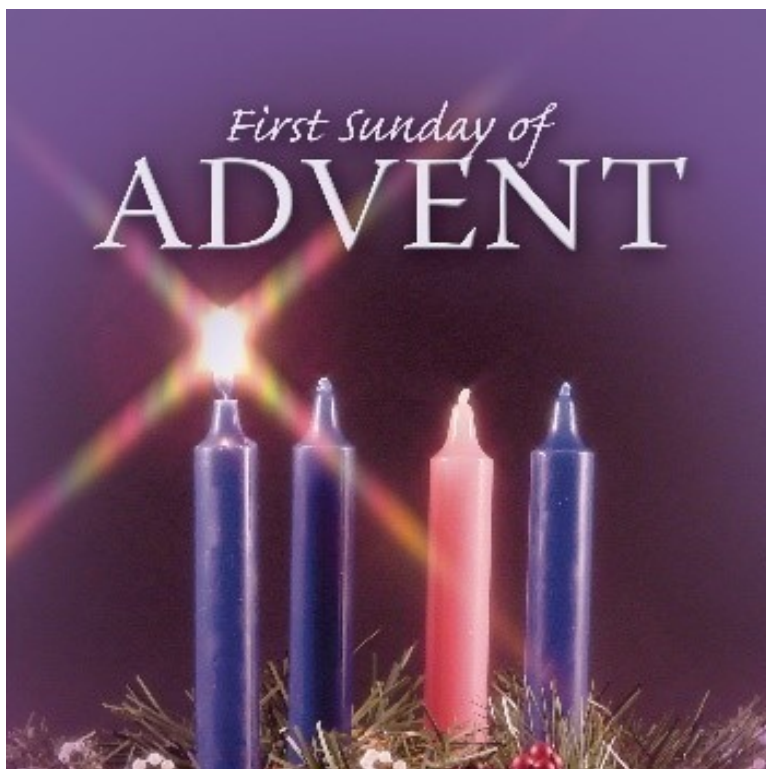


ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



ADVENT SUNDAY

10AM 30TH NOVEMBER 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 toddlers' corner in the north aisle which young 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

We encourage parishioners to donate via PARISH GIVING:

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



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THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne

[Charles Wesley]

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.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

First Candle - The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent
and we will light the first candle for hope.

(We light the first candle)

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
All for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
All for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
All for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
All for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
All for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
All for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
All for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake,
All for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

(Silent reflection)

In the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**All O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who in his great mercy
has promised forgiveness of sins
to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith
turn to him: have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect -

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

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading -Isaiah 2 vv 1 - 5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah
and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading - Romans 13 vv 11 – 14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

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]

Gospel Reading -Matthew 24 vv 36 - 44

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the

coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Taizé chant: **Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray**

The Sermon – *All sit*

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

The prayers end with the following:

Merciful Father,

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace – All stand

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn a collection will be taken. You can use the QR code on page 2, and on the back of the chairs, for online donations.

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! (x3)
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing (x3)
Shall their true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture (x3)
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! (x3)
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

[Charles Wesley]

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

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

All Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,
Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image
and placed us in the garden of your delight.
Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,

we echo the song of the angels in heaven,
evermore 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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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 we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Hilda and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

(Silent reflection)

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, in the language of your heart
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

We say the Lord's Prayer

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

 Jesus, Lamb of God
All have mercy upon us.

 Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy upon us.

 Jesus, redeemer 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 Most merciful Lord,
 your love compels us to come in.
 Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;
 we were not fit even
 to eat the crumbs from under your table.
 But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
 and share your bread with sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom. 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

Carol: This is the truth sent from above

**Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
Regard thy servants when they call.**

**Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.**

**Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide;
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.**

**At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
And things in heaven and earth shall own,
That thou are Lord and King alone.**

To thee, O holy One, we pray,
Our judge in that tremendous day,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every onslaught of the foe.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

[From the Latin, tr. J M. Neale]

The Lord will come and not be slow;
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then,
And justice, from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
This wicked earth redress;
For thou art he who shalt by right
The nations all possess.

