



ST Hilda's
Warley Woods

30th November 2025

Advent One

In here you'll find today's hymns and readings, and this week's notices to use alongside the Advent Holy Communion order of service.

Opening Hymn: Hills of the north rejoice
Number 29 in Common Praise

Collect¹

Lord of Advent, Lord of all hopefulness
this is the time of your coming,
this is the season of your arrival.

Give us a defiant hope
that triumphs over pessimism and cynical attitudes,

¹ ¹ Graham Turner, *Alternative Collects: Prayers to a Disruptive & Compassionate God*, Sacristy Press, 2018

that believes you have come to save your people,
your world, your creation.

In this moment, light a fire in our hearts

that will not be quenched until your work is done.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Gradual hymn: Come thou long expected Jesus

Number 24 in Common Praise

Gospel Reading: Matthew 23:36-44

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Refrain for Intercessions

One O Come

Many Let us walk in the light of the Lord

Offertory Hymn: Christ be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see

Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light...

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light...

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone
Christ, be our light...

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come

*Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today*

Bernadette Farrell

Communion hymn: And I will wait now

And I will wait now,
and in the waiting
feel still more closely
your love for me.
For I'll be patient
and I'll be gentle,
touched by your steadfast
humility.

And I will hope now,
and in the hoping
make every action
a gift for you.
For I'll seek justice
and I'll love mercy,
each word I speak an
echo of you.

And I will go now,
and in the going
follow your Christ light
so I will see
how I may find you,
holy and human,
your arms stretched open
waiting for me.

Words: © 2013 Laurence Wareing

Final hymn: Lo he comes on clouds descending

Number 31 in Common Praise

There will be a stall of Fairtrade items which we can purchase items from after the service today. Many of them from the familiar Traidcraft stalls that were run at St Hilda's in the past. There will be food items such as coffee, tea, chocolate, sugar etc, craft items such as toys, jewellery, knitted items and socks, and Christmas cards and decorations. You can purchase items with cash or by cheque and card payments.

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 3 rd December 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 7 th December 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 10 th December 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th December 10:30am:	Family Christingle Service

Musical afternoon - Sunday 30th November 16.00 – c.17.15

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon of music with a difference – rock, jazz, improvisation, folk, given by a rock group, singers and jazz pianists. Performers include John Barber, Mike Baynham, Fern Clee, Joshua Holloway Dyker and Peter Starkie's Group 'Diamond Eye'. Donations for Church Funds. Come along and bring family and friends. Refreshments at the end.

Communal Christmas Cards

This Christmas, let's share greetings in a way that cares for creation! Elizabeth has again kindly prepared a noticeboard at the back of church where you can pin a Christmas card for everyone. It's a simple way to reduce waste and celebrate together. Thank you for helping us make Christmas a little greener!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: ACTING ROLES AT OUR NATIVITY TRAIL

Did you always want to play a leading role in the nativity? Well you have a chance for fame this Advent! On Saturday 13th December at 3pm we are hosting a 'nativity trail' in our church, garden and hall. We'll be telling the story of Christ's birth, hopefully with some animals, as we move around recreating the story. We're looking for folk to dress up to be; Mary, Joseph, the angel Gabriel, Herod, shepherds, wise people, inn keepers... No experience necessary and costumes and scripts will be provided! Speak to Jenni if you're keen!

PCC TREASURER NEEDED – URGENT

We urgently need someone to take on the role of Treasurer. This is an important role in the life of the church. You do not need to be an expert in finances, just a willingness to learn and computer literacy. Terry Daniels, our interim treasurer will work with you to ensure a handover and you will have the support of the Wardens and PCC. As a PCC member you will need to complete some Safeguarding modules and have an enhanced DBS. Please speak to Jenni or Terry if you think you may be able to take on this role.

