

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST 10AM 25 DECEMBER 2025

The 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/>



St Hilda's is a Registered Charity No. 1134119

CCLI License no. 708985

One License no. A-739460

Copyright Archbishops' Council of the Church of England

THE GATHERING

Introit Hymn

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
Refrain

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
Refrain

Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

*[Latin 18th century
tr. Frederick Oakeley and others]*

The Greeting

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

All Amen

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Words of welcome are said.

The Christmas Candle

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks)

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

The new light of your incarnate Word
gives gladness in our sorrow,
and a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,
until they overflow with gladness and praise.

All Blessed be God for ever.

(We light the fifth candle, to mark the Birth of Christ)

People of God: shout and sing!
Tell the good news of peace on earth.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.
All God's people shout:

Amen!

Angels dance and the bright star shines.
All creation bows to the Lord of all.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people shout:

Amen!

One with us, yet born to save,
he will show us the way to God.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people shout:

Amen!

People of God: shout and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Invitation to confession

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

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.

All Amen.

The Collect - *our Prayer for the Day*

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

.All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

New Testament Reading –Titus ch 2 vv 11 - 14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and
in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,
upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and
the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour,
Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might
redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people
of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Luke ch 2 vv 1 - 14

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

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

All We believe and trust in him.

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

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

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

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince 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.

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.**

**'Fear not,' said he, (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind**

**'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:**

**'The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'**

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

[Nahum Tate]

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

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.
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.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God.
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In him we see our God made visible
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit ☩,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
*Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith
All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice
made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, in the
language of our hearts let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us:

We say the Lord's Prayer in our preferred language

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

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

Agnus Dei

All 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,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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.

Prayers after Communion

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

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the 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.**

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

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

All Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Recessional Hymn

God rest you merry, gentlemen.
Let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day.
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
Refrain

And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray:
Refrain

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other new embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface
Refrain

[Traditional]

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



As we gather once again at the manger, we give thanks to God for the gift of Christ our Emmanuel, God with us. Christmas reminds us that God chooses to dwell among us in love, humility, and hope, even in the midst of a complex and fragile world.

As this year draws to a close, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of the life of St Hilda's. Thank you to all who have worshipped faithfully, served generously, prayed quietly, given sacrificially, and supported one another with compassion and care. Every act

of kindness, seen and unseen, has helped to shape our church as a place of welcome, grace, and belonging.

We give thanks for our children and young people, for families, elders, volunteers, ministry teams, and all who serve the wider community. We remember with gratitude those who have journeyed with us for many years, and we hold in prayer those who have joined us more recently. Together, we continue to grow as a community rooted in Christ's love.

As we look ahead to the New Year, we do so with trust and hope. May the light of Christ guide us into the coming year, strengthening us for all that lies ahead. May we continue to be a church that reflects God's justice, mercy, and joy, serving one another and our neighbourhood with faith and courage.

I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing for a Happy New Year. Remember that the reward for good is... MORE WORK!!!

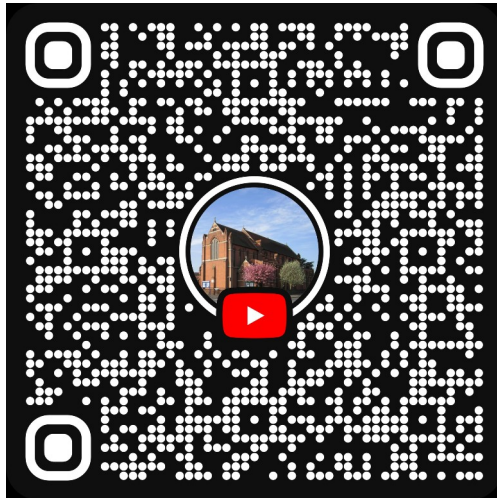
With prayers and gratitude,

Fr Julius

*Wishing you, your family and friends
a safe and blessed Christmas.*

Subscribe to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sthildachurch8263>



Contact Information

Vicar

Fr. Julius Anozie

vicar@sthilda.org

+447359 876498

Lay Minister

Rosalyn Young

rosalyn@sthilda.org

Churchwardens

Alison Garner

Stuart Young

Email: warden@sthilda.org

PCC Secretary

Tyler Pannone

Email: secretary@sthilda.org

PCC Treasurer

Khadijeh

treasurer@sthilda.org

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Nick Gething

safeguarding@sthilda.org

Church Hall Bookings

Chris Davenport

01784 252170

The Parish Office:

St Hilda's Church, Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 3QL

Telephone: 01784 253525 Email: office@sthilda.org

Notices etc. Email: communcation@sthilda.org

Website: www.sthilda.org

Charity Number: 1134119

CCLI: 708985

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/>

Follow us on X <https://twitter.com/StHildaAshford>