of service. What, then, is a Christian understanding of freedom and how does it differ from secular ideas? During this evening, with opportunity for questions and interaction, Bishop Graham will explore how a Christian understanding of freedom can be truly liberating.

If you would like to come, please register on Eventbrite here

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-is-true-freedom-why-freedom-may-not-be-what-you-think-it-is-tickets-126125931055> and the Zoom link will be emailed to you.

An Advent journey to Christmas – Friday 11th December – 5.30pm

Simon Shutt of FACT will be running this family friendly event at St Hilda's. Tickets are limited and can be booked via Eventbrite from Sunday afternoon

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-advent-journey-to-christmas-tickets-129650980573>

Salvation Army toy appeal

Take a NEW unwrapped toy to the Salvation Army citadel by 12pm on Saturday 12th December to help support local families in need this Christmas. You can also contribute to this appeal online;

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/staineschristmasappeal or

<https://bit.ly/36h90hi>

They are also supporting local families in need with hampers on Christmas day contributions can also be made at the just giving link above or food donations suitable for an afternoon tea style hamper.

St Hilda's News

Please do send reflections, stories and others to Denise at the Parish Office. It can be a short piece, but the more variety we have the more interesting for everybody. The deadline for the week is midday Tuesday.

Sunday Tea & Chat & More Tea (midweek)

After the service at 11.15am on Sunday and 10.30am on Tuesdays the zoom codes are in the newsletter. If unsure please call the office.

Crossroads

Please email Rosemary at crossroads_ashford@hotmail.com if you have anything you would like to include in the parish magazine.

Contact Information

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Churchwardens

Bobbie Bedford

Frances Forsbrey

PCC Secretary

Denise Buttigieg

PCC Treasurer

Darran Buttigieg

Parish Administrator

Denise Buttigieg

Church Hall Bookings

Please contact the Parish Office

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