

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

10AM 25 MAY 2025

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>

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.

<p><i>Please indicate to the priest if you want a gluten free wafer during communion</i></p>
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We encourage parishioners to donate via PARISH GIVING:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/ashford-st-hilda-ashford/>



THE GATHERING

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel
Into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
Led them with unmoistened foot
Through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ has burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun hath risen;
All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
From his light, to whom we give
Laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright
With the day of splendour,
With the royal feast of feasts,
Comes its joy to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem,
Who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesu's resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death,
Nor the tomb's dark portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal,
Hold thee as a mortal;
But today amidst thine own
Thou didst stand, bestowing
That thy peace which evermore
Passeth human knowing.

[St. John of Damascus 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. We pray with Junior 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

All **Glory to God in the highest,
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,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading –Acts 16 vv 9 - 15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart

to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading –

Revelation ch 21 vv 10, 22 – ch 22 v 5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him;

they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

City of God, how broad and far
Outspread thy walls sublime!
The true thy charted freemen are
Of every age and clime.

One holy Church, one army strong,
One steadfast high intent;
One working band, one harvest song,
One King omnipotent.

How purely hath thy speech come down
From man's primeval youth!
How grandly hath thine empire grown
Of freedom, love and truth!

How gleam thy watch-fires through the night
With never fainting ray!
How rise thy towers serene and bright,
To meet the dawning day!

In vain the surge's angry shock,
In vain the drifting sands:
Unharm'd upon the eternal Rock
The eternal City stands.

[Samuel Johnson]

Gospel Reading –John 5 vv 1-9

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 this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

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.

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

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

[John Newton]

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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
singing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

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

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.*

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Let us proclaim the miracle of faith:

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

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hilda and all the
saints to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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 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

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.

**All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.**

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

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.

[Edwin Hatch]

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
And drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

[William Cowper]

God of mercy, God of grace,
Show the brightness of thy face:
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
Fill thy Church with light divine;
And thy saving health extend
Unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise thee, Lord;
Be by all that live adored:
Let the nations shout and sing,
Glory to their Saviour King;
At thy feet their tribute pay,
And thy holy will obey.

Let the people praise thee, Lord;
Earth shall then her fruits afford;
God to man his blessing give,
Man to God devoted live;
All below, and all above,
One in joy, and light, and love.

[H. F. Lyte]

Prayers after Communion

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

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him 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.**

<i>Notices</i> - see pages 22 - 23

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

Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest,
Beneath thy contemplation sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not, what social joys are there,
What radiancy of glory, what light beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Sion, conjubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel, and all the martyr throng;
The Prince is ever in them, the daylight is serene.
The pastures of the blessed are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast;
And they who, with their Leader, have conquered in the fight,
For ever and for ever are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country, shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessed country, shall I ever win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes! The Lord shall be thy part:
His only, his forever, thou shalt be, and thou art.

[Bernard of Cluny, tr. J. M. Neale]

*Please take this booklet home with you so you have a
record of the prayer requests and notices to use
during the week*

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Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Ben Bishop	Pat Kyle	Delia Woodley
Stan Bishop	Ray Nation	Ben
AnneMarie Bough	John Parish	David
Tony Diggins	Pat Parish	Fiona
Gerald Forsbrey	Massimo Pellizzari	Peter
Sheila Freeman	Lena Richardson	Shani
Gemma Hart	Jane Samuels	Violet and Emily
John Hunt	Edith Smith	Yvonne and family

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK

John Tank	Cecil Gregory	Anna S Phillipson
Connie Clayton	Laura Ann Gardner	Nigel Jeffery Hands
Alec Hawley	Edmund Maurice Rand	Thomas Andrew Garner
Sylvia Chapman	Jeanne Webster Hands	
Minnie Gregory	Joan Royall	

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

and for the family of St. Paul's Church, Fukuoka, Japan,
the community of Fukuoka, and for their work and worship

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/>

Pray for the areas of the world where there is conflict, including:
the Middle East including Gaza, the West Bank and Israel;
India and Pakistan; Ukraine and Russia; Sudan; Myanmar.

SERVICE TIMES next week

Wednesday 28th May 11am

Ascension Day: Thursday 29th May 7pm

Sunday 1st June 10am (with baptism)

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, please liaise with Bobbie.

Bible Study Group - Wednesday at 7.45pm.

We meet in the **Hawley room** in the church hall most Wednesday evenings. This week we are starting to look at the Nicene Creed which is 1700 years old this year. You are very welcome to join us.

St Hilda's young adults BBQ - Monday 26th May.

Hosted by Tyler. Please join us if you are between 18-35 years old.

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

Our topic will be: **Letters of Peter, John and James**. Do come and join us. We meet in the Small Hall on the 4th Tuesday, from 2.30pm – 4pm 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

Junior Church Parents

After the 1st June Messy Church there will be a short meeting to discuss and plan our forthcoming Children's Weekend on the 6th and 7th of September. We propose the Saturday will be an activity day including craft and games with a shared meal. Whilst the Sunday we hope as many children and young people as possible will be closely involved in all aspects of the service as well as having their school bags/pencil cases blessed in preparation for the new School year. All parents, children and older siblings are welcome.

Christine Taylor

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

(Usually 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.

This Pentecost, Sunday 8th June we would like to celebrate the diversity of our family of St. Hilda's by asking everyone to come along in traditional dress from their ancestral homeland.

If you speak another language other than English, please add your details to the form at the back of Church: we are hoping to record the Lord's Prayer in as many tongues as possible.

We would also like to ask you to bring along some snacks, or cakes that are associated with your culture that we can share during coffee time after the service.

Induction of Helen Calner – Tuesday 22nd July at 7pm

We are invited to Helen's induction as Vicar of the Parish of St Augustine, Whitton. It will be a Eucharistic service.

If you plan to attend please sign the list at the back of church by **Sunday 15th June**, including whether you need or can provide transport, and we will give a combined reply to the Churchwardens of St. Augustine's.

Food Bank Donations

We continue to collect for the Food Bank run by the Salvation Army, who have thanked us for our donations.

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

Contact Information

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Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young

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Churchwardens

Alison Garner

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Chris Davenport

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