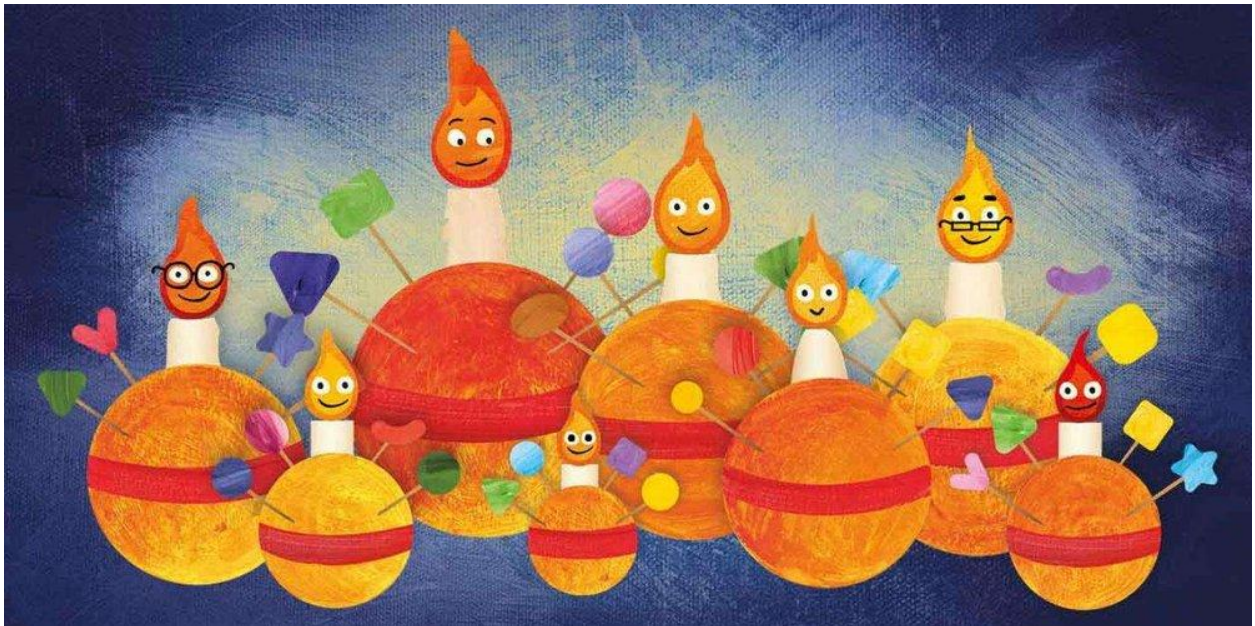




Christingle Service



Sunday 14th December 2025

Welcome to this service. Please join in with the words in **bold** that we are invited to say together. When words are in ***bold italic*** they are sung together.

If you have children with you and they get restless during the service please don't worry, we won't. We do have a children's corner you are welcome to use if you'd find that helpful.



**The
Children's
Society**

"Now, I feel able to make sense of my emotions. I feel like things have fallen into place."

Eva



Thank you so much for Christingling to support children like Eva.

The funds you raise through your Christingle make such a huge difference to the lives of so many young people in this country.

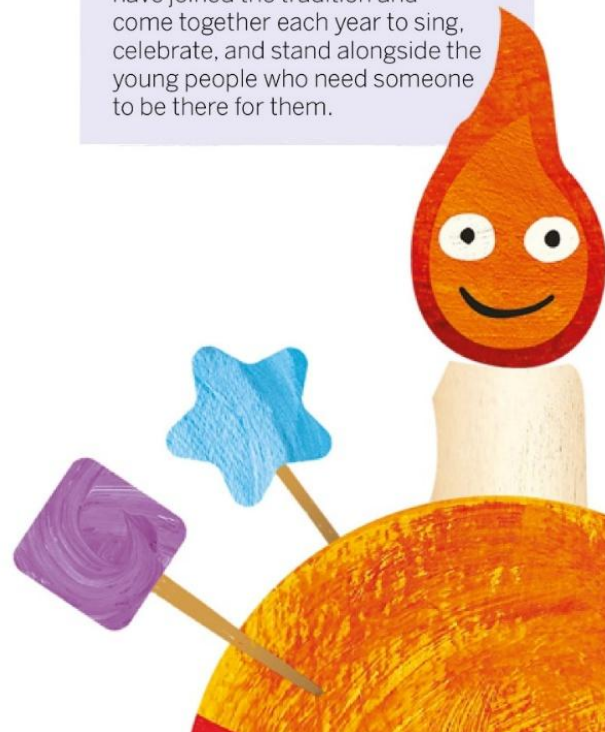
Thanks to incredible people like you, together, we can make sure no child has to wait for the support they need.

What is a **Christingle?**

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to have fun, share the light of Jesus, and spread a message of hope.

In 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society held our first Christingle celebration in Lincoln Cathedral as a way of raising funds to help children and young people.

Since then, thousands more churches, schools, and communities across the country have joined the tradition and come together each year to sing, celebrate, and stand alongside the young people who need someone to be there for them.



