ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 DECEMBER 2023

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

Introit Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Come then and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore.

[Charles Coffin tr. John Chandler]

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; we pray with Junior Church.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the second candle, as a reminder of the prophets.

We light the first and second candles

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever.

Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets, but in our days you speak through your Son, whom you have appointed the heir of all things. Grant us, your people, to walk in his light, that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement; for you are our light and our salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

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.

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.

All 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

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 40 vv 1 – 11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – 2 Peter 3 vv 8 – 15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading - Mark 1 vv 1 - 8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. *All* Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight",

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

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

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

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.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn a collection will be taken

Hark a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ her Sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit, To the Father and the Son, With the co-eternal Spirit, While unending ages run.

[from the Latin, tr. E. Caswall]

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.

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, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, 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.

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit , we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

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.

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe.

Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing;

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.

(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,

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

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

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]

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

[Liturgy of St. James tr. Gerard Moultrie]

Sweet sacrament divine,
Hid in thine earthly home,
Lo, round thy lowly shrine,
With suppliant hearts we come;
Jesu, to thee our voice we raise,
In songs of love and heartfelt praise:
Sweet sacrament divine,
Sweet sacrament divine.

Sweet sacrament of peace,
Dear home for every heart,
Where restless yearnings cease
And sorrows all depart;
There in thine ear all trustfully
We tell our tale of misery:
Sweet sacrament of peace,
Sweet sacrament of peace.

Sweet sacrament of rest,
Ark from the ocean's roar,
Within thy shelter blest
Soon may we reach the shore;
Save us, for still the tempest raves,
Save, lest we sink beneath the waves,
Sweet sacrament of rest:
Sweet sacrament of rest.

Sweet sacrament divine,
Earth's light and jubilee,
In thy far depths doth shine
The Godhead's majesty;
Sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,
That earthly joys may fade away,
Sweet sacrament divine,
Sweet sacrament divine.

[Francis Stanfield]

Prayers after Communion

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

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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.

All 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

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

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

All 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.'

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,

All find us watching and waiting.

Amen

Recessional Hymn

Brother, sister, let me serve you, Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, Fellow trav'llers on the road; We are here to help each other Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you In the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; When you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven We shall find such harmony, Born of all we've known together Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you. Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant too.

[Richard Gillard

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SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 13th December 11am Sunday 17th December 10am - Parish Eucharist 6pm - Carol Service

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

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THE SICK:

Melvyn Jansen	David
Pat Kyle	Elaine
Finley Makriel	Rachel
Ray Nation	Solange
	Pat Kyle Finley Makriel

Joan Davies Lena Richardson

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

Ann Jacqueline Haxton Ryan

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Jessie E. McDonald Mundy	David John Taylor	Barry Bedford
Roy Dugmore Clarke	William Douglas Franklin	Paula Scotchford
Phyllis Margaret Varden	Herbert Jack Cole	Gordon Firth
Marie-Anne Inisan	Kathleen Ivy Benge	Sydney Albert William Byne
Ruby Lilian Fulton	Violet Varley Pradey	Tom Pradey

William Arthur Hearn

Harold Bullough Florence May Oldfield Ronald Francis

Frank Allaway

Henry Franklin

Alan Leonard Dale

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

NOTICES

*** Can EVERYONE help us with January's Messy Church? ***

At the back of church is a small Jar and a box of small strips of coloured paper. Could you sign your CHRISTIAN name on one slip of paper and put it in the jar. Ideally we would like every member of the congregation including little people to take part.

Help Wanted

The team serving refreshments after Sunday services would appreciate more help. If you can volunteer please speak to Valerie Scott or Paula.

The cleaning team would also appreciate more help: they usually work on Thursday mornings at 10.30am. If you can spare about an hour every week or two, or occasionally, please speak to Rosemary Greenwood or Chris Holliday.

Community Lunch - Wednesday at 12 noon

Join us in church for the Community Lunch at midday EXCEPT on 20th and 27th December.

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 currently using an Advent-to Epiphany course: you are very welcome to come and join us even if for just one session.

Mothers' Union Lunch - Tuesday 12thDecember at 12.15pm

Ambling through Acts course –Thursday **14th** December

(7:30pm usually 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.

Merry Meze – Saturday 16th December at 7pm

Enjoy Greek food and carols. Tickets (£12) are on sale at back of church.

St Hilda's Newsletter

The latest issue of the Newsletter is available via the St. Hilda's web site (under "About Us"). We put a few printed copies at the back of church: please leave these for people without internet access and for visitors.

Contributions have been so few that we will be producing this every two months instead of monthly, and unless more people provide material the Newsletter will end.

This is your magazine -if you want it to continue, start writing!
The deadline for items for the February/March issue is Sunday 7th
January 2024. Please send your contributions to: editor@sthilda.org

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

Crib Service Appeal - Sunday 24th December at 10am

This is a service of the word aimed at young people and children.

To enter into the spirit of the occasion please could everyone (big and little, young and old) wear a head-dress representing a character from the Nativity Story?

Be brave and join me – I've given you plenty of warning!

Advent and Christmas Services Every Sunday except 24th 10am Parish Eucharist Every Wednesday 11am Holy Communion Wednesday 13th 4pm Ashford CofE School Friday 15th all day St. James School Sunday 17th 6pm Carol Service Sunday 24th 10am Crib Service 11pm Midnight Mass (with the Bishop of Kensington) Christmas Day 10am Holy Communion

Food Bank at Christmas

We are continuing to collect donations for the Food Bank in the chest at the back of church. Please consider giving something special as a Christmas treat for someone who is struggling to make ends meet - but make sure that any food is well within its Best Before date.

Covid Precautions

As Covid infections are increasing again, the PCC would like to remind you that masks and bottles of hand sanitizer are available at the back of church if you wish to use them.

During the Peace, please be considerate to those who feel vulnerable and only shake hands with people who are happy with the contact.

Following the teaching of 'Loving thy Neighbour' - If you feel unwell, we ask that you do not attend church in person so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services: the Sunday morning service is livestreamed and can also be viewed later our Facebook page.

Contact Information

Vicar

Vacant

Licenced Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwarden

Paula Gething

<u>PCC Secretary</u> <u>PCC Treasurer</u>

Liz Brian Vicky Palmer

Email: secretary@sthilda.org treasurer@sthilda.org

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport 01784 252170

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