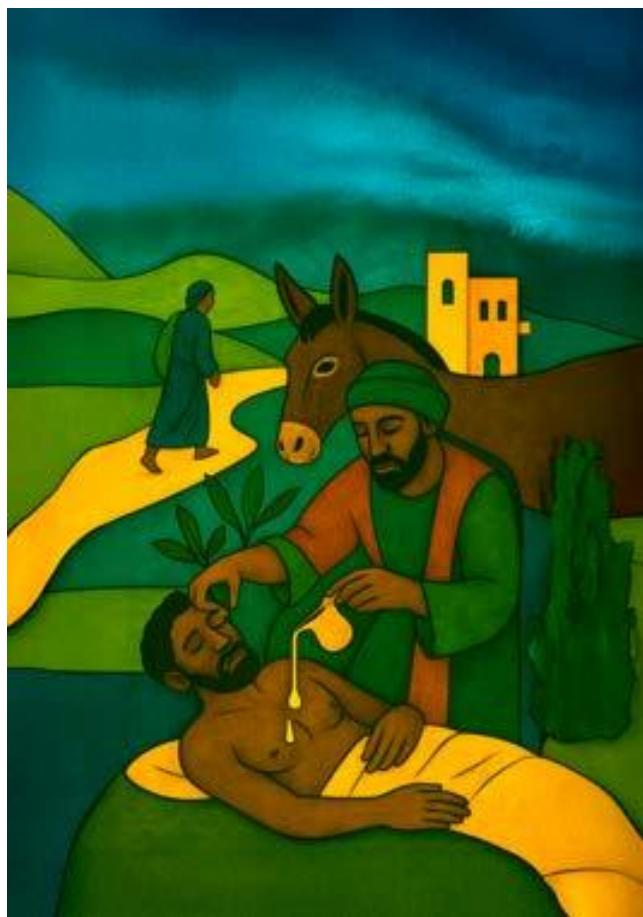




Racial Justice Sunday

Sunday 8th February 2026



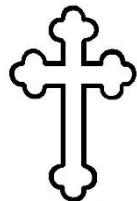
Welcome to this service. Please join in with the words in **bold** that we are invited to say together. When words are in ***bold italic*** they are sung together.

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.

Call to Worship

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 join in these responses;

One: All of creation belongs to God

Many: **The world and all God's children.**

One: Heaven and earth rejoice

Many: **May our different voices
be joined in one song of praise to you.**

One: Justice and peace embrace

Many: **Bind us together in unity
for the sake of your Kingdom**

One: Open our hearts O God of love

Many: **That our loving actions may speak louder than words
And now we worship you together, in Spirit and
truth.**

*Opening hymn: In Christ there is no east or west
We stand as able to sing number 477 in Common Praise*

Reading: Isaiah 58:1-5

We sit as we listen to the reading.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

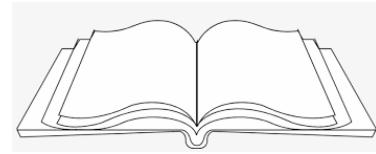
² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

³ 'Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?



Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

One: This is the word of the Lord

Many: Thanks be to God

*Reflection One: What is racial justice
We remain seated as we listen to the reflection.*

Confession

We remain seated or kneel.

One: We come before the Vulnerable God
You, who took on flesh and bone
willing to be all we need you to be, and so
much more.



As we remember Your birth,
in the midst of occupation and exile,
we ask for forgiveness for all the things that we have
done.
and continue to do that would oppress and
dehumanise,
when we speak words that would curse and condemn
when we are party to the sins of racism and
oppression,
when we stay silent or walk away because it is the easy
option,

Lord, have mercy.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: As we remember Your death,
in the midst of empire, corruption and systemic
violence:
we ask for forgiveness for all the choices we make that
make us complicit in their evil.
When we choose hate over love, violence over peace,
division over unity,
confront us, O God,
with Your light and love, with Your grace and mercy,
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: Show me how to stand for justice
We stand as able to sing*

Show me how to stand for justice:
how to work for what is right,
how to challenge false assumptions,
how to walk within the light.

May I learn to share more freely
in a world so full of greed,
showing your immense compassion
by the life I choose to lead.

