# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



AND HARVEY'S BAPTISM

**CANDLEMAS 2023** 

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

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

# THE GATHERING

# **Introit Hymn**

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us, All our weakness thou dost know; Thou didst tread this earth before us, Thou didst feel its keenest woe; Self-denying, death defying, Thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

[James Edmeston]

# **The Greeting**

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

#### All Amen

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

#### All and also with you.

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

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

# **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**

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.'
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

All Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done. through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past: and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

#### Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,

All and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

#### All Amen.

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

# Old Testament Reading – Malachi 3 vv 1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

# New Testament Reading – Hebrews 2 vv 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

# Gospel Reading - Luke 2: 22 - 40

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

All Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

**The Sermon** – All sit

**Baptism** 

**Presentation of the Candidate** 

Parents and godparents, the Church receives Harvey with joy. Today we are trusting God for his growth in faith.

Today we are trusting c

Will you pray for him,

draw him by your example into the community of faith and walk with him in the way of Christ?

# With the help of God, we will.

In baptism Harvey begins his journey in faith.

You speak for him today.

Will you care for him, and help him to take his place

within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

#### The Decision

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God? I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil? I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life? I come to Christ.

#### Signing with the Cross

Harvey, Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

#### **Profession of Faith**

Let us affirm,
together with these who are being baptized,
our common faith in Jesus Christ.
Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

#### All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

#### All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

#### All I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

#### All This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

# Blessing of the water

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, Harvey may be cleansed from sin and born again.
Renewed in your image, may Harvey walk by the light of

faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

#### All Amen.

#### **Baptism**

Harvey, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### All Amen.

#### Commissioning

We have brought Harvey, to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for him and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus Christ he will know the forgiveness of his sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As he grows up, he will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that he may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve his neighbour after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation.

As his parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping him in his early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support him by prayer, example and teaching. Let us pray.

# **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray for Harvey, baptised today, for his parents and godparents, to grow in the journey of faith.

Lord, have mercy.

#### All Christ, have mercy.

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life.

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel: look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light. Lord, have mercy.

#### All Christ, have mercy.

Father, we pray for those struggling in body, mind or spirit, that they may find healing and peace in you. Lord, have mercy.

#### All Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:

look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

# All Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them the infant King. Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises, and the patience to wait for their fulfilment; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### All Amen.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

#### **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

#### THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

#### The Peace – All stand

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

he 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

Christ is the King! O friends rejoice!
Brothers and sisters, with one voice
Make all men know he is your choice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The first Apostles round them drew Thousands of faithful men and true, Sharing a faith for ever new:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Then magnify the Lord, and raise
Anthems of joy and holy praise
For Christ's brave saints of ancient days:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O Christian women, Christian men, All the world over, seek again The Way disciples followed then: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ through all ages is the same: Place the same hope in His great name, With the same faith His word proclaim: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let Love's unconquerable might God's people everywhere unite In service to the Lord of light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

[George Bell]

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

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the gifts we bring before you and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your name.

#### All Amen

# **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you

#### All and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

#### All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

#### All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity. For on this day he appeared in the Temple in substance of our flesh to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations

while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many, he was lifted high upon the cross and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you. And now we rejoice and glorify your name that we, too, have seen your salvation and join with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise:

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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Let us proclaim the miracle of faith:

#### All Christ has died:

#### Christ is risen:

# Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of Hilda and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, 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.

# The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, 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 the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

# **Agnus Dei**

Jesus, Lamb of God, 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

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All Lord, give us this bread always.

The president and people receive communion.

# **Communion Hymns**

Lord, the light of your love is shining, In the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, From the shadows into your radiance; By the blood I may enter your brightness, Search me, try me, consume all my darkness. Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, So our faces display your likeness, Ever changing from glory to glory; Mirrored here may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord,
And let there be light.

[Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music]

Anthem: Nunc Dimitis

# **Prayers after Communion**

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

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

#### 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 and Banns of Marriage

#### THE DISMISSAL

# **Blessing**

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path.

