



Sunday 17th May 2026

Easter 7

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

Today we welcome Rev'd Canon Catherine Grylls to preside. Catherine works for our diocese as the Mission Support Developer.

Opening Hymn: Christ is ascending

Christ is ascending! let creation sing:
suffering is ending, now Christ rules as king.
Friends who stand disheartened soon are helped to know
Christ shall come in glory, as they see him go.

*Christ is ascending, let creation sing:
suffering is ending, now Christ rules as king.*

Watch the outpouring from our Lord above,
Pentecost restoring faith and hope and love;
brothers shall see visions, sisters prophesy,
sun and stars be darkened, wonders fill the sky!

*Christ is ascending, let creation sing:
suffering is ending, now Christ rules as king.*

Come, Holy Spirit, strengthen us today:
let us each inherit gifts from Christ, we pray;
not for praise by others, but that they may give
glory to the Father by whose power we live!
*Christ is ascending, let creation sing:
suffering is ending, now Christ rules as king.*

David Mowbray (born 1938)
© David Mowbray/Jubilate Hymns, Tune Maccabaeus

Collect¹

Lord, we want to know “When?”
When will you heal the sick?
When will you stop the cruel wars?
When will you end our long exile?
When will you return?
When will your kingdom finally, fully come?
But it is not for us to know the times or the seasons.
Humble us. Give us joy.
Cast out our anxiety, and most of all,
 leave us not comfortless.
Only your life-filled love will stop our pestering and worrying
about our many “When” -filled questions.
Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to

¹ Graham Turner, *Alternative Collects: Prayers to a Disruptive & Compassionate God*, Sacristy Press, 2018, page 17

Israel?’⁷ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.’⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Gradual hymn: In Christ there is no east or west

Number 477 in Common Praise

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-11

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.’³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ ‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me,

and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Offertory Hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning
Number 398 in Common Praise

Communion hymn: O Holy Spirit, come to bless

O Holy Spirit, come to bless
your waiting church, we pray:
we long to grow in holiness
as children of the day.

Great Gift of our ascended king,
his saving truth reveal,
our tongues inspire his praise to sing,
our hearts his love to feel.

O come, creator Spirit, move
as on the formless deep;

give life and order, light and love,
where now is death or sleep.

We offer up to you, O Lord,
ourselves to be your throne,
our every thought and deed and word
to make your glory known.

O Holy Spirit, Lord of might,
through you all grace is given:
grant us to know and serve aright
one God in earth and heaven.

*Jubilate Hymns version based on O Holy Ghost, thy people bless ,
Henry Williams Baker (1821 - 1877)
© Jubilate Hymns Ltd, tune St Columba*

Final hymn: Ascended Christ

Ascended Christ, who gained
the glory that we sing,
anointed and ordained
our prophet, priest, and king:
by many tongues
the church displays
your power and praise
in all her songs.

No titles, thrones, or powers
can ever rival yours;
no passing mood of ours
can turn aside your laws:

you reign above
each other name
of worth or fame,
the Lord of love.

Now from the Father's side
you make your people new;
since for our sins you died
our lives belong to you:
from our distress
you set us free
for purity
and holiness.

You call us to belong
within one body here;
in weakness we are strong
and all your gifts we share:
in you alone
we are complete
and at your feet
with joy bow down.

All strength is in your hand,
all power to you is given;
all wisdom to command
in earth and hell and heaven:
beyond all words
creation sings
the King of kings
and Lord of lords.

Lyrics by Christopher Idle

© Christopher Idle/Jubilate Hymns Ltd, Tune Darwall's 148th

NEWS AND NOTICES

Wednesday 20 th May 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th May 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 27 th May 10am:	Morning Prayer
Sunday 31 st May 10:30am:	Holy Communion

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

This week's sanctuary flowers are the gift of Dr M Hadlington.

AN INVITATION TO A BREATHING SPACE

All are invited to our monthly gathering for silent contemplative prayer. As one participant says it is *"An opportunity for shared prayerful silence amidst our noisy world"*. And if you're unsure, or you'd like to just come and try it then *"The thought of sitting in silence with others might feel scary, but rest assured: introduction and instructions are given"*. *"45 prayerful minutes contemplating a suggested religious text, in silence, with others. What a lovely start to a Friday morning"*.

We will next gather in the vestry on 19th June at 10am - 10.45am. Please access the vestry through the back door of the church in the car park. You don't have to come every time. Come when you can. If you want to know more please speak to Fran.

MAY ECO TIPS – SUPPORT POLLINATORS

Nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But these precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20 May is **World Bee Day**, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators. Sow a pollinator-friendly seed mix, make or buy a bee hotel, let some wild flowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides. Pray that our pollinator populations will increase.

CONSERVATOIRE CONCERTS

The summer is a very busy time for Concerts. We have the 3 Shires Festival in June and July, as well as Conservatoire Concerts.

Conservatoire Concerts will be on:

Saturday 30th May 19.30. Alex Wyatt – pianist

Friday 12th June 13.00. Zoe Tan – pianist

Friday 10th July 13.00. Rumei Huang – pianist & Diane Ludwig - violinist

Saturday 25th July. Oliver Matthews - pianist

Light refreshments are available after each concert, and there is usually an opportunity to talk with the performer(s). The concerts are free, but donations to cover costs and for church funds are welcome.

Why not come along and join us, and please spread the information to anyone else who may be interested? More details are available from sthildasconcerts@gmail.com Angela, Terry and Marian.

Information about the 3 Shires Festival will be advertised separately.

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 a 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: 21st and 22nd May, 4th and 5th June, 25th and 26th June, 9th and 10th July.

PONDERING NUERO-DIVERISTY

Pondering will be back this June, thinking through neuro-diversity theologically as well as practically. We will run the same session twice on **Thursday 11th June at 7:30pm** and **Saturday 13th June at 10:30am**. If you have expertise, experience or a desire to help shape this session please speak to Jenni; she would love to hear from you.

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 10th May. <https://bit.ly/st-hildas-website-survey>

NEW PCC TREASURER

At the PCC meeting after the APCM on 10th May the PCC appointed the newly elected Simone Abbott to be the treasurer. Our outgoing treasurer, Terry Daniels, will continue to work alongside Simone to support her to ensure a smooth transition. Please pray for them!

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 and we have very few available due to the large number of ordinands and the size of our cathedral. Diane has a few tickets available so do ask her if you would like to attend.

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

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.

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: 6th June, 4th July, 1st August, 5th September, and 3rd October. If you have any queries, please speak to Rob Eaton or Anne Harris. As with all volunteering roles volunteers will be required to complete Basic Awareness Safeguarding training prior to starting.

This week please pray for;

- The family and friends of Damien Griffiths as his funeral takes place on Wednesday.
- Ministry team as it meets on Thursday.
- James and Sarah as they get married on Saturday.

- Our PCC as it makes financial decisions on behalf of the church and continues to manage a significance annual deficit.

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		07942919308 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>		

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

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