Teach my heart to treasure mercy,
whether given or received –
for my need has not diminished
since the day I first believed:
let me seek no satisfaction
boasting of what I have done,
but rejoice that I am pardoned
and accepted in your Son.

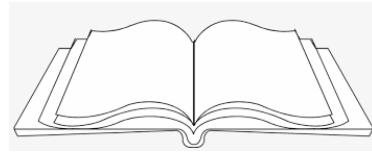
Gladly I embrace a lifestyle
modelled on your living word,
in humility submitting
to the truth which I have heard.
Make me conscious of your presence
every day, in all I do:
by your Spirit's gracious prompting
may I learn to walk with you.

Martin E Leckebusch

Reading: Isaiah 58:6-9a

We sit as we listen to the reading.

Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?



⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[a] shall go before you,
 the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

One: This is the word of the Lord

Many: Thanks be to God

Reflection Two: What does God desire of us

We remain seated as we listen to the reflection.

*Offertory Hymn: I have a dream a man once said
We stand as able to sing, During the hymn a collection for the
mission and ministry of the church will be taken. You can also
give using the contactless electronic device on exit.*



“I have a dream”, a man once said,
“where all is perfect peace;
where men and women, black and white,
stand hand in hand, and all unite
in freedom and in love.”

But in this world of bitter strife
the dream can often fade;
reality seems dark as night,
we catch but glimpses of the light
Christ sheds on humankind.

Fierce persecution, war, and hate
are raging everywhere;
God calls us now to pay the price
through struggles and through sacrifice
of standing for the right.

So dream the dreams and sing the songs,
but never be content:
for thoughts and words don’t ease the pain:
unless there’s action, all is vain;
faith proves itself in deeds.

Lord, give us vision, make us strong,
help us to do your will;
don't let us rest until we see
your love throughout humanity
uniting us in peace.

Words © Estate of Pamela J. Pettitt (1954 – 2005), reproduced with permission

Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-12

We sit as we listen to the reading.

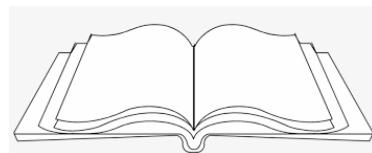
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking
of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.



One: This is the word of the Lord

Many: Thanks be to God

Reflection Three: Gods promise

We sit as we listen to the next reflection.

An act of commitment

We are invited to draw around a hand on our flag, created on Remembrance Sunday, as a sign of our commitment to racial justice. When we have finished, we return to our seats.

Prayers

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

One: Give us grace, show us peace

Many: That we might live and love in your name.

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.

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



**Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

**And lead us not into temptation.
But deliver us from evil.
For thine
is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen**

Notices

We remain seated as we listen to any family news and notices.

*Hymn: Sent by the Lord am I
We stand as able to sing*

Sent by the Lord am I;
My hands are ready now
To make the earth a place
In which the kingdom comes. (Repeat)

The angels cannot change
A world of hurt and pain
Into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.

The task is mine to do,
to set it really free.
O help me to obey;
help me to do your will. (Repeat x 2)

Blessing and dismissal

We remain standing to receive God's blessing:

One: God of love,
send us out in Your name,
with humble hearts,
to seek unity and to work for justice.
May Your love break down the walls of prejudice and
division that are before us,
and may we build together, in love and unity
Your Kingdom here on earth.
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, in peace, to love and serve Jesus

Many: **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

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

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

This week's sanctuary flowers are the gift of Jean Downs. Last week's flowers were the gift of Mrs J. Wilson.

If you would like to sponsor flowers please see Liz Farrier who can give you more details.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is a women-led, global, ecumenical movement. This year the service has been prepared by Christian women from Nigeria, with the theme “I will give you rest”. All are invited to our local service at St Hubert’s RC Church, Wolverhampton Road, on Friday 6th March at 2 pm. Come and join the great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, all praying with and for the country and people of Nigeria.

OPEN CHURCH – SUNDAYS

Church will now remain open on Sundays after the morning service until around 5pm. If you are the last one out and have a key please do not lock up!

