



Sunday 26th July 2026 - Trinity 8

Holy Communion & Jess' renewal of baptism promises

Welcome to this service. Please join in with the words in **bold**.
If you have children with you and they get restless during the service
please don't worry, we won't. We do have a children's corner (inside)
you are welcome to use if you'd find that helpful.

This morning we are delighted to welcome Jess and her family and
friends for this special occasion – it's great to have you with us to
support her in this step of faith.

Call to Worship

Please stand as able at the entry of the ministers.

One: In the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

Many: Amen

One: We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognise God's presence with us.

A short time of quiet is kept

One: As God's people we have gathered

Many: Let us worship God together.

Welcome

We sit as we receive words of welcome, concluding with this prayer:

**Many: Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: O for a thousand tongues to sing
We stand as able to sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free:
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.

Charles Wesley

Confession

We sit or kneel.

One: Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's
redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

We keep a short time of quiet. Then we all say together:

**Many: Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

The president assures us of God's forgiveness using these words;

One: May the God of love
bring *you* back to himself, forgive *you* your sins,
and assure *you* of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gloria

We stand as able to sing the gloria together, singing three times;

**Many: Glory to God; Praise to the Son;
Love to the Spirit: Three and yet one.**

Collect

We remain standing as able as we are led in prayer.

One: Lord God,
Your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 29:15-28

We sit as we listen to our first reading.

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely,^[a] and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' ²² So Laban gathered together

all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ ²⁶ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

One: This is the word of the Lord

Many: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: Seek ye first the kingdom of God

We stand as able to sing

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And His righteousness;

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!

We shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

We remain standing, as able, for the Gospel reading.

One: Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew

Many: *Glory to you O Lord*

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

One: This is the gospel of The Lord

Many: Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

We sit and listen to the sermon.

The sermon is followed by a short time of quiet for personal reflection.

My story

We remain seated as Jess shares why she has chosen to renew her promises and have full immersion as a symbol of this.

The Liturgy of Baptism Renewal

Jess and her sponsors are invited to the pool.

Jenni: Jess, do you wish to re-affirm the promises made at your baptism for yourself?

Jess: I do.

Jenni addresses the congregation.

Jenni: We thank God for Jess's faith and her decision to proclaim it publicly today. Christ loves her and continues to walk with her.
Will you support her on her journey of faith?

Many: We will.

Jenni: Will you help her to continue to live and grow within God's family?

Many: We will.

Jenni addresses Jess' sponsors

One: God knows each of us by name and we are his.
Will you pray for Jess, and help her to follow Christ?

Sponsors: We will.

One: We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us
home. Therefore I ask:
Do you turn away from sin?

Jess &

Sponsors: I do.

Jenni: Do you reject evil?

Jess &

Sponsors: I do.

Jenni: Do you turn to Christ?

Jess &

Sponsors: I do.

Jenni: Do you trust in Christ?

Jess &

Sponsors: I do.

Signing with the Cross

One: Jess, Christ claims you as his own. Receive the
sign of the cross as a reminder of your baptism
as a child. It is the mark of Christ.

Jenni makes the sign of the cross with holy oil on Jess' forehead.

Jenni: Throughout your life may you continue to bear the
mark of Christ's love.

God created you for wonder and joy,

But there is darkness here too and suffering.

Christ came to show us the way of love that transforms all.

Many: **May you remain faithful to God to the end of your life.**

Prayer over the water

Jenni: We praise you, loving Creator, for the gift of Jesus.
He was baptized in the River Jordan,
where your Spirit came upon him and
revealed him as the Son you love.
He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him.
Now, life-giving God, we ask you to bless this water,
that Jess may enter it as reminder of your love,
rise from it with full assurance of your forgiveness
and, be filled with your Spirit,
may she know she is loved as your child,
safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

We stand as able

Diane: Let us affirm together our common faith in Jesus
Christ.
Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source
of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

Many: **I believe and trust in God.**

Diane: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

Many: I believe and trust in God.

Diane: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

Many: I believe and trust in God.

Diane: This is the faith of the Church.

Many: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Renewal of Faith

Jess, Diane and Jenni get into the pool.

Jenni: Jess, remembering your baptism receive this water as a sign of God's continual love for you and a reminder of the call to follow Jesus.

