



Sunday 3rd May 2026

Easter 5

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.

Opening Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling
Number 516 in Common Praise

Collect¹

O Great Stone,
rejected by important and significant people
and overlooked by those who wield raw power,
we are shamed and sickened by not having the courage
to be absolute nobodies in the eyes of the world.
O Great Living Stone,
show us the beauty of power fashioned in brokenness
and the strength of love rooted in suffering,
for we want to see the Father and follow your alternative
way,
which is truth and life. **Amen.**

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

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Gradual hymn: The First of Martyrs

First of Martyrs, thou whose name
Doth thy golden crown proclaim,
Not of flowers that fade away
Weave we this thy crown today.

Bright the stones which bruise thee gleam,
Sprinkled with thy life-blood's stream;
stars around thy sainted head
Never could such radiance shed.

Every wound upon Thy brow
Sparkles with unearthly glow;
Like an Angel's is thy face
Beaming with celestial grace.

Oh, how blessed first to be
Slain for Him who bled for thee;
First like Him in dying hour
Witness to Almighty power;

First to follow where He trod
Hands and feet and side shed blood;
First, but in thy footsteps press
Saints and Martyrs numberless.

Glory to the Father be
Glory, Jesus be to Thee,
Glory to the Spirit free
Now and for eternity.

*The Book of Common Praise, Being The Hymn Book Of The Anglican Church of
Canada.*

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

¹‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ ⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

⁸ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ ⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’ ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Offertory Hymn: Alleluia, alleluia
number 30 in Mission Praise

Communion hymn: Take my life and let it be
Number 581 in Common Praise

Final hymn: Great is thy faithfulness
Number 453 in Common Praise

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 5 th May 10am:	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10 th May 10:30am:	Family Service: Christian Aid
Wednesday 13 th May 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th May 10:30am:	Holy Communion

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

This week's sanctuary flowers are the gift Mrs J Batham.

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 Friday 15th May & 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.

JACK KNOWLES IS RUNNING THE BIRMINGHAM 10K FOR BRAKE IN MEMORY OF HIS MUM, CAROL KNOWLES

To read more about Jack's story, and the work of the charity Brake visit his Just Giving page below or by scanning the QR code where you can also sponsor him. You can also sponsor in cash – see Jack or Jess Knowles for more information.



https://www.justgiving.com/page/runforbrake?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=WA

APCM: NEXT SUNDAY

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 or Deanery Synod please ask Jenni for a helpful booklet about the process and an application pack.

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.

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: 7th and 8th May, 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.

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. Please also let Jenni know if you can offer a lift, or need one, so we can carpool.

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>

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: 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. As with all volunteering roles volunteers will be required to complete Basic Awareness Safeguarding training prior to starting.

This week please pray for;

- Those standing for office in our up-coming elections.
- Annie Lennard Year 5 as they visit church on Thursday.
- For our ACPM next Sunday.

JENNI ON LEAVE

Please note Jenni is on leave from Monday 3rd until Thursday 7th May and won't be accessing emails or her phone.

PCC Highlights

Highlights from PCC meeting 26th March, 2026

The meeting opened with Peter leading us in prayer for the Annunciation of Mary's Day.

The Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved at the meeting by the PCC members present.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer had also circulated the Annual Review of St Hilda's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures with suggested amendments. PCC considered all papers and approved the suggested amendments, including confirmation of the new process of issuing the confidential self declaration form and accompanying privacy notice, at the beginning of any recruitment process, before the DBS application process begins. Additionally, as St. Hildas does not have a grievance procedure, a whistleblowing procedure or a general complaints procedure, PCC agreed these are needed and they will be prepared and brought back to PCC for approval. PCC also authorised Sea Venturers use of the Hall, and confirmed verification of the current list of authorised non-church activities that take place in the Hall.

Peter Stokes spoke about the last Deanery Synod meeting in February. After deanery discussion, a question to Bishop Michael concerning vexatious complaints against clergy was approved for submission to diocesan synod. There was a presentation from Dawn Baker, Head of Generosity, concerning her role and that of her team, the focus of which will be encouraging generosity in its broadest sense and working with parishes to develop individual financial plans which will include the budgeting of common fund for the next five years. There was a presentation about a new parish partnership between St James Rounds Green and St Johns Harborne. And, Area Dean Mike announced that he will be retiring on the 17th May after twenty seven years of stipendiary ministry. The next area dean will also be a part time parish priest within the deanery.

ECO Church – The Big Plastic Count (counting all plastic waste in church) was zero, probably because the church was not in use during

the dates. Another parish litter pick along Thimblemill Road to St Mark's produced seven bags of litter. Another volunteer has joined the eco team and it was suggested that role descriptions should be organised.

Director of Music Ministry - Jenni has been given permission to keep the current grant until December and she is looking at other grants available.

Electoral Roll Report - no changes to the electoral roll. Electoral Roll Officer will ensure a number of forms will be available in porch for new members of the parish to be able to vote at the APCM.

Parish Identity Verifier report - Liz Farrier will be stepping down from this role and Julie Batham has agreed to take over.

The Hut - Julie is having problems accessing the building plans and has now contacted The Scout Association District Archive and the Diocesan Office to see if plans are there. Jenni will also contact a Diocesan officer to meet with us to share his expertise of how best to use the building for the church and wider community.

Maintenance works - Julie confirmed that the tower has been cleaned of bird guano and new mesh, with metal frames, has been fitted; the church guttering has been cleared; the parquet floor in one area of church seems to show signs of woodworm. As this may be historical it will be monitored closely. And, the large tree at the rear of the church needs to be made safe following storm damage. Julie to obtain quotes.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: After the APCM Sunday, 10th May, 2026.

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

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