LENT COURSE

On Wednesdays in Lent there will be an opportunity to meet together to deepen our faith as we reflect on the theme for the week learning

together. This is suitable for those who are new to faith and those who have been following Jesus for a long time. We will meet in choir vestry from 7:30pm to 9pm. Refreshments will be available. If you would like to come and can give a lift, or you need a lift please speak to Jenni and we can see if we can coordinate this.

The dates will be:

25th February, 4th March, 11th March, 18th March and 25th March.

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 3rd Friday of each month: 20th Feb, 20th 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.

KNEELERS

Now that few people use the kneelers in services, it feels like the right time to review how we put them out at church. The suggestion is: We collect in all the kneelers.

We move the vast majority to the loft in the hall where there are already many unused ones.

A collection of kneelers are kept with the sidesperson in the entrance. If you would like to use one in the service, you can collect one with your order of service to use.

Kneelers used are to be returned to the entrance of the church at the end of the service.

If anyone has any comments or queries, please feel free to chat to Ian or Jenni about this.

If you, or a loved one, made one of the kneelers, and this is of sentimental value, please come and ask us if you would like to take it home for your own use.

February Eco Tips - Carbon Fast for Lent

This Lent, why not take part in Climate Steward's *Carbon Fast*. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation. Beginning on 5 March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season. Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at: climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/

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.

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 5th and 6th February and

APCM- SAVE THE DATE!

Our APCM will be on Sunday 10th May at 12, after the morning service.

Conservatoire Concerts January –April 2026

These concerts offer the chance to hear a wide range of music, with free entry. However, donations are welcome to help cover costs of heating, licenses and performer expenses. There is the chance to talk to some very talented musicians over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits after their recitals, which you will not get in a concert hall!

Dates are:

Friday 13th February, 13:00-13:45, Solo Soprano Vocalist with Accompaniment

Saturday 28th February, 19:30-20:30, Jazz Pianist

Friday 13th March, 13:00-13:45, Organist

Saturday 28th March, 19:30-20:30, Brass Quintet

Saturday 25th April, 19:30-20:30, Viola and Piano

Please do your best to come and support these musicians.

If you wish to be kept up to date about concerts, please contact sthildasconcerts@gmail.com and we will add you to our mailing list, or ask Angela, Terry or Marian.

This week please pray for;

- Deanery Synod as it meets on Thursday.
- For Ian and Jenni as they take an Open the Book assembly with ecumenical friends in Abbey School on Tuesday
- For all who come to church when it is open, that they may experience God's peace and presence.



Explorations of the Early Church: St George's Talks 2026

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, EDGBASTON

Friday 20th March, 7pm

WAS THERE A BIBLE IN THE EARLY CHURCH?

The Revd Dr Sam Gibson
Vicar, St George's Church, Edgbaston

Friday 26th June, 7pm

**ST AUGUSTINE: A THINKER ROOTED IN THE EXPERIENCE OF
THE AFRICAN CHURCH**

Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth
World-renowned Poet and Theologian
104th Archbishop of Canterbury

Bishop Rowan will also be
preaching at St Alban's Church,
Highgate, for the Patronal Festival
Mass: Saturday June 27th, 11am
followed by parish lunch

Friday 18th September, 7pm

**A BODY SHARED: MICROCHIMERISM AND THE MYSTERY OF
MARY'S ASSUMPTION**

The Revd Charlotte Gibson and The Women's Theology Network

Friday 13th November, 7pm

**THE REST IS DARKNESS: KEY FIGURES IN EARLY AFRICAN
CHRISTIANITY**

The Revd Jarel Robinson-Brown
Vicar, St German's Church, Cardiff





PANCAKE PARTY

Join us for an evening of food, games, and fun!
All are welcome.

Tuesday 17
February



5pm -
7pm



Free entry
Donations welcomed

St Hilda's Community Hall
Abbey Road, B67 5NQ
www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk



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 dianereees89@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	<p>07946 147 703 sthildasafeguarding@gmail.com https://bit.ly/sthildas-safeguarding</p>	
<p><u>Safeguarding information</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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”. <p>http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html</p>		

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

Acknowledgements

Copyright material is included from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for The Church of England and New Patterns for Worship. The Archbishops' Council 2000 CCL License No. 134913. St Hilda's is a registered Charity, number 1181258