

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



PALM SUNDAY

10AM 29 MARCH 2026

**PRAYER: Lead us not into temptation but
deliver us from evil**

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

If you have a palm cross do hold it.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All and also with you.

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection.

Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings we may share his risen life.

The people hold up their palm crosses while this prayer is said.

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah
to suffer and to die;
let these palms be for us signs of his victory
and grant that we who bear them in his name
may ever hail him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Palm Gospel - Matthew 21 vv 1 – 11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

We sing verses 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the Processional Hymn

Let us go forth, praising Jesus our Messiah.

Those who can, process back to church, holding the palm crosses, led by the altar party and the choir

The service resumes in church:

Proclamation Hymn

- 1 *All glory, laud and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children
Make sweet hosannas ring.*
- 2 **Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed One.**
- 3 **The company of angels
Are praising thee on high,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.**
- 4 **The people of the Hebrews
With palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before thee we present.**
- 5 **To thee before thy passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To thee now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.**
- 6 **Thou didst accept their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.**

[St. Theodulph of Orleans tr. J. M. Neale]

Prayers of Penitence

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

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.**

Absolution

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

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

New Testament Reading - Ephesians ch 5 vv 8–14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O, save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
And outward things are strong,
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
And save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
And feel that I am frail;
That if the tempter cross my way,
Yet he may not prevail.

[Isaac Williams]

Gospel Reading - Matthew ch 4 vv 1–11

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
The Lord is a great God,
O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these

stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of
God.”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you”,
and “On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”

Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The choir sing the Lord’s Prayer

The Sermon

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

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean
spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people,
that through the suffering of the present time
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws,
interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty
to work openly for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and experiencing the agony of
isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship,
failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

All Lord, have mercy.

**Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace – *We stand*

Once we were far off, but now
in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near
through the shedding of Christ's blood,
for he is our peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
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.

**We sing the praise of him who died,
Of him who died upon the cross;
The sinner's hope let men deride,
For this we count the world but lost.**

**Inscribed upon the cross we see
In shining letters, 'God is love';
He bears our sins upon the Tree;
He brings us mercy from above.**

**The Cross! it takes our guilt away;
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day,
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.**

**It makes the coward spirit brave,
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes the terror from the grave,
And gilds the bed of death with light;**

**The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heaven above.**

[Thomas Kelly]

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

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.

All Glory to you, O God, for ever.

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home

to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

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.

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty
clean.

This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
*This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.*

This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is his story.

All This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross, 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 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 on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to 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.

Communion Hymns

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns his face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.

[Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music]

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room
For thy holy nativity:

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for thee.*

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,
And in great humility:

Refrain

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
That should set thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,
They bore thee to Calvary:

Refrain

When all heaven shall ring, and her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee."

Refrain

[Emily Elliott]

And now, O Father, mindful of the love
That bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,
And having with us him that pleads above,
We here present, we here spread forth to thee
That only offering perfect in thine eyes,
The one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

Look, Father, look on his anointed face,
And only look on us as found in him;
Look not on our misusings of thy grace,
Our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim;
For lo, between our sins and their reward
We set the passion of thy Son our Lord.

And then for those, our dearest and our best,
By this prevailing presence we appeal;
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,
O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;
From tainting mischief keep them white and clear
And crown thy gifts with strength to persevere.

And so we come: O draw us to thy feet
Most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;
And by this food, so awful and so sweet,
Deliver us from every touch of ill:
In thine own service make us glad and free,
And grant us nevermore to part from thee.

[William Bright]

Prayers after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father **Amen.**

All Faithful God,
may we who share this banquet
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation, life and hope,
who reigns as Lord now and for ever Amen.

Notices - 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

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry,
Thy humble beast pursues his road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
Look down with sad and wondering eyes
To see the approaching sacrifice.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne
Awaits his own anointed Son.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

[Henry Milman]

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:

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, Pat Kitto, Pat Kyle, Ray Nation, John Parish, Massimo Pellizzari, Rev Chris Rogers, Annette Scott, Sheila Simon, Elsie Stone, Christine Taylor, Claire West, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abby, Ben, 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:

Frank Staples, Barbara Carpenter, Ian Bush, Right Rev. Andrew Watson, Rev Elizabeth Greenwood, June Prentice

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:

Glyn Bickerdike, Fred Veitch, Thomas Charles McLennan, Dorothy Hollister, Doris Sims, Mary Straughan, Joan Mary Harden, Iris Muriel Anne Hands, Patricia Myrtle Oldfield, Dora Winifred Swiney, Nick Iona, Ethel Ellen Barlow

THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM OR 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, Israel and Iran;
India and Pakistan; Ukraine and Russia; Sudan; Myanmar.

NOTICES

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

Send to **communication@sthilda.org**

Easter Lilies: please return any forms to a Churchwarden **TODAY**

Please return any **Lou or Louie Boxes** to the Churchwardens **by Easter Sunday** as the appeal for the New Hall Toilets will be closing very soon. Many thanks for all the contributions so far. We are hoping for the work to create the new toilets to begin in August.

Decorating the church for Easter – Saturday 4th April

Please bring greenery and your help to the church from **9.30am**.

Lent Bible Study Groups

Monday at 7.45pm (after Compline) in the Hawley Room in church hall.

The playlist for the accompanying videos is at:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrlg28YebzifrCM4eKNtgG11jV71uRc1G)

list=PLrlg28YebzifrCM4eKNtgG11jV71uRc1G

Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon

Confirmation Classes next meetings:

Youth Group (in person) 15th April, 29th April

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

The Confirmation Service will be on Sunday 17th May 2026

Parish Breakfast – Saturday 11th April at 9.30am

Electoral Roll: If you are not on the Electoral Roll of St. Hilda's and would like to be, please fill in a form available at the back of church and give it to Jane Dobbie by 11th of April.

APCM- Sunday 26th April at 11am

Nomination forms will be available in church after Easter Sunday for those who would like to stand as Churchwarden or a member of the PCC.



HOLY WEEK TO EASTER 2026

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: 10:00AM

HOLY MONDAY: HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS WITH COMPLINE 7:00PM.

SPY TUESDAY: HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS WITH COMPLINE 7:00PM.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

MIDWEEK EUCHARIST: 11:00AM

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS WITH COMPLINE 7:00PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

PASSOVER MEAL: 6:30PM

WASHING OF THE FEET: 6:45PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY: 7:00PM

THE WATCH: 8:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY

ASHFORD WALK OF WITNESS: 10:30AM

7 WORDS ON THE CROSS: 12:00PM

LAMENT WITH THE PSALMS: 1:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY WITH VENERATION OF THE CROSS: 2:00PM

HOLY SATURDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 12:00PM

EASTER EVE SERVICE WITH BAPTISM: 6:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY: 10:00AM



St Hilda's Ashford

Contact Information

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Office hours are: Monday by appointment only

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

Notices etc. Email: communcation@sthilda.org

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Charity Number: 1134119

CCLI: 708985

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