



ST Hilda's
Warley Woods

7th December 2025

Advent Two

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: On Jordan's bank the Baptist cry
Number 34 in Common Praise*

Collect¹

Come among us, O Advent God,
for we are grievously hindered by our despair and
disbelief.
We had hoped and we had believed,
yet our world has become a highway of crookedness
and our souls have been left crying in the wilderness.
Come and deliver us.
Send a small child to lead us.
Baptize us afresh with your Spirit of wisdom and good
counsel.
Come and judge to put wrong rights for all who are poor
and so remove our discomfort if we have more than our
fair share.
Come, fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

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

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

Gradual hymn: Praise to the God who clears the way

Praise to the God who clears the way
preparing room and space;
for power and pride will lose their sway
as peace comes in their place.

Praise to the God who comes to judge
the truth of word and deed,
who calls our minds and wills to change,
rebuking wealth and greed.

Praise to the God who waits with us
for hope and joy to reign,
who shares our suffering and our loss,
embodied in our pain.

Praise to the God who comes to bring
comfort to all who mourn.
The whole creation “Glory” sings
as Christ the night is born.

Jan Berry

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”’

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Offertory Hymn: Wild and lone the prophet's voice

Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptised;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sin you prized,
yield your life to God's control."

"Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store."

With such preaching stark and bold
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.

Carl Daw

Communion hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord
Number 383 in Common Praise

Final hymn: God is working his purpose out

God is working his purpose out,
as year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near:
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west,
wherever foot has trod,
by the mouth of many messengers
rings out the voice of God:
Listen to me you continents,
you islands look to me,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea.

We shall march in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world;

we shall fight with sorrow and sin
to set their captives free,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed:
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea.

*Jubilate Hymns version of God is working his purpose out, Arthur C
Ainger (1841 - 1919) © Jubilate Hymns Ltd*

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NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 10 th December 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th December 10:30am:	Family Christingle Service
Wednesday 17 th December 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st December 10:30am:	Holy Communion

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, COLLECTION FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Next Sunday there will be a collection for the Children's Society. The PCC will match the donations given, up to the total value of £500. Children Society envelopes will be given out at the door.

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 Open the Book team to deliver an assembly at Abbey School.
- Jenni and Diane as they offer chaplaincy at Cygnet hospital on Wednesday.
- All who will come to the nativity trail on Saturday.
- 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

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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.

Acknowledgements

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