



22nd March 2026

Lent 5

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.



Still from The Two Towers, 2003

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

Collect¹

One: O God,
Who always breathes resurrection
while we fear the death that haunts us daily,
our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost;
something will surely need to give,
And so we wait for you again, a sabbath for the
soul.
Only you know what can be salvaged.
Only you know what can be brought to life.
Only you know what can be made of a life of
brokenness.
Speak your life into us.
Raise us from our deadness.
Release your freedom-loving life in us, through us,
now, for all people. Amen.

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

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am

going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Gradual hymn: If we are raised to life in Christ

If we are raised to life with Christ,
no more to creep along the ground,
we fix our minds on things above
where Christ is King at God's right hand.

If we are raised to life with Christ
we put to death our fatal greed
and all abuse of hand or brain,
for God will judge each godless deed.

If we are raised to life with Christ,
daily renewed in every part,
we join with all who know our God,
one image stamped on every heart.

If we are raised to life with Christ
who loved and chose us for his own,
we walk his way, reflect his light,
and share his love which makes us one.

Christopher Idle from Colossians 3
© Christopher Idle/Jubilate Hymns Ltd LM

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with

him.'

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ When Jesus

saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Offertory Hymn: It is a thing most wonderful

Number 109 in Common Praise

Communion hymn: O cross of Christ, immortal tree
Number 115 in Common Praise

Final hymn: And can it be
Number 376 in Common Praise

NEWS AND NOTICES

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

After the service today, at 12:30, Colin and Sheila will be renewing their wedding vows (made 64 years ago!) with a short service. All are welcome to stay and join them.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 25 th March 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th March 10:30am:	Holy Communion, Palm Sunday
Monday 30 th March 7:30pm:	Holy Communion
Tuesday 31 st March 7:30pm:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 1 st April 10am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 1 st April 7:30pm:	Holy Communion
Thursday 2 nd April 7pm:	Holy Communion (Warley Baptist)
Thursday 2 nd April 8:30pm:	Vigil, stripping of the church
Friday 3 rd April 10:30am:	Good Friday Service
Friday 3 rd April 11:30am:	Walk of witness
Friday 3 rd April 7:30pm:	Service at WW Methodist Church
Saturday 4 th April 8:30pm:	Prayer gathering (outside)
Sunday 5 th April 6:15am:	Dawn Service
Sunday 5 th April 10:30am:	Easter Sunday Holy Communion

APRIL – SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ROTA

We are currently putting together the rota for readings, intercessions, preaching and leading for the Eastertide and Ordinary

time rota. If you would like to join this please speak to Jenni. All new volunteers will need to complete the Church of England Basic Awareness Safeguarding training prior to starting, which is an online course you can do in your own time.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER – 2ND APRIL 6PM

As has been our custom on Maundy Thursday all are invited to share a simple meal with our friends from Warley Woods Methodist Church and Warley Baptist Church, followed by a service of Holy Communion. This year Warley Baptist are hosting. If you would like to come please can you let Jenni know by 23rd March.

We will return to St Hilda's at 8:30pm on Maundy Thursday for the vigil, including stripping the altars.

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 final dates is: 25th March – What does resurrection mean for us?

March Eco Tips – The Great British Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13 - Sunday 29 March) is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at: keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean Members of St Hilda's continued their journey litter picking along the parish boundary this week, filling 7 bin bags in just an hour along Thimblemill Road. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together. Join us for the next parish litter pick on 11 June.



60 EARTH HOUR

EARTH HOUR 2026

Join us for a quiet, reflective gathering as we observe Earth Hour together.

Saturday 28 March, 8:30pm - 9:30pm
Outdoors, weather permitting



APCM- SAVE THE DATE!

Our APCM will be on Sunday 10th May at 12, after the morning service. If you are not on our electoral roll and would like to vote please fill in a form and return it to Liz Farrier. Anyone over 16 who is baptised and has been worshipping with us for 6 months can join. If you are interested in standing for PCC please ask Jenni or James Atkinson for a helpful booklet about the process.

Conservatoire Concerts March - 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 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.

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: 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.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

DUTY WARDENS

Duty Wardens are responsible for getting the church ready on Sundays, including setting up the altar for Holy Communion, lighting candles, managing the collection, and clearing up at the end of the service. Most duty wardens serve once a month. Full training will be given. As with all church roles Basic Awareness Safeguarding training will be need to be completed before starting.

Please see Church Wardens Ian or Julie to find out more.

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.

This week please pray for;

- Moat Farm School as they visit us the learn about the Kingdom of God and the Trinity
- PCC as it meets on Thursday
- Jenni and Diane as they deliver an Easter assembly at Moat Farm School.
- Each of us as we approach Holy Week, that we may know God's love close in out hoping and waiting.

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
<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>		

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**Inclusive
Church**

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