



April 2026 News

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Spring St Hilda's quarterly news bulletin.

Special services and events this quarter:

APCM – Sunday 10th May 12pm

Our annual meeting to celebrate the past year, and look to the future as we elect Church Wardens, Deanery Synod Reps and PCC members. The annual report and agenda will be sent out at least a week prior, and some paper copies available in the porch.

Ascension Day Holy Communion Service and farewell to our Area Dean Mike Sermon – Thursday 14th May, 7:30pm, St Mary's Selly Oak.

A joint service with our Deanery. Mike Sermon will be retiring as Area Dean of Warley and Edgbaston on 17th May. We are hugely grateful for his service not just in this role but in the diocese over many years. Mike's deanery farewell will be on Ascension Day, Thursday, 14th May 2026 when he is preaching at St Mary's Selly Oak at 7.30pm. This is a service which everyone is

welcome to join, either for the Eucharist or for refreshments and the presentation afterwards, from about 8.30pm. We are grateful to the Rev'd Hazel White and the PCC for their kind hospitality. Please let Jenni know if you intend to come/stay for refreshments, to help St Mary cater accordingly.

Ordination of Priests – Saturday 20th June 11am, Birmingham Cathedral

Our curate Mother Diane Reeves will, God-willing, be ordained Priest at this service. This is a ticketed event, more details will be available when we have them.

Everyone is invited to a bring and share lunch to celebrate with Diane in our church hall afterwards from 1:00pm. If you are able to help with some of practicalities of this celebration please let Jenni know.

Three Shires Festival – June/July

Look out for more details soon about the various concerts and services this year.

Parish Website Feedback Survey

We'd really appreciate your help as we continue improving our parish website. Since November 2024, our main website has been hosted on A Church Near You (ACNY), a platform provided by the Church of England for all parishes free of charge. We can update and manage all the content, but the overall design and layout are set by ACNY.

Your feedback will help us understand how the website is being used, what works well, where we can make it better for

everyone and whether we should explore an alternative to ACNY. Please complete by 30 April 2026.

<https://bit.ly/st-hildas-website-survey>

Eco Church Spring Update

The Eco Group continues to meet regularly to plan events and to ensure that care for God's



creation is embedded in all aspects of church life. We remain committed to working towards a Gold Eco Church award, and recently Fran attended a webinar to hear about St Christopher, Springfield's journey to achieving this milestone.

We are delighted that Pam's Fairtrade stall will now be a regular feature in our church, taking place six times a year. Supporting Fairtrade is one way we can live out our faith in practical action by ensuring that producers around the world receive fair wages, work in safe conditions, and are not exploited.

Our litter-picking efforts along the parish boundary are continuing, with the most recent session taking place as part of the Great British Spring Clean. Our next session will be during Great Big Green Week on June 11th at 11am, everyone is very welcome to join us! Litter picking not only improves the beauty of our local area but also protects wildlife, reduces pollution, and helps prevent waste from entering waterways and the wider environment.

We also took part in the Big Plastic Count in church and were pleased to record zero pieces of plastic thrown away at church

during the week. While this may vary week by week, it is a positive step and encourages us to keep reducing single-use plastics wherever possible.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the charity recycling box, especially for the large number of Christmas stamps! If you are unsure what can be included, please speak to James.

Recently, members of the Eco Group and PCC met to explore the possibility of installing solar panels on the church. Thanks to some generous legacies designated for this purpose, we are able to begin investigating this exciting opportunity. While the upfront cost is significant, solar panels could help reduce our substantial heating and energy bills over time, as well as lower our carbon footprint.

This project is still in its early stages. The next steps include assessing whether any roof work is required, obtaining installation quotes, and seeking the necessary permissions from both the council and the diocese. We will also be exploring grant opportunities to support the project alongside the funds already available. If you have expertise in this area, or experience with grant applications, we would love to hear from you. Likewise, any ideas or suggestions are very welcome.

We also gathered recently to mark Earth Hour, joining millions around the world in a symbolic act of switching off lights and reflecting on our shared responsibility to care for creation. We

gathered around a fire-pit outside the church and took time to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the world around us.

As always, we warmly invite anyone interested in environmental issues or creation care to join the Eco Group. Fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and helping hands are always appreciated. Basic safeguarding training is required for involvement, and we are happy to guide you through this. If you have feedback, suggestions, or would simply like to find out more, please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

James, Parish Environmental Contact, jda85@hotmail.com

Scriptural Reasoning with the Dialogue Society

A few of us have taken part in Scriptural Reasoning with Muslim neighbours and we are looking forward to more evenings together this quarter. We usually share some food and then 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! Dates for this quarter are; 24th May and 19th July. For more information please ask Jenni.

Conservatoire concerts

We are pleased to say that concerts given by Conservatoire students will continue in this Spring. They offer the chance to hear a wide range of music, from classical to folk and jazz, with free entry. However, donations are welcome to help cover

costs of heating and performer expenses. There is the chance to talk to these very talented musicians over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits after their recitals, which you will not get in a concert hall!

The concerts last between 45 minutes and one hour. They take place twice a month on the second Friday, starting at 13.00 on the last Saturday, starting at 19.30. Students like giving recitals at St.Hilda's, because we have excellent acoustics, a lovely piano and they feel welcomed. The dates for this quarter are; Friday 8th May, Saturday 30th May, Friday 12th June, Friday 10th July, Saturday 25th July.

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.

Rambles

The St Hilda's rambler group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month. If you'd like to join one of the walks please contact Julie Batham (details on the back page) for more information.

Youth group: Second Sunday of the month, 5:30-7:30pm

Open to anyone in school years 7-11, we meet monthly for food, creativity, conversation and games. Our dates for this quarter are: 8th June and 6th July.



Open Church: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays

Church will be continue to be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays between 9:30 and 5pm.

Worship and Prayer at St Hilda's

Sundays at 10:30am – 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday family service

Tuesdays at 9am – Morning Prayer (in the choir vestry)

Wednesdays at 10:00am – Holy Communion or occasionally Morning Prayer (in the choir vestry).

July 26 News sheet

If you'd like to have anything included in the next newsletter please email it to Jenni by 26th June.

Paper copies of this bulletin are available in the church. If you would like a printed copy sent to your home please let Jenni know.

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
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Safeguarding Team		07946 147 703 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". http://www.sainthildawarleywoods.co.uk/SAFEGUARDING.html 		

For weekly notices see our weekly pewsheet on Sundays. You can also download it at www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Hilda-Warley-Woods



St Hilda's is proud to be a member of the Inclusive Church Network.