



ST Hilda's  
Warley Woods

***18<sup>th</sup> January 2026***

***Epiphany 2***

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

Prayer ministry will be available during the distribution of Holy Communion. Our prayer ministry team is small at the moment. We are still committed to offering prayer and for the time being we will be using a short Celtic prayer for healing. Anyone is welcome to come and receive prayer.

*Opening Hymn: Here in this place new light is streaming*

Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in - the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old - who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in - the proud and the strong.  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you.  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place, the new light is shining;  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in - and hold us forever,  
gather us in - and make us your own.  
Gather us in - all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*Marty Haugen 1950*

### *Collect<sup>1</sup>*

O God, who called us before we even knew ourselves  
and chose us along with many other unlikely people  
make all things new and make us new.  
Invite us once again to come and see the life of your Son  
among us.  
We will wait and be patient for your calling and voice of  
reassurance.  
Then we will proclaim, "We have found the Christ!"  
the gift and generosity of God.  
**Amen.**

### *First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of  
God, and our brother Sosthenes,  
<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are

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

sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Gradual hymn: All Praise to our redeeming God*  
*Number 371 in Common Praise*

*Gospel Reading: John 1:29-42*

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' <sup>32</sup> And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit

descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ <sup>39</sup> He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

### *Offertory Hymn: The love of God comes close*

The love of God comes close  
Where stands an open door  
To let the stranger in  
To mingle rich and poor  
The love of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk God’s way

The peace of God comes close  
To those caught in the storm  
Forgoing lives of ease  
To ease the lives forlorn  
The peace of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk God's way

The joy of God comes close  
Where faith encounters fears  
Where heights and depths of life  
Are found through smiles and tears  
The joy of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk God's way

The grace of God comes close  
To those whose grace is spent  
When hearts are tired or sore  
And hope is bruised or bent  
The grace of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk God's way

The Son of God comes close  
Where people praise His name  
Where bread and wine are blest  
And shared as when He came  
The Son of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk God's way

*Graham Maule / John L. Bell Word & Music: © 1988, 1997 WGRG,  
c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland*

## *Communion hymn: Let love be real*

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,  
without the need to manage and to own;  
a haven free from posing and pretending,  
where every weakness may be safely known.  
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,  
give me your love wherever we may go:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,  
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;  
that helps us face the risk of truly living,  
and makes us brave to be what we might be.  
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness,  
give me your love in spite of all you know:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,  
no secret wish to harness or control;  
let us accept each other's incompleteness,  
and share the joy of learning to be whole.  
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments,  
give me your trust when all my failings show:  
as God loves us, so let us love each other,  
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.

*Michael Forster*

*Final hymn: Have you heard God's voice*

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?  
Are you still prepared to follow?  
Have you made a choice to remain and serve,  
though the way be rough and narrow?

Refrain (except the last time)

*Will you walk the path that will cost you much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow?*

*Will you trust in One who entrusts to you  
the disciples of tomorrow?*

Will you use your voice; will you not sit down  
when the multitudes are silent?  
Will you make a choice to stand your ground  
when the crowds are turning violent?

Refrain

In your city streets will you be God's heart?  
Will you listen to the voiceless?  
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,  
will you share your faith with the faithless?

Refrain

Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith  
and believe it could be different?  
Will you share your views using words of grace?  
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?



*We will walk the path that will cost us much  
and embrace the pain and sorrow.  
We will trust in One who entrusts to us  
the disciples of tomorrow.*

*Jacqueline G. Jones*

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## **NEWS AND NOTICES**

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### **UPCOMING SERVICES**

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 10:30am:	Holy Communion
	Healing Service
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 10:30am:	Holy Communion

### **NEW FOR 2026 - BREATHING SPACE**

“Breathing Space” is a new monthly gathering for contemplative, silent prayer. This is an ancient Christian practice of being attentive to the presence of a loving God within us and around us, and offers us a time of stillness and peace in our noisy and distracted world. Each gathering will begin with a short introductory reading leading into 20mins silent prayer, following our breath or reciting a prayer word to still our minds. We end with 5 – 10 mins of conversation about the practice.

Breathing Space will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 20<sup>th</sup> March, at 10-10.45am in the vestry. Please enter the church through the back door in the car park.

It is open to all who are seeking peace and who long for connection with God and community.

### **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.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: PARISH SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

Our current team, Anne Harris, PARISH SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR (PSC) and Mike Baynham, PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (PSO) are looking for help with managing our Safeguarding needs, including the writing and reviewing of policies. Anne Harris will eventually be stepping down and we are seeking to recruit in time for a smooth handover from Anne and for the next PSC to work alongside Mike Baynham and others as part of a team.

These roles are; 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, and the PSOS support this role. These roles 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 more detailed role descriptions. Please pray for the right people to be recruited for this essential aspect of parish life, and whether this could be you.

### **Scriptural Reasoning with the Dialogue Society, 1<sup>st</sup> February 6-8 in the church hall**

A few of us have taken part in Scriptural Reasoning with Muslim

neighbours and we are looking forward to more evenings together. We usually share some snacks as we 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! For more information please ask Jenni.

### **WOMEN'S THEOLOGY**

Mother Diane our curate and Mother Charlotte Gibson, who works for the diocese of Birmingham, run a Women's Theology Group fortnightly during term times. We meet on Thursday evening at St George's vicarage Edgbaston and on Friday morning at Evoke Cafe on Harborne High St. It's open to anyone who identifies as a woman and is 18 years of age and over. It's ecumenical, which means people come from a variety of churches in the local area. No preparation is necessary and it's suitable for all levels of knowledge and ability. Each week is a separate session so you can come as and when you like. We look at women's stories in the Bible and see how God shows the good news of themselves to the women and ourselves. If anyone is interested in coming along, speak to Mother Diane and she can give you more details. The next dates are 22nd and 23rd January, and 5th and 6th February.

### **This week please pray for;**

- Christians of all denominations to work well together, living well with difference and uniting in our shared love for God.
- For the staff and patients of Cygnet hospital, and Jenni and Diane as they offer chaplaincy there on Wednesday.
- The family and friends of Barry as his funeral takes place on Thursday.
- Ministry team as it meets on Thursday.
- For each of us to know God's love through the joys and challenges of this week.

## Useful Contacts

Rev'd. Jenni Crewes	Vicar (day off Monday)	07377363915 or 0121 429 1384 <a href="mailto:revjennicrewes@gmail.com">revjennicrewes@gmail.com</a>
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<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". <a href="http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html">http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html</a>		

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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