ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10AM 08 DECEMBER 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 the Middle East

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

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 Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading – Baruch 5

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,

and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;

put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;

for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,

'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;

look towards the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east

at the word of the Holy One,

rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,

led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,

carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the

everlasting hills be made low

and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,

so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree

have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,

in the light of his glory,

with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Philippians 1 vv 3 – 11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading - Luke 3 vv 1 - 6

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

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

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 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

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

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise!

[Charles Wesley]

May the grace of Christ our Saviour, And the Father's boundless love, With the Holy Spirit's favour, Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot afford.

To the God whose wisdom made us,
To the Son who set us free,
To the sanctifying Spirit,
Glory, endless glory, be!

[John Newton]

Once, only once, and once for all, His precious life he gave; Before the Cross in faith we fall, And own it strong to save.

'One offering, single and complete,'
With lips and hearts we say;
But what he never can repeat
He shows forth day by day.

For, as the priest of Aaron's line
Within the holiest stood,
And sprinkled all the mercy-shrine
With sacrificial blood;

So he, who once atonement wrought,
Our Priest of endless power,
Presents himself for those he bought
In that dark noontide hour.

His manhood pleads where now it lives On heaven's eternal throne, And where in mystic rite he gives Its presence to his own.

And so we show thy death, O Lord,
Till thou again appear,
And feel, when we approach thy board,
We have an altar here.

[William Bright]

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 - see pages 23 - 27

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

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew
Come to make all things new;
Bear his people's burden,
Freely love and pardon.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man, This is God's timeless plan: He will come, as a man, Born himself of woman, God divinely human.

Chorus

Mary, hail! Though afraid, She believed, she obeyed. In her womb God is laid; Till the time expected Nurtured and protected.

Chorus

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

[F. Pratt Green © 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd]

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Michael Brown	John Hunt	Ben
Kariss Clarke	Pat Kyle	David
Ros Clifton	Ray Nation	Fiona
Tony Diggins	Pat Parish	John

Kathy Ford Massimo Pellizzari King Charles

Gemma Hart Lena Richardson Catherine, Princess of Wales

Matthew Hutnell Martine Simpson

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

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Dick Wootton Frank Allaway
James Robert Beagley David John Taylor

Alan Leonard Dale William Douglas Franklin

Jessie Eileen McDonald Mundy
Roy Dugmore Clarke
Phyllis Margaret Varden
Marie-Anne Inisan
Ruby Lilian Fulton

Herbert Jack Cole
Kathleen Ivy Benge
Violet Varley Pradey
Florence May Oldfield
William Arthur Hearn

Harold Bullough
Henry Franklin
Shelia Freeman
Delia Woodley

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula, and for Fr. Domingos and his family

also for Christians facing persecution in countries such as North Korea, Somalia, Libya, Eritrea and Yemen.

SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 11th December 11.00am
Sunday 15th December:
10.00am Eucharist
4.00pm Carol Service

Monday 16th December 7.30pm: Induction Service for Fr. Julius

The Sunday service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/live_videos or see: https://www.youtube.com/@sthildachurch8263

NOTICES

The deadline for items for the Service Sheet is noon on Thursday. Please send any items to the Parish Office.

Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon

Do join us!

If you are able to help, even once a month, please liaise with Bobbie.

Bible Study Group: Wednesday at 7.45pm

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings. We will be continuing our look at John's Gospel. You are very welcome to join us.

Mothers' Union Lunch: Tuesday 10th December at 12noon

** Extra Cleaning Session - Monday 16th December at 10am **

The service for the Induction of Fr. Julius is the day after the Carol Service. To ensure that the church is clean and tidy for our new Vicar (and all the visiting clergy) we invite you to join a one-off cleaning session. Vacuum cleaners, dusters etc. will be provided!



Stanwell Road, Ashford, TW15 3QL | office@sthilda.org

The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council invite you to the Collation and Induction of

The Reverend Onyekachi Julius Anozie

as

Vicar of the Parish of St Hilda, Ashford

by The Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington & The Venerable Richard Frank, Archdeacon of Middlesex

on Monday 16 December 2024, at 7.30 p.m.



Clergy and LLMs are invited to robe Cassock Surplice or Cassock Alb with White Stole

R.S.V.P. by Wednesday 11 December 2024

If you would like to attend Fr. Julius' induction on Monday 16 December 2024 but are not able to get to St Hilda's Church for the service please let Laura, the Parish Administrator know by e-mail - office@sthilda.org or by phone on 01784 253525 so that a lift can be arranged.

The service will be streamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Please pray for him as he prepares to move from his current parish in the Derby Diocese, to London.

Other	December	Dates for	your Diary:

Sunday 22nd 10am Eucharist with Crib Service

Tuesday 24th 11pm Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th 10am Christmas Day Parish Eucharist

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 2nd January at 7.30pm

(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.

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 December/January issue is 1st

December. Please send your contributions to: editor@sthilda.org

*** WANTED - Ladies' socks! ***

The churches in Spelthorne Deanery have been asked whether they can provide a pair of socks for each of the ladies in Bronzefield for Christmas. The PCC have agreed that St. Hilda's will take part in this, so we will be collecting **new** pairs of ladies' socks (sizes 4-7 or 6-8). There will be a box at the back of church for these until 15th December.

Bible Reading Fellowship Notes

For some years now I have been ordering BRF Notes for members of the congregation. BRF Ministries has been publishing Bible reading notes since 1922. Each series has a distinctive approach to suit different needs and preferences, offering a variety of ways to resource your spiritual journey and help you understand and apply scripture to your daily life.

New Daylight: is for everyone on their daily journey with God.

New Daylight Deluxe: all the content of New Daylight, but with bigger text

<u>Guidelines</u>: Bible reading notes aimed at church leaders, students and those who seek to interpret and apply the biblical text with confidence in today's world.

<u>The Upper Room</u>: written by its readers all over the world, The Upper Room focuses on finding God in daily experience.

<u>Day by Day with God</u>: this series is written for women, by women who have themselves found the Bible a source of strength and inspiration for life.

<u>Bible Reflections for Older People</u>: these Bible reflections aimed at older people will bring hope, assurance and sustenance to the reader.

If you would like to know more about any of these reading notes please see me after the main Sunday Service.

Liz Brian

*** NFFDFD ***

Computer-literate people prepared to give time to help the church

We are looking for people to do several important jobs:

- 1. Manage Gift Aid claims. We have just recovered over £8,500 from HMRC from donations in 2022. We need to make the claim for 2023 by next September we expect this to involve at least 30hrs work, mostly data input. A team will help explain the system to be used and will provide the data. Then we need to document the process and work on this year's donations...
- Edit the Newsletter. Our current Editor is moving from the area. She
 has offered to produce the December/January edition but we need
 someone to take it on from next year. This involves 8-10hrs work
 every other month.

For more details of what is involved speak to one of the Church Wardens.

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

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Contact Information

Vicar

Vacant

Licenced Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwardens

Paula Gething Stuart Young

PCC Secretary PCC Treasurer

Liz Brian Khadijeh

Email: <u>secretary@sthilda.org</u> <u>treasurer@sthilda.org</u>

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport 01784 252170

The Parish Office:

St Hilda's Church, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3QL

Telephone: 01784 253525 Email: office@sthilda.org

Website: www.sthilda.org

Charity Number: 1134119 CCLI: 708985

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