The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord!
And glorify thy Name!

For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.

[John Milton]

Taizé chant: **Wait for the Lord, his day is near**
 Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart.

Prayers after Communion

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

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
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.

<i>Notices</i> - see pages 22 – 23

THE DISMISSAL

St. Hilda's prayer

All May I be equal to your hope of me.
If I am weak, I ask that you send only what I can bear.
If I am strong, may I shrink from no testing
that shall yield increase of strength
or win security for my spirit.
I trust in thee, O Lord.
I say, 'Thou art my God.' My times are in thy hand. Amen

Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

All Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

All Amen.

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

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,

All find us watching and waiting. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Hills of the North, rejoice,
 Echoing songs arise,
Hail with united voice
 Him who made earth and skies:
He comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
 Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
 Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
 He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
 Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,
 Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
 In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
 Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
 From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the sons of earth be blest.

[New English Hymnal Editors, based on C. E. Oakley © Oxford University Press]

Please join us for tea or coffee after the service

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Ben Bishop, Stan Bishop, AnneMarie Bough, Wendy Butt, Tony Diggins, Sheila Freeman, Gemma Hart, John Hunt, Pat Kyle, Ray Nation, John Parish, Massimo Pellizzari, Dorothy Reid, Elsie Stone, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abby, Ben, Callum, Darren, Fiona, Mandy, Pauline, Peter, Ramin

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Julie Carr, Susan Finch

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:

Reginald Clarke, David Raymond Warne, Doris May Kerry, Julie Weiszberg, Thomas Peterson, Dora Kingston, Ann Davey, Henry Edward Batchelor, Joan Tunstall, Martin Mills, Doris Winifred Somes, Annie Louisa Smith, Maureen Betty Brill, Jean Garner

**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/>

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

SERVICE TIMES next week

Monday 1st December 6pm – Lodge Bros. Service

Wednesday 3rd December 11am

**Sunday 7th December 10am - Eucharist with Baptism
4pm – Christingle Service**

NOTICES

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

Send to communication@sthilda.org

Bible Study Group - Monday 1st December – NO MEETING

Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon

Christingle – Sunday 7th December at 4pm

A short child friendly service raising funds for the Children's Society. Collection boxes are available at the back of Church. Alternatively donations can be made electronically through Givestar, the Children's Society Christingle page under St Hilda's Church Ashford.

Ambling Through Acts – Thursday 11th December at 7.30pm

In church. Please bring a bible.

Community Sing

Community Sing is taking a break and will return in the spring of 2026. We loved doing our Flashmob so watch this space when the warmer weather starts next year..

Parish Breakfast – Saturday 13th December at 9.30am

Do come along and enjoy good food and fellowship.

There will be a list at the back of church: if you intend to come please sign it so we know how many to cater for.

Suggested donation £5, payable on the day.

Yaldā at Yuletide – Saturday 20th December at 7pm

Our 2025 Christmas fundraising event. An evening of Persian food followed by carol singing - all in church.

Tickets £12 per adult, children under 12 go free and Nick's Bar will be open.

The Parish Office : Office hours are

Mon: by appointment only,

Tue: 9am-6pm, Wed: 12 noon-4:00pm, Thur: 9am-6pm

St. Hilda's Church

ADVENT

TO

CHRISTMAS

Sunday 30th November	10:00 Advent Sunday
Monday 1st December	18:30 Lodge Brothers Christmas service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving
Sunday 7th December	16:00 Christingle
Sunday 14th December	16:00 Contemporary carol service with the schools
Sunday 21st December	10:00 Crib service 18:00 Christmas Carol
Wednesday 24th December	23:00 Midnight Mass
Thursday 25th December	10:00 Christmas

Contact Information

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CCLI: 708985

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