### ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER 21 APRIL 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.

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.

#### 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**

Christ is made the sure foundation,
And the precious corner-stone,
Who, the two walls underlying,
Bound in each, binds both in one,
Holy Sion's help forever,
And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved by God on high,
In exultant jubilation,
Pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Threefold glory,
Singing everlastingly.

To this temple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, today; With thy wonted loving-kindness, Hear thy people as they pray; And thy fullest benediction Shed within its walls for ay.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
Gifts of grace by prayer to gain;
Here to have and hold for ever,
Those good things their prayers obtain,
And hereafter, in thy glory,
With thy blesséd ones to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One;
One in love, and One in splendour,
While unending ages run.

[Latin c 7th Century tr. J. M. Neale]

#### 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.

#### **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, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

#### All Amen.

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### First Reading – Acts 4 vv 5 - 12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

#### New Testament Reading – 1 John 3 vv 16 - 24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

#### All Thanks be to God.

#### Gospel Reading - John 10 vv 11 - 18

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.

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

#### All Praise to you, O Christ.

**The Sermon** – All sit

#### 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.

#### All 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

Jesus, where'er thy people meet, There they behold thy mercy-seat; Where'er they seek thee, thou art found, And every place is hallowed ground.

For thou, within no walls confined, Inhabitest the humble mind; Such ever bring thee where they come, And going, take thee to their home.

Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few, Thy former mercies here renew; Here to our waiting hearts proclaim The sweetness of thy saving name.

Here may we prove the power of prayer, To strengthen faith and sweeten care; To teach our faint desires to rise, And bring all heaven before our eyes.

Lord, we are few, but thou art near; Nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear; O rend the heavens, come quickly down, And make a thousand hearts thine own!

[William Cowper]

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your 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.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,

in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you 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.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hilda and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, 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

ΑII

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

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

#### **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 Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The president and people receive communion.

#### **Communion Hymns**

Faithful Shepherd, feed me In the pastures green; Faithful Shepherd, lead me Where thy steps are seen.

Hold me fast, and guide me In the narrow way; So, with thee beside me, I shall never stray.

Daily bring me nearer
To the heavenly shore;
May my faith grow clearer,
May I love thee more.

Hallow every pleasure, Every gift and pain; Be thyself my treasure, Though none else I gain.

Day by day prepare me As thou seest best, Then let angels bear me To thy promised rest.

[T B Pollock]

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness
With a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple, We should take him at his word; And our lives would be all gladness In the joy of Christ our Lord.

[F. W. Faber]

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.

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### All Amen.

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

Notices - see pages 23 - 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**

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

[William Blake]

# SERVICE TIMES Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 11am Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am

followed by APCM

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

#### Please remember in your prayers this week:

#### THE SICK:

Michael Brown	Lena Richardson	Cyril
Ros Clifton	Esperado (son of Fr. Domingos)	David
John Hunt	King Charles	Demi
Pat Kyle	Catherine, Princess of Wales	Fiona
Ray Nation		Mary

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**

Jo Greenwood Trevor Weston Saffi Cobham
Doreen Walker Betty Collins Graham Thompson

Mark Goff

#### THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

Dorothy A Goldsmith Heather Susan Crozier Mary Milton
John Arnold Lane Richard Alan West Kenneth Goldsmith
Amy Maud Clayton Edward Norman Phillips Elvina Maud Stone

Sidney Lovell Pinfold

#### Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula

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

for more details see <a href="https://www.opendoorsuk.org/">https://www.opendoorsuk.org/</a>

#### **NOTICES**

#### Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 23rd April at 2.30pm

Do come and join us .We meet on the 4th Tuesday, from 2.30 pm - 4 pm 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.

23rd Apr St Hilda's Church Window

28th May Non Canonical Gospels

25th June Jargon Busting23rd July Celtic Spirituality

#### 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 Group -Wednesday at 7.45pm

We meet in Church on most Wednesday evenings. This week we are starting a new study on *The Kingdom*, mainly from Matthew's Gospel. You are very welcome to join us.

#### Ambling through Acts course – Thursday 2nd May

(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.

#### Jumble Sale - Saturday 11th May at 2pm

Admission £1 Proceeds to church funds

## ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

We will be holding the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and afterwards the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Sunday 28th April**, **2024 at 11 am.** 

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is to elect the Churchwardens and we have two posts available. This meeting can be attended by any member of the civil electoral roll of the civil parish, as well as those on the electoral roll of St Hilda's Church, Ashford.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to report on changes to the electoral roll, general parish activities and financial matters. The annual meeting also elects new members to the PCC. All are welcome to attend but only those who are on the Church Electoral Roll of St Hilda's are entitled to vote.

Notices of these meetings have been put up in the entrance porch and on the PCC board in Church. There are also nomination forms for Churchwardens and for new members of the Parochial Church Council. Please consider what support you can give to the St Hilda's Church and if you want to know more about what the job of a Churchwarden involves please speak to Bobbie or Paula. For more information about being a member of the Parochial Church Council please seek out a member — our photos are on the board in the entrance porch.

St Hilda's Church exists with the effort and work done by volunteers who give their time to ensure the smooth running of services and other activities. Please think and pray how you could become more involved.

Liz Brian PCC Secretary – St Hilda's Church, Ashford

#### 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 June/July issue is Sunday 5th May.

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

#### **Junior Church during Roof Repairs**

Due to repairs to the Hall roof we are unable to use the Hall during April, however there will be a Junior Church activity in Church. **May's Messy Church** will go ahead as usual on May 5th with the theme of Pentecost.

The deadline for items for the Service Sheet is noon on Thursday.

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#### **UPDATE ON CHURCH HALL ROOF**

The great news is that the new roof is in place. The weather has not been in our favour, but the team worked very hard last weekend to catch the dry weather required to remove the old roof and install the new roof panels. Once the old roof was off it became clear that there was some missing material around / supporting the gutters on either side (where the water ingress has been worse) and additional work was carried out to rectify this. I was advised that this problem would not have been visible without removing the roof sheet and perhaps explains why successive attempts at relining the gutters have not been successful.

This all means that we will be cleaning over the weekend and Happytots and the other regular hirers can return to the hall on Monday - but the only access remains through the side door as the scaffolding will still be in place.

During the week of 15th April, the roof team will finish the flashing and the heavy machinery, airbags and remaining rubbish will be removed from the car park. The exception being the heras fencing which will stay as long as the scaffolding is in place. The solar panels will also be installed next week and the teams will need to be in and out of the Hawley room and small kitchen dealing with the wiring and electrics. The car part will be re-opened to church and hall users when the heavy equipment has been removed, we hope this will be towards the end of the week.

The bad news is that the gutter lining has not yet been done - due to the ongoing wet weather. This means we may continue to see leakage into the hall. The team needs 2-3 clear, dry days to remove the existing linings and replace and the weather forecast for next week is not looking helpful. At present this doesn't delay the whole project - but it might unless we have a few days (and nights) of dry weather. Please pray!

Paula Gething







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#### **Contact Information**

Vicar

Vacant

**Licenced Lay Minister** 

Rosalyn Young rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwarden

Paula Gething

PCC SecretaryPCC TreasurerLiz BrianVicky Palmer

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

**Church Hall Bookings** 

Chris Davenport 01784 252170

**The Parish Office:** 

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