Jess is fully immersed into the water once.

We delight in what has happened with a round of applause.

Everyone gets out of the pool and to get changed as we are led in prayer.

Prayers of Intercession

We sit or kneel as we are led in prayer.

At the end of each bidding;

One: Lord, in your mercy;

Many: Hear our prayer

At the end:

One: Merciful Father

**Many: Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

We stand as able to share the peace.

One: The peace of God be in your heart and mind.
The peace of God give you hope and courage.
The peace of God make you whole and holy.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

Many: And also with you.

David Adam

We offer one another a sign of peace in whatever way is most appropriate.

Offertory Hymn: Be thou my vision

We remain standing as able to sing. During the hymn a collection for the mission and ministry of the church will be taken. You can also give through the contactless card-reader on exit.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true Word,
Be thou ever with thee, and I with thee, Lord,
be thou my heart's great love, and I am thine own,
be thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor vain empty praise:
Be thou my inheritance now and always;
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Eucharist

Please remain standing as able.

One: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty;

**Many: All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

One: The Lord is here

Many: God's spirit is with us

One: Lift up your hearts

Many: We lift them to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

Many: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and *singing*:

**Many: *Holy, holy, holy,
my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words:
you are holy, Lord. (x2)***

One: We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
On the night before he died he had supper with his
friends and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of
sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in
glory.

One: Jesus Christ is Lord

**Many: Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

One: Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen**

We sit or kneel and continue with The Lord's Prayer.

One: As our Saviour taught us so we pray, in whatever form or language comes most naturally;

**Our Father
in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today
our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

**Our Father,
Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day
our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us**

**And lead us not into temptation.
But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine
is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen**

One: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Many: Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

One: God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Many: Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

If you would like to receive communion please follow the instructions of the wardens who will direct you. If for any reason you do not want to receive but would like a prayer of blessing please come forward and keep your hands lowered. If you do not want to come up for either communion or a blessing please remain seated.
If you are unable to walk up to the altar let a duty warden know and communion will be brought to you.

Communion Songs: The Lord Bless you and keep you
During communion we listen to a choir recording, and sing if we want.

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
To shine upon you and be gracious
And be gracious unto you

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
To shine upon you and be gracious
And be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you
And give you peace, and give you peace
And give you peace, and give you peace

We then sing;

We gather round this table

We gather round this table
to celebrate the feast,
compelled by Christ who showed us
the greatest are the least.
Here heavenly love, the wellspring,
the Spirit flowing free;
here brokenness is touched by
God's generosity.
Earth's wheat becomes Christ's body,
earth's fruit his life-blood poured.
Such goodness grows within us:
humanity restored!

O God, in love you made us,
and heal by suffering,
yet spread a table for us –
our lives are all we bring!
Your Spirit longs to open
our hands and hearts and souls,
to give again your gifts with
the power to make us whole.
With absent friends unite us,
enfold in your embrace,
and build up here a household
that practises your grace.

Words: © Andrew Herbert 2017

Post Communion Prayer

When everybody has received communion, we say this prayer together;

**Many: Merciful God,
you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life.
Draw us and all people to serve your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Notices

We remain seated as we listen to any family news and notices.

Final Hymn: We shall go out with hope of resurrection

We stand as able to sing our final hymn

We shall go out with hope of resurrection,
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
Tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
Vibrating love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
Including all within the circles of our love.

Words by June Byce-Tillman

Blessing and dismissal

We remain standing as able

One: Go with confidence into the day ahead,
trusting in God's unfailing love and faithfulness.
God will not abandon you, for you are the
work of His hands - His own creation - and
His love endures forever.
And the blessing of God...

Many: Amen.

One: Go in the peace of Christ.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served in the porch after the service. Do stay if you can.

NEWS AND NOTICES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 29 th July 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 2 nd August 10:30am:	Holy Communion
Wednesday 5 th August 10am:	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th August 10:30am:	Family 'teaching' Holy Communion

THANKS YOU FROM THE THREE SHIRES TEAM

Dear friends,

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Three Shires Festival this year. It was really lovely to see so many members of the congregation attending the concerts. We were also very grateful to those who helped with refreshments, rearranged furniture, and contributed to the photograph exhibition. We were indebted to James for capturing many of the concerts on camera.