Call to Worship¹

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

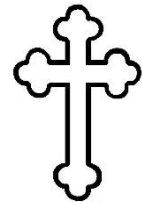
Many: Amen

Welcome

We remain seated as we receive words of welcome. At the end we say;

One: In Advent we wait for you:

**Many: God the maker,
Jesus the storyteller,
Holy Spirit of life**



One: In Advent we cry to you:

**Many: God of Justice
Jesus of Bethlehem,
Holy Spirit of Hope.**

One: In Advent we long for you.

**Many: You, God are our love,
our warmth, our light.**

¹ Ruth Burgess, *Winter*, Wild Goose 2016, Glasgow, p100

Prayer for lighting the candle

As we light the candle on our advent wreath remaining seated we sing

**Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness
on that day.**

**Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear,
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message – challenged,
shaken – hearts awaken
God is near!**

**John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready
For the Lord.**

Reflection One, The Orange

We remain seated as we take in part in the first reflection.

Confession

We remain seated or kneel.

One: 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.

God our Maker,
we live in a world of conflict and destruction,
of fear and brokenness,
help us to look for your signs of hope.
Lord, have mercy.



Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: Jesus our Brother,
keep us open to hear your words of challenge,
and give us courage to change the way we live.
Christ, have mercy.

Many: Christ, have mercy.

One: Holy Spirit, breath of life,
keep us alert to your presence,
and open our hearts to welcome you
in the everyday moments of our lives,
Lord, have mercy.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

Receiving God's Forgiveness

This assurance of God's forgiveness is given by the president:

One: May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Many: Amen



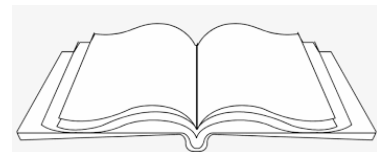
Hymn: The Spirit lives to set us free, verses 1 and 2

We stand as able to sing number 664 in Mission Praise

Reading: Matthew 11:2-6

We sit as we listen to the reading.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'



One: This is the word of the Lord

Many: Thanks be to God

Reflection Two, The Ribbon

We remain seated as we listen to the reflection.

Hymn: The Spirit lives to set us free, verses 3 and 4

We stand as able to sing number 664 in Mission Praise



Reflection Three, The Fruits

We sit as we listen to the next reflection.

Prayers

We remain seated or kneel as we are led in prayer. At the end of each bidding:

One: Christ, be our light

Many: Shine through your church gathered today



At the end:

The Lord's prayer

One: As our Saviour taught us so we pray, in whatever form or language comes most naturally;

**Our Father
in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today
our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

Lead us not into temptation

**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.**

**Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us**

And lead us not into temptation.

**But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

**But deliver us from evil.
For thine
is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen**

*Hymn: The Spirit lives to set us free, verses 5 and 6
We stand as able to sing number 664 in Mission Praise*

*Reflection Four, The Light
We sit as we listen to the final reflection.*

*Offertory Hymn: Shine Jesus shine
We stand as able to sing number 513 in Common Praise. During the hymn a collection for The Children's society will be taken. The PCC will match the donations given today. If you have given directly online please let our treasurer Terry know so these are included.*

*Notices
We sit as we listen to any family news and notices.*

*Lighting our Christingles and singing our final hymn
We stand as able and move to the edges of the building to create a big circle. The two standing closest to the Advent wreath will light their candles and pass the flame around until all are lit. When everyone's Christingle is lit we sing together as a sign of our commitment to be 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 pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

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

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

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.*

© 1993, 2000, Bernadette Farrell, Published by OCP

Blessing and dismissal

We remain standing in the circle to receive God's blessing:

One: May the God who brings heaven close to earth
give truth to our judgment and flame to our longing
that our hearts might be ready to be born again in
love;
and the blessing of God
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you and all those who you love
today and for ever. **Amen**

One: Let us go, expectant:
our eyes, our ears, our hearts, our hands open,
ready to welcome Jesus.

Many: In the name of Christ, Amen.

Blow your Christingle out!

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served at the back of church after the service. Do stay if you can.

NEWS AND NOTICES



**Inclusive
Church**

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 17 th December 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st December 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st December 6:30pm:	Blue Christmas
Wednesday 24 th December 10:30am:	Crib and Communion
Wednesday 24 th December 6:30pm:	Carol Service
Wednesday 24 th December 8:15pm:	Said Holy Communion
Thursday 25 th December 10am:	Holy Communion

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!

Christmas Stamps

Please do save all your Christmas stamps from cards you receive this year and pop them in the recycling box in the front porch. We can raise funds for the church through your donations of stamps and currency (any age, any country) as well as jewellery and watches, and gadgets such as phones, tablets, and cameras. Thanks!

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

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;

- Bleakhouse school as year three visit us.
- The family and friends of TJ as his funeral takes place on Friday
- All who find this season difficult.

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



Inclusive
Church



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
BIRMINGHAM

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'

Acknowledgements

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