

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER
10AM 04 MAY 2025

<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.

There is a children's corner in the north aisle which children are very welcome to use, and there activity sheets are available to occupy them.

Please indicate to the priest if you want a gluten free wafer during communion

<p><i>Please take this booklet home with you so you have a record of the prayer requests and notices to use during the week</i></p>

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He, who on the Cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
Now is risen from the dead.**

**Christ is risen, Christ the first fruits
Of the holy harvest field,
Which will all its full abundance
At his second coming yield;
Then the golden ears of harvest
Will their heads before him wave,
Ripened by his glorious sunshine
From the furrows of the grave.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen!
Shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
From the brightness of thy face;
That we, Lord, with hearts in heaven,
Here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel hands be gathered,
And be ever safe with thee.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Glory be to God on high;
To the Father, and the Saviour
Who has gained the victory;**

**Glory to the Holy Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity:
Alleluia, alleluia!
To the Triune Majesty.**

[Christopher Wordsworth]

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.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Words of welcome are said. (Junior Church are in the hall for Messy Church)

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

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
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*

**Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.**

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Acts 9 vv 1 - 6

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Revelation 5 vv 11 - 14

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing!’

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
for ever and ever!'

And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders
fell down and worshipped.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

**We sing the glorious conquest
Before Damascus' gate,
When Saul, the Church's spoiler,
Came breathing threats and hate;
The rav'ning wolf rushed forward
Full early to the prey;
But lo! the Shepherd met him,
And bound him fast to-day!**

**Oh, glory most excelling
That smote across his path!
Oh, Light that pierced and blinded
The zealot in his wrath!
Oh, Voice that spake within him
The calm, reproving word!
Oh, Love that sought and held him
The servant of his Lord!**

**O Wisdom ordering all things
In order strong and sweet,
What nobler spoil was ever
Cast at the Victor's feet?**

**What wiser master-builder
E'er wrought at thine employ
Than he, till now so furious
Thy building to destroy?**

**Lord, teach your Church the lesson,
Still in her darkest hour
Of weakness and of danger,
To trust your hidden power.
Thy grace by ways mysterious
The wrath of man can bind,
And in thy boldest foeman
Thy chosen saint can find!**

[John Ellerton]

Gospel Reading – John 21 vv 1 - 19

Alleluia, Alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All Alleluia.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them,

‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ He said to them, ‘Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.’ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus

said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

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 We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers end with the following:

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

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom,
you know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking:
have compassion on our weakness,
and give us those things
which for our unworthiness we dare not,
and for our blindness we cannot ask,
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace – *All stand*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

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

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John -
They came with me and the dance went on.

Refrain

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
They left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black -
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I'm the Dance, and I still go on.

Refrain

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

[Sydney Carter

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

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

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 your Son our Lord.
For he is your living Word;
through him you have created all things from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.
Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.
Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-
giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us
everlasting life.

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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his 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.*

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the miracle of faith:

All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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

The president says the invitation to 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.

The president and people receive communion.

All confirmed Anglicans, as well as all baptized Christians who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and are in a state of grace, are welcome to receive communion, provided they would normally do so in their own church. If you are not receiving communion today, you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing; please indicate this by bringing your order of service with you.

Communion Hymns

Anthem: Lead me, Lord

[Text: Based on Psalms 5:8, 4:8. Music: Samuel S. Wesley. 1861.]

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know,
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
in you, and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind,
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
Will you let me answer prayer
in you, and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free,
and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
in you, and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside,
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
in you, and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you,
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you, and you in me.**

*[© Words: 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland
Music: 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland]*

**This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow:
*Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain;
But now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.***

**My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season slumber,
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number:**

Refrain

**Death's flood hath lost its chill,
Since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
My passing soul deliver.
*Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain;
But now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.***

[Text: 67 67 with refrain; George R. Woodward, 1848–1934, alt.]

Music: Oudaen's David's Psalmen, 1685, alt.]

Prayers after Communion

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

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who 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 - see pages 25 - 27

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Recessional Hymn

Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore him;
Praise him, angels, in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before him,
Praise him, all ye stars and light.
Praise the Lord! for he has spoken;
Worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;
Never shall his promise fail.
God has made his saints victorious.
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
Hosts on high, his power proclaim.
Heaven and earth, and all creation,
Laud and magnify his name!

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer to thy name;
Young and old, thy praise expressing,
Join their Saviour to proclaim.
As the saints in heaven adore thee,
We would bow before thy throne;
As thine angels serve before thee,
So on earth thy will be done.