Over the four weekends, we estimate that around 600 people visited the festival.

Please do let any of the team (Jon, Marian, Angela, or myself) know if you have any suggestions for future festivals.

John Barber 3shiresfestival@gmail.com

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

This week's sanctuary flowers are the gift of Vicky Gibbens.

Thank you for knitting!

Together with the St Hilda's Church family, our friends from Warley Baptist Church, and community volunteers, we collected an amazing 85 beautiful knitted items! Each one that was carefully created will now be passed onto seafarers to not only be kept warm, but to remind them of our gratitude and care for them. Thank you so much for all your time and kindness. The Gibbens family.

THE GIFT OF SILENT PRAYER

"Welcome to Breathing Space. This is a time to practise the ancient Christian tradition of contemplative silent prayer. It is an invitation to simply be present with God. To discover God's peace in a noisy world. And when we are at peace we might create ripples of peace in the world around us".

All are welcome to join others in the choir vestry (entry through the

church's back door) on: 21st August, 18th September 10am - 10.45am. If you want to know more please speak to Fran.

JULY ECO TIPS

It's **Plastic Free July**, and this year we're thinking about laundry – one of the largest sources of microplastic pollution.

Clothing made from synthetic fibres such as polyester, nylon and acrylic sheds millions of tiny plastic fibres during washing and drying. Many of these microfibre enter the sewage system, where they are difficult to filter out completely before reaching rivers and the sea. You can help reduce this pollution by using a microfibre-catching laundry bag or washing machine filter, washing clothes less often and at lower temperatures (which also makes the clothes last longer), and choosing natural fibre clothing where possible.

Learn more about reducing plastic pollution from laundry at: plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/plastic-free-laundry

Do let the Eco Group know if you make any other plastic swaps this month!

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 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.

PANTRY DONATIONS

Now that Smethwick Foodbank is closed non perishable food donations will be given to Bearwood Pantry.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

POST SERVICE REFRESHMENT SERVERS

Help is required to serve tea, coffee, squash and biscuits after the Sunday morning service. Volunteers are put on a rota and on duty no more than 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 Sue Eaton or ask the person serving you today to find out more.

READING AND LEADING INTERCESSIONS

We are currently putting together the rota for Creationtide, Kingdomtide, Advent and Christmas (September through to early January). If you would be interested in being on the reading rota or leading prayers on Sunday mornings please speak to our vicar Jenni. Please note that as will all volunteer roles completing of Basic Awareness Safeguarding training will need to be completing prior to starting this role.

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.

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: 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 Paulette Brown as her funeral takes place on Tuesday.
- Jenni and Diane and they offer chaplaincy at Cygnet hospital Oldbury.
- All who find the school holidays difficult.

The Hut

The Scouts left last year and now we have a vacant building on our site. The hut has it's own small kitchen and toilets, electricity supply as is s separate from the hall and church. The PCC are inviting the congregation and community to think about what it could be used for.

List of non negotiables;

- It needs to be financially sustainable.
- Cause of conflict with parking (i.e. 6 cars during hall and church's busiest times)
- Minimal noise, with no activities after 10pm.
- It can't be aimed at ex-offender groups with folk who might be on child sex register (because of the amount of children's groups in the hall)
- No groups/activities that are not in line with church ethos and mission values.

The hut needs a lot of work! We are open to partnering with a charity, social enterprise or organisation and will seek funding for the work that needs to be done to make it fit for it's next purpose.

Questions we'd love you to think and pray about, and answer on the board at the back of church (or email to the Church Wardens or Jenni);

Where is the 'treasure' in our communities? What gifts, skills and assets do we have?

What are the needs of our communities?

What do you think God might be saying to us about how the hut could be used?

People's Emergency Briefing

16

On the climate and nature crisis

**St Hilda's Church
Warley Woods, Smethwick**

Film screening and discussion

St Hilda's Church, Abbey Road, B67 5NQ
11 September 2026, 6:45pm - 8:45pm

Refreshments provided.
Suitable for 16+, with under 18s accompanied by an adult.



Book your free tickets:
<https://bit.ly/peb-st-hildas>



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
<u>Safeguarding information</u> 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'



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

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