



October 2025 News

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Autumn St Hilda's quarterly news bulletin.

Special services and events this quarter:

Bring and share lunch – Sunday 5th October, after the morning service

A meal to celebrate Rev'd Diane Reeves joining us here as our curate following her ordination as Deacon on 4th October.

Harvest Festival – Sunday 12th October 10:30am

On Sunday 12th October we will have our Harvest Festival service. We are collecting donations for Smethwick Foodbank and St Mary's pantry. Pantry donations can include perishable items such as fruit, vegetables and dairy products. To find out more about pantry visit

<https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/pantry-listings/sandwell-st-mary-s-pantry-bearwood/>

Foodbank donations need to be nonperishable food items and toiletries.

All Souls Service – Sunday 2nd November 6:30pm

All welcome as we give thanks for the lives of friends and family who have gone before us. If you would like the name of a loved one read out at the service email Jenni or write it on the list in the church porch.

St Hilda Day patronal festival Service – Sunday 16th November 10:30am

Our annual service to commemorate our patron Saint, Hilda, as we give thanks for God's continued work through this parish.

Confirmation Service – Tuesday 25th November at 7:30pm

We welcome +Esther as she confirms some of our members as well as others from the wider deanery. If you are able to come and support these candidates please do.

*Advent and Christmas services in December**

Saturday 13th 30m – Walking Nativity

Sunday 14th 10:30am – Christingle

Sunday 21st 6:30pm – Blue Christmas

Wednesday 24th 10:30am – Crib and Communion

Wednesday 24th 6:30pm – Carol Service

Wednesday 24th 8:15pm – Said Holy Communion

Thursday 25th 10: 00am – Sung Holy Communion

- Note our Christingle is now in Advent, not in Epiphany and our Christmas Day service is half an hour earlier than usual.

Eco Group Update – October 2025

We're excited to share a little round-up of what the Eco Group has been up to recently!



We're a Silver Eco Church!

The biggest milestone this quarter is that St Hilda's has been awarded the **Silver Eco Church Award**. Eco Church is a scheme run by A Rocha UK that encourages churches to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. The award recognises the steps we have already taken in areas such as worship, buildings, land, community, and our lifestyle as a congregation.

Reaching silver is a wonderful achievement, and we now look forward to working towards the Gold Award. It will be a big challenge, but one that the Eco Group is committed to, and we warmly invite everyone to join us on this journey.

Thanks to a generous legacy gift designated for this purpose, we will be exploring the installation of **solar panels**. This is an exciting opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and to live out our commitment to sustainability in a tangible way. A group has been established to explore options.

We have installed a new **Eco Group notice board** at the back of church. It highlights some of our achievements to date as well as our goals for the future - please do stop by and have a look.

We took part in this year's national **Big Butterfly Count**, contributing to important data about the health of butterfly populations across the country. While numbers were slightly up from 2023 (the lowest ever) numbers are still below average. For some gardening tips to encourage more butterflies to your garden, have a read of this blog: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/blog/organic-pesticides>

Donations and Recycling: Thank you to everyone who has donated stamps, old and foreign currency, jewellery, and technology. These items raise valuable funds for the church while giving unwanted items a second life. Please do check the guidance on the side of the collection box before donating to ensure items are suitable. The box is emptied regularly and once we collect the minimum weight the items will be sent off.

Upcoming events:

- **Gift and Toy Swap** – this seemed popular last year, so we plan to host one again in the run up to Christmas. Details will be announced soon.
- **Community Litter Pick** – the next meet will take place on Thursday 30 October 11am-12noon, meeting outside Thimblemill Library. Everyone is welcome to join in helping to keep our local area clean and cared for.

Scriptural Reasoning with the Dialogue Society

A few of us have taken part in Scriptural Reasoning with Muslim neighbours and we are looking forward to more evenings together

this quarter. We usually share some food and then look at scriptures from the Hebrew Bible, New Testament and Qur'an, sharing thoughts, questions and ideas. The group is open to anyone – you don't need to be an expert or scholar! Dates for this quarter are; 25th November.

For more information please ask Jenni.

Pondering confirmation: Monthly on Saturday mornings

Pondering together continues, this season focusing on preparing for upcoming Confirmations. Meetings in the choir vestry at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome, including those already confirmed to support those on the journey, and those not sure about confirmation yet who want to be part of the conversations

October 25th – 10:30am

Youth group: Second Sunday of the month, 5:30-7:30pm

Open to anyone in school years 7-11, we meet monthly for food, creativity, conversation and games. Our dates for this quarter

are: 12th October, 9th November and 14th December



Rambles

St Hilda's ramble groups meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month. If you'd like to join one of the walks please contact Julie Batham (details on the back page) for more information.

Open Church: Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Church will be continue to be open on Tuesdays and Wednesday between 9:30 and 5pm.

Conservatoire concerts

Our concerts by students of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. We have a full programme with lunchtime concerts at 1.00pm on the second Friday of the month, and evening concerts at 7.30pm on the fourth Saturday of the month The programme this quarter is

Friday 10th October 1pm

Saturday 24th October 7:30pm

Friday 14th November 1pm

Saturday 29th November 7:30pm

Friday 12th December 1pm

Light refreshments are available after each concert, and there is usually an opportunity to talk with the performer(s). The concerts are free, but donations for church funds are welcome. Why not come along and join us, and please spread the information to anyone else who may be interested? More details are available from sthildasconcerts@gmail.com Angela, Terry and Marian

Worship and Prayer at St Hilda's

Sundays at 10:30am – 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday family service

Tuesdays at 9am – Morning Prayer (in the choir vestry)

Wednesdays at 10:00am – Holy Communion or occasionally Morning Prayer (in the choir vestry).

Introducing Diane

Diane Reeves has been a Christian all her life and has spent 27 years at St Peter's Church in Harborne. After a brain haemorrhage in 2018 she experienced a calling to Christian ministry, first as a reader and then to ordination. She trained at St Mellitus College, East Midlands and will be assistant curate at St Hilda's Warley Woods. Diane's ministry has included funerals, pastoral teamwork and women's and children's groups. She is a northerner, a Mum and a grandma. She previously had a medical career in the NHS and enjoys swimming and being with dogs.

January 26 News sheet

If you'd like to have anything included in the next newsletter please email it to Jenni by 23rd December.

Paper copies of this bulletin are available in the church. If you would like a printed copy sent to your home please let Jenni know.

Useful Contacts

Rev'd. Jenni Crewes	Vicar (day off Monday)	07377363915 or 0121 429 1384 revjennicrewes@gmail.com
Mother Diane Reeves	Curate (working days Wednesday- Sunday)	07977464696 dianereeves89@gmail.com
Mrs Julie Batham	Churchwarden	07931133951, juliebatham60@gmail.com
Mr Ian Dickinson	Churchwarden	07950666654, ian_fatbudgie@hotmail.com
Mrs Fran Ellis	Reader	0121 429 6267
Liz and Jon	CAMEO	sthildascameo@gmail.com
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Enquires about hiring hall or church		sthildasbooking@gmail.com
Safeguarding Team		07946 147 703 https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding
<u>Safeguarding information</u> 1. Never promise to keep a secret. 2. Assure the person that what they say will be taken seriously. 3. You might say "I will have to talk about what you have told me to the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Vicar or the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor, and this will be with as much confidentiality as is possible". http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html		

For weekly notices see our weekly pewsheet on Sundays. You can also download it at www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Hilda-Warley-Woods



St Hilda's is proud to be a member of the Inclusive Church Network.