HOLY COMMUNION SERVER(S) NEEDED

We are seeking a new member (or perhaps members!) to join our team of Holy Communion servers. This role includes assisting with the preparation of the altar, helping with the distribution of Holy Communion and clearing at the end of the service. Due to the nature of our building Servers need to be able to use stairs. Full training will be given, including Basic Awareness Safeguarding which is imperative for any volunteer role in the church. Please speak to Jenni or Ian if this interests you.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: PARISH SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR (PSC)

After over a decade in this role Anne Harris intends to step down at the next APCM. We are seeking to recruit in time for a smooth handover from Anne and for the next PSC to work alongside Mike Baynham as part of a team.

This role is; to work with the incumbent and PCC in promoting safeguarding within the parish, and to ensure that church leaders are implementing the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is the key link person between the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

This role requires an enhanced DBS and completion of several training modules offered by the Diocese. Good computer literacy is essential for this as it includes working with a database.

If you think this might be something you would be interested in and God is calling you to consider it, please speak to Anne Harris or Jenni Crewes. We can offer you a more detailed role description.

Please pray for the right person to be recruited for this essential aspect of parish life.

ECO CHURCH MEETING

Got ideas for a greener 2026? Anyone is welcome to come along to our next Eco Group meeting on Wednesday 17th December at 11am! We'll be chatting about plans for next year, and we'd love to hear your thoughts. Whether it's a one-time visit or something more regular (we usually meet every couple of months), you're very

welcome to join us. Alternatively, please do feel free to email the group with any ideas or suggestions - jda85@hotmail.com

CONSERVATOIRE CONCERTS

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

The programme this quarter is;

Friday 12th December 13.00 Brass Quartet

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.

ECO LIFESTYLE TIP FOR DECEMBER

As Advent begins, let us turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas - God with us, Emmanuel. The humble birth of a child in a stable may seem distant from the way we celebrate today, but it offers a profound reminder of simplicity. This season, let's reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell. Consider A Rocha UK's blog on journeying towards a zero-waste Christmas www.arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas. May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

During Advent we are encouraged to spend some time deepening our faith. You are invited to take the gospel reading from each Sunday and some time during the week to ponder these questions...

1. What do I learn about God's character in this passage?
2. What do I learn about myself from the passage?
3. How can I follow Jesus this week?

SAFEGUARDING SURVEY

Bishop Michael would like us to complete the national survey. Details are below and printed copies also available in the porch.



SAFEGUARDING

We want our churches to be places
of welcome and safety.

Please could you take a few moments
to complete a short survey about
how welcome and safe you feel at
your church?

Scan the code opposite on your
phone to start or type the web
address below into your browser.

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/Cofebirmingham/ParishSafeguardingSurvey2025>



This week please pray for;

- Ian and Jenni as they join the Oen the Book team to deliver an assembly at Abbey School, and Jenni and Diane as they deliver an assembly at Annie Lennard School.
- Annie Lennard as they visit us for a trip.
- The family of Carol as her funeral takes place on Monday.
- Each of us as we seek to live out our faith in our work, volunteering and neighbourhoods.

Christmas 2025



Saturday 13 December

3pm: Nativity Trail

Sunday 14 December

10:30am: Christingle service

Sunday 21 December

6:30pm: Blue Christmas service

Tuesday 23 December

10am-4pm: Open for private prayer

Christmas Eve

10:30am: Crib and Communion service

6:30pm: Carol service

8:15pm: Said Communion

Christmas Day

10am: Holy Communion

Sunday 4 January

10:30am: Epiphany Holy Communion

For more details, please visit:
www.sainthildawarleywoods.org.uk

St Hilda's Church, Abbey Road, Smethwick, B67 5NQ



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
James Atkinson	Eco Church PEC	jda85@hotmail.com
Enquires about hiring hall or church		sthildasbooking@gmail.com
Safeguarding Team		07946 147 703 sthildasafeguarding@gmail.com 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		

To use our church wifi connect to BT-Q9C22K. Password is 'Hilda680'



**Inclusive
Church**

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

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