

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER 10 AM 19 APRIL 2026

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 toddler's 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

**Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can, O Death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!**

**Jesus lives! henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!**

**Jesus lives! for us he died;
Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!**

**Jesus lives! our hearts know well
Nought from us his love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell
Tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!**

**Jesus lives! to him the throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where he is gone,
Rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia!**

[Christian Gellert tr. Frances Cox]

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.

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

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Zephaniah ch 3 vv 14 - 20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Acts ch 2 vv:14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

**Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore;
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

**Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above;
*Refrain***

**His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and Heav'n,
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given;
*Refrain***

[Charles Wesley]

Gospel Reading – Luke ch 24 vv 13 - 35

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 Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost

evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

**He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

[Charles Wesley]

The Sermon

The Creed

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

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

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

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

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

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

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

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

Prayers of Intercession

Jesus our exalted Lord has been given all authority.
Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be
perfected by his 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 – *We 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 risen Christ be always with you

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you. Alleluia.

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.*

**Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.**

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head;
And brought with him, from death's domains,
The long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey
Alone our Leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where he hath gone before.

Triumphant in his glory now
His sceptre ruleth all,
Earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
And at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
His mercy we implore,
Into his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
While endless ages run.

[St. Fulbert of Chartres tr. Robert Campbell]

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

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

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

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again
he has restored to us everlasting life.
Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

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

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

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us,
in the language of our hearts we pray:

We say the Lord's Prayer in our preferred language

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.

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.

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

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever.

[H. W. Baker]

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy one is here.

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

[David J. Evans © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music]

**Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Sion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode:
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.**

**See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age.**

**Saviour, if of Sion's city,
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name:
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Sion's children know.**

[John Newton]

Prayers after Communion

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

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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 page 22

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

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 light and peace of Christ. . Alleluia, Alleluia

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Recessional Hymn

**Christ is the King! O friends rejoice!
Brothers and sisters, with one voice
Make all men know he is your choice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The first Apostles round them drew
Thousands of faithful men and true,
Sharing a faith for ever new:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Then magnify the Lord, and raise
Anthems of joy and holy praise
For Christ's brave saints of ancient days:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O Christian women, Christian men,
All the world over, seek again
The Way disciples followed then:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Christ through all ages is the same:
Place the same hope in His great name,
With the same faith His word proclaim:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let Love's unconquerable might
God's people everywhere unite
In service to the Lord of light.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

[George Bell]

Please join us for tea or coffee after the service

SERVICE TIMES next week
Wednesday 22nd April 11.00am
Sunday 26th April 10am followed by APCM

NOTICES

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

Send to [**communication@sthilda.org**](mailto:communication@sthilda.org)

Bible Study Group – Monday 13th at 7.30pm

In the Hawley Room in the church hall. Starting a study on the Holy Spirit.

Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon

Confirmation Classes next meetings:

Youth Group (in person) 29th April, 13th May, 16th May

Senior Group (on-line) 22nd April, 6th May, 16th May

The Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 17th May 2026

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - NEXT SUNDAY 26th April at 11am

Nomination forms are available in church for those who would like to stand as Churchwarden or a member of the PCC.

The April meeting of **Feed My Sheep** has been cancelled.

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Emma Bennet, Ben Bishop, Stan Bishop, Wendy Butt, Brenda Charlton, Tony Charlton Tony Diggins, Robert Dobbie, Sheila Freeman, Gemma Hart, Kevin Harwood, John Hunt, Lorna Jackson, Carole Kelly, Julia Kirkby, Pat Kitto, Pat Kyle, Ray Nation, John Parish, Massimo Pellizzari, Rev Chris Rogers, Annette Scott, Elsie Stone, Christine Taylor, Claire West, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abby, Ben, Christine, Darren, Eva, Fiona, Peter, Ramin

If you know of someone who can be removed from this list, please tell Rosemary or email communication@sthilda.org

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Jennifer Wrightson, Sheila Simon, Frank Staples, Barbara Carpenter

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:

Mary Mills, Rose Edith Blanchard, Win Heather, David Frank Rawlinson Banks, Jill Elizabeth Baker, May Ellen Lawrence, Emily Gooch, Kathleen Newell, James Alan Perry, Patricia Pouffou, Dorothy A Goldsmith, John Arnold Lane, Amy Maud Clayton, Sidney Lovell Pinfold, Heather Susan Crozier, St George, Richard Alan West, Edward Norman Phillips, Mary Milton

THOSE PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION:

Elizabeth, Gabriel, Nima, Malachi, Charlotte, Jenny, Teddy, Oliver, Farhad, Khadijeh, Ben, Adam

**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, Lebanon, Israel, Iran; India and Pakistan; Ukraine and Russia; Sudan; Myanmar.

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

Office hours are: Monday by appointment only

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

Notices etc. Email: communcation@sthilda.org

Website: www.sthilda.org

Charity Number: 1134119 CCLI: 708985

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