#### All Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

#### All Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

#### All Amen.

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

#### All Amen.

Go in the light of Christ.

#### All Thanks be to God.

# **Recessional Hymn**

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]

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# **SERVICE TIMES**

# Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 11.00am with Mothers' Union

# Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am with Messy Church (see notice below)

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

# Please remember in your prayers this week:

#### THE SICK:

Michael Brown Vicky Hall Bernice Ross
Lizio Cassar Melvyn Jansen Betty Vince
Ros Clifton Pat Kyle Barbara Warne

Joan Davies Pauline Milton Lisa Wilfred Galloway Ray Nation Nic

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

# THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Dan Blanchford Roy Stone Ken Clark

# THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Clifford Stanley Smith Hugh Rees Morris Edith Ruby Sharps Mary Fifield

Sidney Harvey Divey

Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

#### **NOTICES**

The Parish Office is available by phone or email. Visitors by appointment only.

Following the teaching of 'Loving thy Neighbour' - If you feel unwell, we ask that you do not attend so that we can maintain the health and safety of all who attend the services.

#### Community Lunch - Wednesday at 12 noon

Join us in church for the Community Lunch at midday
If you are able to come forward and help, even once a month, please
do liaise with Bobbie.

#### Bible Study – every Wednesday

Bible Study group meet in Church at 7.30pm. All welcome.

We are starting to looking at various Old Testament characters. Each of these studies is self-contained, so this would be a good opportunity to come and see what we do.

# Ambling through Acts course -Thursday 2nd February

(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.

# Junior Church Messy Church - Sunday 5th February at 10am

Next Sunday we will have our first Messy Church. We will assemble in Church as usual but will remain in the Hall until the end of the service. Parents are very, very welcome.

#### St. Hilda's Breakfast - Saturday 18th February at 9:30am

Do come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.

The guest speakers are 'Meet the Beat', with Community Police Officers and other PCSOs. There is an increase in the victims of scams, which needs looking into. It will be aimed at informing about the scams and fraud that is going on, as well as raise awareness so as not to become the next victim.

Suggested donation £5, payable on the day.

#### Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 28th February 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.

The programme for the first half of the year is:

Feb 28th Pick and Mix Mar 28th Hymn Writers

Apr 25<sup>th</sup> Tyndale and the English Bible

May 23rd Names for Jesus
June 27th Jargon Busting
July 25th<sup>th</sup> Popes – part 2

#### St Hilda's News

Please send items for the Newsletter to kmroach45@gmail.com

Note that it makes the Editor's job much easier if you submit an item as a Word document rather than in the body of an e-mail.

The deadline for the February edition is the 29<sup>th</sup> January.

#### Parish administrator

Our parish administrator is Laura Goodman. **Note that her office hours have changed** to:

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

Any appointments in person must be booked.

#### **WANTED - Clothing for Bronzefield**

They are looking for leggings, leggings, leggings,

winter coats, plain T-shirts and long-sleeved tops, and shoes and boots in sizes 5 and 6. Please put any donations in the blue bin at the back of church - they will be separated out from other donations.

#### **Food Bank Donations**

Please use the wooden chest at the rear of the Church to place any donations for the local food bank, such as tinned and dried goods and toiletries.

The Food Bank is currently short of:

Shower gel

Shampoo

Kitchen & bathroom spray cleaners

J cloths

Small packs of washing powder and capsules

Toilet cleaner

Kitchen rolls and toilet rolls

and tinned vegetarian meals such as Macaroni cheese and

Vegetarian curry

#### Brass Band Concert - Saturday 22nd April at 7.30pm

A date for your diary: Staines Brass Band and Ascot Brass Band are planning a joint concert to be held in St. Hilda's Church. More details later.

# Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 5<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

10 days based in Jerusalem and Galilee

With Father Steve Gayle and Father Joseph Fernandes.

See literature at the back of church for more details.

# **Contact Information**

<u>Vicar</u>

Fr Joseph Fernandes

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**Licenced Lay Ministers** 

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