St Hilda's
Warley Woods

22nd February 2026

Lent One

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

Opening Hymn: Forty days and forty nights

Number 95 in Common Praise

Collect[1]

One: O God of empty places,
silence and solitude stalk us
through these early days of our Lenten journey.
While tempted as you were in Christ,
we surrender ourselves too easily to distraction,
and seek out crowded places where we can hide.

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

So take us to places of quietness and hold us there.
Lead us into the aloneness of our souls.
In the wilderness of life we know too keenly our weaknesses.
Teach us lessons that can only be learnt
in the places we once thought empty and useless,
but now find to be full of you and your angels.

Many: **Amen**

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of
Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded
the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the
garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall
die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal
that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God
say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' 2 The
woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the
trees in the garden; 3 but God said, "You shall not eat of the
fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall
you touch it, or you shall die."' 4 But the serpent said to the
woman, 'You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat
of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like
God, knowing good and evil.' 6 So when the woman saw that
the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the
eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,
she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her
husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of

both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Gradual hymn: Be thou my guardian and my guide

Number 385 in Common Praise

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' **4** But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,
  but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",
  and "On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

7 Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their

splendour; **9** and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if
you will fall down and worship me.’ **10** Jesus said to him, ‘Away
with you, Satan! for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.”’

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and
waited on him.

Offertory Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ

Number 505 in Common Praise

Communion hymn: break thou the bread of life

Number 286 in Common Praise

Final hymn: Lead us heavenly father lead us

Number 496 in Common Praise

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 25th February 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 1st March 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 4th March 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th March 10:30am:	Family Service

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 – What is sin?

4th March – What does it mean to choose faith for ourselves?

11th March – How can our faith transform?

18th March – What do we do about suffering and injustice?

25th March – What does resurrection mean for us?

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 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 26th and 27th February and 12th and 13th March.

APCM- SAVE THE DATE!

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

CHURCH CLEAN: SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 10AM-1PM

Your help is encouraged for the spring clean! Equipment and refreshments provided, do pop along for as little or as long as you can.

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:
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;

- Our pancake party on Tuesday.
- Our Ash Wednesday services, and journey into Lent.
- Jenni and Diane as they offer chaplaincy at Cygnet hospital on Wednesday.

PCC brief highlights – 20th November meeting:

- ECO Group: ECO group reported attending the Deanery's 'Net Zero Policy' meeting and will look to see if any funding is available to help us to achieve this, and for funding for making small scale improvements. The Eco church team had been busy organising a further litter pick around the parish boundary; following the felling of the trees in the vicarage garden, they have salvaged them for future use; a toy and book swap was being carried out in conjunction with Little Parakeets play group. The church's facebook page was regularly visited and membership was increasing. A meeting will be arranged after Christmas to begin to look into the installation of solar panels. The Treasurer confirmed that if it were not possible to install solar panels, we would have to approach the Gallagher estate for an answer.
- Finance: The Treasurer's report confirmed we're spending more per month than receiving and that we're having to rely on reserves. This is not sustainable going forward. Our biggest expenditure during the winter months is heating and we might have to consider turning the temperature down a couple of degrees to help.

- The Common Fund - the diocese are asking for more this coming year. After much discussion it was agreed that our contribution for 2026 will be £40,000.
- The legacies we have received from the late Doug Gallagher and Jean Lines are restricted. The Gallagher bequest is for solar panels and a sub-committee will be formed to investigate this and report back to PCC. The Lines legacy is for youth work. The other legacies are unrestricted and it was proposed that £10,000 be kept in the current account and £10,000 be transferred to the Investment fund. This was unanimously approved by PCC.
- Safeguarding: PCC were asked to consider a request from Bishop Michael inviting PCC members and volunteers to complete a short, Parish Safeguarding Survey to help give a snapshot to the independently chaired Diocesan Safeguarding Panel of safeguarding culture across the Birmingham Diocese and to help inform future priorities and strengthen the Diocese's ongoing work to improve safeguarding practice and governance. There was confirmation that the Diocesan safeguarding website will be refreshed over the coming month. And confirmation that our information on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is currently 100% complete.
- SCOUT HUT: Companies contacted re. an asbestos inspection and report have requested plans for the hut before they confirm a site visit. Church wardens are looking for the plans.
- Maintenance: The tower – quotes being received and to be reviewed by Churchwardens. Trees - these have now been removed and the garden tidied. The post box damaged during this work will be replaced by Westside the company who carried out the work. Westside have also quoted £200 to remove the saplings adjoining the neighbouring garden to stop any further damage to their fence.

- Suggestion Box: A letter has been received regarding the Remembrance Sunday Service not including the singing of the National Anthem. This was discussed by PCC and Jenni confirmed that in the Anglican canons final responsibility and decision making in the content of worship lies with the incumbent, not the PCC (details of this can be found under Canon B2). Jenni will reply personally to this.
- AOB: We have received an offer of a fence post to replace the one missing in the car park, to prevent unauthorised access to the grass areas by cars and vans. Due to time constraints, a question re. the church hall had to be forwarded to a future PCC meeting.

RAISING ITEMS WITH THE PCC

If any member of the congregation, including PCC members, want to raise an issue or concern with the PCC they can do this in two ways; Firstly by emailing or writing to the chair (Jenni) and/or the PCC Secretary (Liz Farrier) at least a week before the PCC meeting. Secondly, by putting something in the suggestion box in the church porch. This can be done anonymously. Suggestions will be collected a week before the meeting and added to the agenda. Our next meeting is on 26th March.

Tidying the garden at the front of the church

From 11th April, weather permitting, the monthly Saturday morning sessions to tidy the church front garden will resume. These will be on the first Saturday of each month, between 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. If you are free, your help would be appreciated at any time during those mornings. Experienced and inexperienced gardeners are all welcome. The 2026 dates will be: 11th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July, 1st August, 5th September, and 3rd October. If you have any queries, please speak to Rob Eaton or Anne Harris.

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

Safeguarding information

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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