

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

10am 18 January 2025

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past,
Live this day as if 'twere thy last:
Improve thy talent with due care;
For the great day thyself prepare.

Let all thy converse be sincere,
Thy conscience as the noon-day clear;
Think how all-seeing God thy ways
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

Awake, awake, ye heavenly choir,
May your devotion me inspire,
That I like you my age may spend,
Like you may on my God attend.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

[Thomas Ken]

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

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

or other appropriate sentences

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all

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

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
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 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,

who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading - 1 Cor 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are
sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all
those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

**Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord, who left the heavens
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their king;**

**Still to the lowly soul
He doth himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we thy presence seek;
May ours this blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for thee.**

[John Keeble and others]

Gospel Reading - John 1: 29-42

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you, O Lord.

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Taizè chant: **Confitemini Domino, quoniam bonus,
Confitemini Domino, Alleluia**

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*

Christ is our peace.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

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 3, and on the back of the chairs, for online donations.

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,
All the heavenly orders, in their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
From the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant with its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
To the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
All that is not holy, all that is not true;
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
Ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
With the Father's glory, with his angel train;
For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him King of glory now.

[Caroline Noel]

Thy kingdom come, O God,
Thy rule, O Christ, begin;
Break with thine iron rod
The tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace
And purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
As in the realms above?

When comes the promised time
That war shall be no more,
When lust, oppression, crime,
Shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee Lord, arise,
And come in thy great might;
Revive our longing eyes,
Which languish for thy sight.

O'er lands both near and far
Thick darkness broodeth yet:
Arise, O morning Star,
Arise, and never set.

[Lewis Hensley]

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.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.
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:

**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, 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.*

Let us proclaim the miracle 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 Hilda and 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

Believing the promises of God, 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.

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

All Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.

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

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity, interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!**

[John Whittier]

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone:
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia! Bread of Angels,
Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
Earth thy footstool, Heaven thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest.
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim
In the Eucharistic feast.

[W. Chatterton Dix]

Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fighting within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am (thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down),
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
Here for a season then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

[Charlotte Elliott]

Prayers after Communion

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

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.. **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 - see page 22</i>

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts
with the good news of his kingdom;
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 to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ.**
Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Thou whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray, and, where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray
Let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
Life giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move o'er the waters' face bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.

Blessèd and holy Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might,
Boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide,
Let there be light.

[John Marriott]

Please join us for tea or coffee after the service

SERVICE TIMES next week

Wednesday 21st January 11am

Sunday 25th January 10am

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Ben Bishop, Stan Bishop, AnneMarie Bough, Wendy Butt, Brenda Charlton, Tony Charlton Tony Diggins, Robert Dobbie, Sheila Freeman, Wendy Grantham, Gemma Hart, Kevin Harwood, John Hunt, Pat Kyle, Ray Nation, John Parish, Massimo Pellizzari, Dorothy Reid, Annette Scott, Elsie Stone, Claire West, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abby, Ben, Danielle, Darren, Eva, Fiona, Peter, Ramin, Scarlett

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Derek Thomas Brewer

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:

Elizabeth Catherine Gething, Bette Porter, Rita Mabel Boulding, Derek Willmot, Joyce Titt, Edward Kingston

**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, Venezuela.

NOTICES

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

Send to **communication@sthilda.org**

Bible Study Group - Monday 19th January at 7.30pm

We continue to look at the book of Ruth in the Hawley Room in the church hall. All are welcome to join us.

Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon

Burns Night – Saturday 24th January 2026 from 7pm

Traditional supper and dancing with Caller Paul Streatfield in St Hilda's Church Hall. Tickets £12, available at the back of church or from

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-hildas-church-ashford/t-dkvpkxq>

Feed My Sheep- Tuesday 27th January at 2.30pm

In the Small Hall. This month's topic is **Saxon Saints**.

PCC Meeting - Wednesday 28th January at 7.30pm

Ambling Through Acts – Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm

Service of Thanksgiving for Julie Carr - Saturday 7th Feb at 2 pm

Parish Breakfast – Saturday 14th February at 9.30am

The Spelthorne Orchestra - Sunday 22nd February at 4pm

See leaflets in church for more details

Confirmation Service – Sunday 17th May 2026

Sign-up forms for the classes are available at the back of church. If you are interested in being confirmed please fill one in and return it to the Parish Office

The Parish Office : Office hours are

Mon: by appointment only,

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

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

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