*[vv 1,2 Foundling Hospital Collection
verse 3 Edward Osler]*

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Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Ben Bishop	Pat Kyle	Edith Smith
Stan Bishop	Ashley Lee	Delia Woodley
AnneMarie Bough	Ray Nation	Ben
Tony Diggins	John Parish	David
Sheila Freeman	Pat Parish	Fiona
Gemma Hart	Massimo Pellizzari	Peter
John Hunt	Lena Richardson	

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Mary Mills Pope Francis Graham Elaine Taylor Mary Mason

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Robert Harris	John C F Bearfoot	Harry Northcott
Doris Cash	William Henry Bembridge	Patricia Jane Shelly
Frances Matilda Turner	Samuel Cash	
Rose Marion White	Edgar Francis Sharps	

**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, Yemen, Iran and Nigeria.
for more details see <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Please also pray for the family of St. Paul's Church, Fukuoka, Japan
(see pages 26-27), the community of Fukuoka, and for their work and
worship

SERVICE TIMES next week
Wednesday 7th May 11.00am
with Mothers' Union
Sunday 11th May 10am

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 is noon on Thursday.

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 the **Hawley room** in the church hall: use the side door (which opens outwards) and follow the corridor left and left again. We meet most Wednesday evenings.

We will be continuing our look at John's Gospel, following the last hours of Jesus' life on earth. You are very welcome to join us.

80th Anniversary of VE Day - Thursday 8th May at 7pm

There will be a ringing of the church bell from 6.30 for 10 minutes.

If you would like to arrive at 6.30 and bring a bell you can ring whilst sitting in church, then please do.

There will be a " memorial board" up in Church from the preceding Sunday to the evening of the service on which you can write the names of any family and friends who died as a result of the war : military or civilian.

Refreshments will be served after the service

Jumble Sale & Auction - Saturday 10th May at 2pm

In St. Hilda's Church. Admission £1. Proceeds to Church Funds are also required to sell the goods and to clear up afterwards.

Mothers' Union Lunch – Tuesday 13th May at 12 noon

St Hilda's Entertainers present Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* on Friday **16th May at 7.45pm**, and Saturday **17th May at 2pm & 7.45pm**.

Tickets are just £12 for adults and £10 for concessions, on sale via

<https://www.sthildasentertainers.com>

Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 27th May at 2:30pm

Our topic will be: **Letters of Peter John and James**

Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 5th June at 7.30pm

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: 3.30-4.30pm

Wednesday: 12:00-5:00pm

Thursday 6.30-9.30pm

Sara Wrightson writes:

In January this year I spent four weeks in Fukuoka, on the island of Kyushu, Japan. During my time I looked for an Anglican church and found a warm welcome at St. Paul's Fukuoka. <http://snkkztesthp.web.fc2.com/>

I initially went along on a Tuesday evening, which was the day of my uncle's funeral. There was a service listed and I wanted to have a moment for prayer. It transpired that a new church was being built adjacent to the old one, and on this Tuesday the service had been cancelled because they were moving items from the old to the new. I explained why I had come, and a man, who turned out to be the priest, invited me into the church and to take as much time as I wanted.

The worship area was on the 1st floor (2nd floor in Japan). It was a peaceful space, and as I sat in the pews I looked towards a lovely stained glass window

above the altar. On the day a heavy granite font was being hoist-lifted down the stairs, quite a feat.

After my prayers, I thanked them and said I would attend the service that Sunday. By Sunday, the font had been positioned in the new church, the pews brought down, and the stained glass window installed above the new altar.

I attended two services here, and was warmly welcomed on both occasions. The services were conducted in Japanese. I was given an English translation, and joined in the service and the hymns in Japanese. (The hymns were written in Kanji, with the phonetic script of Hiragana, which I can read, so I could sing along.)

As we have at St. Hilda's, there were sidespeople to welcome worshippers, and once a month they have a parish lunch, which was being held on my first visit. The food was a typical Japanese bento box, very tasty. It was lovely to share a meal and sit and chat, in Japanese and English. The joy in being part of worship, with the welcome of so many, in particular Makie (who's taken the Christian name of Hilda) and Kiyoko.

The consecration ceremony of the new church building was on Saturday, 26th April. Please pray for this church, the family of St. Paul's Fukuoka, the community of Fukuoka, and for their work and worship.

おめでとうございます (Omedetou gozaimasu)

Congratulations and God Bless



Contact Information

Vicar

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Lay Minister

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