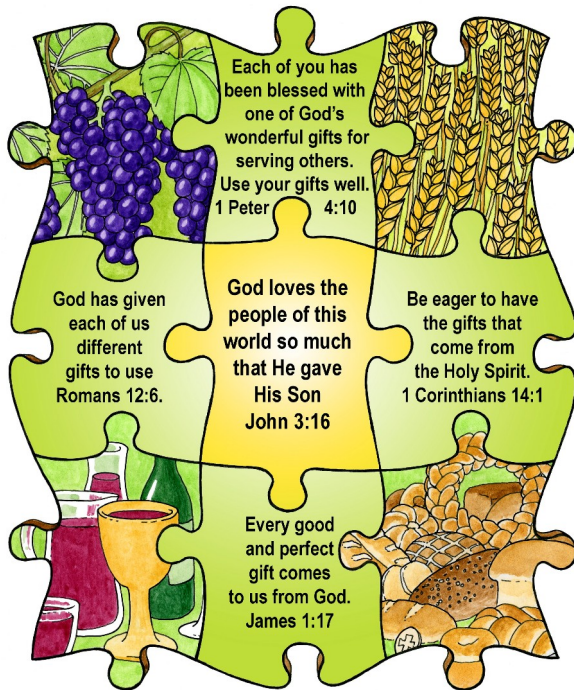


# ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



## ST. MATTHEW APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

### STEWARDSHIP: GIVING: A COMMAND OF SCRIPTURE

**10AM 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

The Sunday service is livestreamed and can be viewed later our Facebook page  
[https://www.facebook.com/StHildaAshford/live\\_videos](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.*

<p><i>Please indicate to the priest if you want a gluten free wafer during communion</i></p>
--

We encourage parishioners to donate via PARISH GIVING:

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



# THE GATHERING

## Introit Hymn

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most glorious God, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesu, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,  
Thou its Sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

*[W. Chatterton Dix]*

## 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

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins  
and to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.

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 us,  
pardon and deliver us from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**    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*

O almighty God,  
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector  
to be an apostle and evangelist:  
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain  
and the possessive love of riches  
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,  
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** – Malachi 3:6–12

For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, “How shall we return?” Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and

thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading – 1 Timothy 6:17–18**

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.

*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 – Matthew 6:1–4**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.

**All Alleluia.**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**



## **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

Encouraged by our fellowship with all the saints,  
let us make our prayers to the Father through our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

*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*

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

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 for online donations.*

**He sat to watch o'er customs paid,  
A man of scorned and hardening trade,  
Alike the symbol and the tool  
Of foreign masters' hated rule.**

But grace within his breast had stirred;  
There needed but the timely word:  
It came, true Lord of souls, from thee,  
That royal summons, 'Follow me.'

Enough, when thou wast passing by,  
To hear thy voice, to meet thine eye:  
He rose, responsive to the call,  
And left his task, his gains, his all.

O wise exchange! with these to part,  
And lay up treasure in the heart –  
Who now with crown of light doth shine  
Among the apostolic line.

Come, Saviour, as in days of old;  
Pass where the world has strongest hold,  
And faithless care and selfish greed  
Are thorns that choke the holy seed.

Who keep thy gifts, O bid them claim  
The steward's, not the owner's name;  
Who yield all up for thy dear sake,  
Let them of Matthew's wealth partake.

*[William Bright]*

*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.

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.

Let us proclaim 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**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All    Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **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**

**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**

*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**

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love;  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee.



Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee.

*[Frances Ridley Havergal]*

Father of heaven, whose love profound  
A ransom for our souls has found,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy pardoning love extend.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,  
Our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy saving grace extend.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath  
The soul is raised from sin and death,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
To us thy quickening power extend.

Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,  
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One,  
Before thy throne we sinners bend:  
Grace, pardon, life to us extend.

*[Edward Cooper]*

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]*

## Prayers after Communion

*Silence is kept after which the post-Communion prayer is said.*

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in 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.**

<p><b>Notices</b> – see pages 22 - 23 <i>followed by a short seminar about Fundraising and grants application</i></p>
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## THE DISMISSAL

### Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## Recessional Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*[H F Lyte]*

**Please remember in your prayers this week:**

**THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:**

Ben Bishop, Stan Bishop, AnneMarie Bough, Tony Diggins, Sheila Freeman, Gemma Hart, John Hunt, Pat Kyle, Denis Marshall, Ray Nation, John Parish, Massimo Pellizzari, Dorothy Reid, Elsie Stone, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abbie, Ben, Darren, Fiona, Melissa, Peter, Joshua and Mavis, Maureen, Rusley and Jeisah.

**THE RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Edith Smith, Lena Richardson

**THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:**

John Mills, Anthony Chippington, Rodney Crisp Monks, Elizabeth "Betty" Bonner, Violet Johnson, Lionel Sidney Saxty, Harold Light, Patricia Ann Way, Ernest Victor Manns, Cissie Hawley

**Please pray for our ALMA twin Parish, Holy Cross Murrupula, and for  
Fr. Domingos and his family**

also for Christians facing persecution in countries such as North Korea,  
Somalia, Libya, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran and Nigeria.  
for more details see <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

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

**SERVICE TIMES next week**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 11am**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 10am**

**Continuation of Stewardship month, with the theme of  
We give because we been given**

## NOTICES

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

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

### **Feed My Sheep - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 2.30pm**

in the Small Hall. The topic will be The Oxford Movement.

### **Community Lunch in church - Wednesday at 12 noon**

### **Bible Study Group - Wednesday at 7.45pm.**

We meet in **church** most Wednesday evenings. This week we are looking at Peter's second epistle. You are very welcome to join us.

### **Parish Mission Weekend - 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Friday at 6pm (*Choir Practice will be moved to Thursday at 7pm*)

Saturday 9 – 2pm at Thomas Knyvett College - sign-up sheet for lunch is at the back of church.

Thanksgiving service at 10am on Sunday

### **Community Sing – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 8.10pm**

In church, fortnightly. No commitments: each Friday is stand alone to learn a single piece of music, try Taizé, sing for health and well-being

### **Food Bank Donations**

We continue to collect food (not near its use by or best before date) and toiletry items for the food bank at the Salvation Army. Please put your donations in the chest at the back of church.

**The Salvation Army have again thanked us** for our donations, but still have more than enough pasta and baked beans, so please don't give these until further notice!

## St. Hilda's Church - Income and Expenditure January-July 2025)

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Income	£8,051	£9,787	£11,424	£8,035	£13,036	£13,963	£14,180
Expenditure	£10,244	£12,951	£11,433	£13,565	£13,853	£8,449	£9,456

**The Parish Office** : Office hours are

Mon: by appointment only,

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

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CCLI License no. 708985

One License no. A-739460

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Stuart Young

Email: [warden@sthilda.org](mailto:warden@sthilda.org)

## **PCC Secretary**

Tyler Pannone

Email: [secretary@sthilda.org](mailto:secretary@sthilda.org)

## **PCC Treasurer**

Khadijeh

[treasurer@sthilda.org](mailto:treasurer@sthilda.org)

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Chris Davenport

01784 252170

## **The Parish Office:**

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TW15 3QL

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Website: [www.sthilda.org](http://www.sthilda.org)

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