

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH – REMEMBERING OUR
ROOTS

10AM 4TH OCTOBER 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

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met
thee,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

[James Waldon Johnson]

The Greeting

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

All Amen

We meet in the presence of God

**All who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.**

Words of welcome are said.

Prayer of Preparation

**All Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 8.22,23

Lord God, our maker and redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people,
come among us and save us:

We have wilfully misused your gift of creation;
Lord be merciful,

All forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord be merciful,

All forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Lord be merciful,

All forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ
But have failed to share it with others;
Lord be merciful,

All forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord be merciful,

All forgive us our sin.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in 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*

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading – Exodus ch 20 vv 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.' Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.'

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Philippians ch 3 vv 4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

[John Newton]

Gospel Reading – Matthew 21:33-end

Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Post-Gospel:

Taizè chant: *Thuma mina Thuma mina (x3), somandla.*

Send me, Jesus Send me, Jesus, (x3) send me, Lord.

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

God calls us to peace
All in God's justice is our peace
Christ calls us to be God's people
All in Christ is our peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn a collection will be taken. You can use the QR code on page 2, and on the back of the chairs, for online donations.

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.**

[Isaac Watts]

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

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread of heaven.

All Amen

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For though the human race
is divided by dissention and discord,
Christ calls us in his death and resurrection
to embody hearts of change
and his work of reconciliation.

By your Spirit you give courage to overcome fears
and to seek the unity of all.
By the working of your power,
hatred is overcome by love,
revenge gives way to forgiveness,
and division is transformed by mutual respect and humility.
Therefore, we give you ceaseless thanks,
and join with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
to proclaim your glory in their unending song of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
*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.*

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Hilda and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Song: I want Jesus to walk with me [African-American spiritual]

**Let us break bread together on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees,
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

[African American spiritual]

**In Christ there is no East or West,
In him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

**Join hands, then, brothers of the faith,
Whatever your race may be;
Who serves my Father as a son
Is surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West,
In him meet South and North;
All Christlike souls are one in him,
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

[John Oxenham]

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey though:
Strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises**

I will ever give to thee.

[William Williams tr. Peter Williams]

Prayers after Communion

Silence is kept after which the post-Communion prayer for Black History Month is said:

Blessed God,
help us, whom you have fed and satisfied in this eucharist,
to hunger and thirst for what is right;
help us, who here have rejoiced and been glad,
to stand with those who are persecuted and reviled;
help us, who here have glimpsed the life of heaven,
to strive for the cause of right
and for the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ,

All Amen.

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Notices – see pages 22 - 23

Banns of Marriage (first time of asking):

Stephen Neal Baldwin and Annabelle Lucy Crenshaw.

THE DISMISSAL

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
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

This little light of mine, }
I'm gonna let it shine. } x3
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Out in the darkest night, }
I'm gonna let it shine. } x3
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Deep down in my soul, }
I'm gonna let it shine. } x3
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

[African-American]

Please join us for tea or coffee after the service

Please remember in your prayers this week:

THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE:

Stephen Neal Baldwin and Annabelle Lucy Crenshaw

THOSE FOR WHOM OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ASKED:

Emma Aldridge, Terri Aldridge, Emma Bennet, Ben Bishop, Stan Bishop, Brenda Charlton, Tony Charlton Tony Diggins, Robert Dobbie, Fr. Joseph Fernandes, Allen Findel, Sheila Freeman, Juliet Griffith, Gemma Hart, Mick Hitchins, John and Betty Hunt, Lorna Jackson, Pat Kitto, Jim and June Knight, Pat Kyle, Chris Maddock, Carolyn Namuzira, Ray Nation, Deen Naeem, Massimo Pellizzari, Rory Reeves, Bernice Ross, Annette Scott, Rosina Smith, Elsie Stone, Christine Taylor, Barbara Warne, Jeremy Weston, Delia Woodley, Abby, Ben, Christine, Darren, Elaine, Fiona, Lisa, Ramin, Robin

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

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED: Nita Morley, David John Matty, Betty Wilson, Cate Brunton Green

THOSE IN OUR MEMORIAL BOOK THIS WEEK:

Henry William Turner, Edna Heath, Harry Forsbrey, Ray Cutler, Neville Wareham, Bill Dansie, Lawrence Maltby

**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.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in the church

Monday 7.30pm – Bible Study

Tuesday 9am – Morning Prayer*

Wednesday 11.00am – Eucharist

followed by Community Lunch (noon)

Thursday 9am – Morning Prayer*

Sunday 10am – Parish Eucharist and Junior Church

**Leaders and Readers wanted: see list at back of church*

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

Send to communication@sthilda.org

The **Bible Study Group** is looking at Mark's Gospel. Visitors and new members welcome!

Pets' Service – TODAY Sunday 4th October at 4pm

Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends (or a picture of them) to church for a special blessing and time of prayer.

Harvest Supper – Saturday evening 10th October at 5.30pm

A bring-and-share supper

Harvest Festival – Next Sunday 11th October at 10am

Donations will go to the Food Bank, so please bring gifts of tinned or dried food (not Baked Beans or Pasta, please) well within the Best Before date, toiletries etc.

Looking Ahead

The Shepperton Fun Choir invites you to

A Fun Sing-along

on Saturday 17th October at 3pm

In St. Nicholas Church, Shepperton, TW17 9JY

Tickets £10. All proceeds go towards the Church heating project.

More details available from Daphne Tanner

Feed My Sheep – Tuesday 27th October at 2.30pm

in the Small Hall. The topic is Elijah and Elisha

Service of Light – All Hallows’ Eve Saturday 31st October at 6pm

**Candles of Remembrance Service –
All Saints’ Day Sunday 1st November at 6pm**

Ambling Through Acts – Thursday 3rd November at 7.30pm
in the church.

On **Remembrance Sunday 9th November** the Eucharist service will start at **9.30am** to allow time for people to get to the War Memorial before 11am

Line Dancing – Saturday 14th November at 6.30-9.30pm
in the Church Hall. Come and learn some beginners’ dances. With Ploughman’s supper, bar and raffle.
Tickets at £12 each will be available in church after services.

St. Hilda’s Day – Sunday 15th November – Bring-and-share lunch
after the morning service

Christmas Market – Saturday 21st November 11am-3pm



Contact Information

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

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